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OXFORD

In pole position for greener racing

4:40pm Tuesday 24th March 2009

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MOTORSPORT-MAD Oxford Brookes University students are hoping to be first past the post in their very own fuel-efficient, environmentally-friendly hybrid racing car.

The team of students have created the vehicle to take part in the Formula Student competition, the second time a Brookes team has brought a working hybrid car to the contest.

Koen Sannen, who is 22, is studying for a Masters degree in motorsports, and said: "It's the future because we're running out of fossil fuels."

"Motorsports has always been the top of automotive engineering so it's really important that it takes the step to alternative fuels and energies."

The team took their prototype vehicle to the Houses of Parliament to showcase it to MPs, who dropped by Old Palace Yard to see it for themselves.

Environment Secretary Hilary Benn was among those who checked out the hybrid.

He said: "I've been really impressed with the keenness of the students and the efforts they're making. These young people are helping to build the future, let's hope this car is part of it."

The car the students are working on, which they will race against other students' low-carbon vehicles at Silverstone in July and possibly in Italy in September, has a much smaller engine than a conventional race car, backed up by an electric motor.

Last year, Brookes was the only university which brought a working hybrid race car to the starting grid, competing in the low-carbon category against a hydrogen-powered machine from the University of Hertfordshire and a biofuel car from Coventry.



The motorsports team at the Houses of Parliament

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- Landmark ruling expected today on cancer drug
[Attacker breaks man's jaw](#)
- TA medics say an emotional goodbye as they go to war
- Botley rogue trader's 'just a coward'
- Tragic Ivan 'can do things in heaven'
- Voters go to polls in city council by-election
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- Wesley to lead Oxford Green Belt walk
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

-  **Historic farm buildings of Oxfordshire**
 ELIZABETH EDWARDS finds a wealth of historic farm buildings in the Oxfordshire landscape
-  **Lesbian Vampire Killers - Review**
 TWO young, hot-shot comedians fresh from a successful outing in a TV sitcom, team up for a comedy horror on the silver screen – sound familiar?
-  **The Swan at Ascott, Ascott-under-Wychwood**
 I don't often get out to the Wychwoods and for some reason I always seem to take a daft route.
-  **Young and old cook a real local feast**
 There was a buzz of excitement in Garsington Village Hall when I arrived. Some residents of the village were arriving with large dishes covered in tin foil and jugs of hot soup; others were laying up a central table with napkins and cutlery.

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- A40 Eynsham »**
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- A4183 Vineyard Abingdon »**
 Traffic moving well


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HOMES

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CARS

Chrysler 300C £19,995, Ryfield Oxford, Kidlington

All the way from Margaret River

Sarah McCleery visits the Woody Nook restaurant at Woodcote to get a taste of some fine Australian wines

Duplicity - Reviewed

Julia Roberts and Clive Owen reunite in the highly anticipated new film Duplicity, from writer/director Tony Gilroy (Michael Clayton), set in the high stakes arena of corporate espionage. Words are meaningless in this comic caper because everyone is bluffing to some extent, concealing true intentions behind a compliment, or seemingly genuine smile. We don't know who to trust – if anyone – as the intricate plot unfolds, right up to the final frame when the myriad knots untangle and the winners and losers in the elaborate scam discover their fate.



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