

Motoring

Red Nose Day

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■ 5 Star's Jason McDonald begins blasting away the grime from a Nissan Primera.

490/21

IT'S the great British Sunday morning tradition, the car wash, wax and wipe. Across the area, thousands are out there polishing and preparing their cars for another week of grime. It never ends.

Petrol stations offer forecourt jetwash facilities, but the queues are often lengthy and it always seems to rain. Automated car washes never take the loving care that you would.

Nowadays, it's becoming increasingly popular to call in the professionals, to your home, or better still, your place of work. One such company is Burnham-based 5 Star Valeting.

The advantages of a professional valet service may not be immediately apparent, but they are significant. That human touch results in areas getting attention that no automated car wash can reach.

Steam cleaning reaches normally inaccessible places such as brake discs, from which it's vital to remove abrasive dirt such as rock salt.

Attention to detail means that the interior edges of doors, boots and bonnet get a clean. Damage limitation for the unseen areas of bodywork, out of sight

How does the professional valets give that fantastic makeover that makes you fall in love with your car all over again? In another Observer series, Richard Hill takes a look behind the scenes

but not out of mind.

Prices start at around £15 for a steam clean, wash and leather and full interior clean. A full valet which will leave your car with that 'brand new' look and that showroom 'smell' costs in the region of £55.

Mobile valet services travel to home or place of work. Their vehicles are fully equipped with cleaning agents, high pressure or steam washers and everything else needed to give your car that ultimate makeover.

Five tips from the top:

■ Bird droppings, if not removed as soon as possible, can cause permanent discolouration of the paint work. Use a detergent to carefully remove the marks.

■ Grit on the brakes can cause unnecessary wear to the discs and pads. Keep them clean.

■ The best way to clean the inside of a wind-



screen without smearing it is with a 3M cloth available from good car accessory suppliers.

■ Avoid polishing your car in direct sunlight as it can cause the paint work to fade. On sunny days, choose a shady spot to polish the exterior.

■ To keep your car gleaming clean, have it valeted every two months.

Give your car a makeover – the Red Nose way!
Pick up a red nose for your car from any filling station or from Safeways, Homebase or SavaCentre.

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