

Cater wham!



HAVE A THRILL ON OPEN ROAD

ONE of motoring's most iconic brands is set to light up the Autosport International show next month.

Caterham are celebrating their 20th anniversary by taking a fleet of Sevens to the show. But if you don't fancy a trek down to Birmingham, Openroadhire.com can give you an even bigger thrill — the chance to take a Caterham out on the road.

A gift voucher is the perfect Christmas present — letting you drive one of their fun-filled motors through the spectacular Perthshire countryside.

The man behind the firm is Andrew Still, a Caterham enthusiast who spotted the marketing potential and is now watching his little sports cars rip up the roads in growing numbers.

I took my daughter Christie, while pals Scott and Dominic Fleming and Ray and Blair Smith, *below*, also headed out for one of the best days out of the year.

You only have to see and hear the Caterham before you wear a huge smile. The big-eyed face and burbling roar of the engine are just a taster of the fun to come.

Get the roof down, start it up and get set for a thrill. Andrew's fleet offers you a Caterham Seven that do 0-60mph in five seconds and go up to 120mph.

With the wind rattling through your hair, that is a potent force. Andrew said: "Our latest-generation Ford-engined SVs are far from basic. The 150hp



Caterham-tuned Sigma engine is more than enough for a lot of fun on the road.

"They have a number of options including full weather kit, heater, 15in alloys and leather seats. It is not all about speed. It is all about the experience and the chance to enjoy the drive **AND** the scenery."

We edged the cars out of Andrew's drive because the Caterhams are very light and the acceleration feels phenomenal. But we soon had the hang of the drive and the handling as we headed up into the hills.

And the twisty bends were built for the Caterhams' pace and agility. We swooped down into towns and threw the little car into the corners — although conversation is limited by the roar of the engine.

Christie said: "It is tremendous fun. It seems as if you are going quicker than you actually are, and you can't help but enjoy it as everyone looks at you when you drive past."

And you can stop whenever you want to — it is the perfect day out. Openroadhire.com has Caterhams available from £180 a day, including 120 miles a day and insurance. Visit the website or call 01738 622411 for more on gift vouchers or availability. **JON DORAN**