

Tried and Tested

Rebecca Irving takes out the *Leeds Guide* van and then gets drunk. But don't worry, because Collect-a-Car have a cunning plan

You've promised yourself you'll only have the one drink before heading home, but sometimes, despite all our best intentions, the prospect of going home to a kitchen full of washing-up can easily persuade the best of us to stay for another (not forgetting that peer pressure is a very powerful force!). If you've driven to the pub it seems that the only option is to head home and leave the car overnight.

Collect-a-Car offers a unique solution to this problem. As *Top Gear* viewers will have already seen, a mere phone call will bring a fully insured chauffeur (covered up to the value of £50,000) who will drive out to you on a scooter, fold it up, pop it in your boot and drive you and your vehicle home.

Recently started by Mark Hodgson and Andrew Hudson, Collect-a-Car is just like ordering a taxi except that they're guaranteed to turn up and both you and your car will be returned home safely, while you only pay for the distance driven. At £2.50 a mile with a minimum fare of £10, it's a refreshing change from being told: "Leeds to Morley... that will be £25, please."

While driving the *Leeds Guide* van, I called Collect-a-Car from a pub in the centre of Leeds and provided them with my location, my drop-off address and the time I wished to be picked up. They then texted me to confirm my details and twenty minutes later my chauffeur, Mark, arrived on his scooter — which he folded neatly into a case ensuring the immaculately clean *Leeds Guide* van stayed that way. Mark then proceeded to carry out a full visual health check of the van evaluating any major damage to the vehicle before he took charge of it, which gave me the confidence that it would be returned in perfect condition.

The service is a reliable and friendly solution to a modern day dilemma and allows you to drink and enjoy a night out without the hangover of finding your car in the morning. The company covers all of the Leeds area and can also be pre-booked. There is also a Chauffeur service which is ideal if you need your car dropping off at the garage whilst you're at work.

20 Victoria Court, Barwick Road, LS15 8SJ, 0113 350 8991, www.collectacarleeds.co.uk



© Tom Archer www.tomarcher.co.uk



CLARENCE DOCK
LEEDS

DISCOVER THE C

WATERSIDE SHOPPING, EATING & ENTERTAINMENT.
NOW OPEN

www.clarencedock.com