

driving ambition

When Juliette Piesley's car wouldn't start, she couldn't work out why not. But her dog was the key – and in more ways than one...

"My gorgeous dog, George, is forever eating things he really shouldn't. But even I was shocked by all the trouble he caused me back in September last year.

I was trying to start my car, but I couldn't even turn my key in the ignition. It didn't make sense, I'd just changed the battery in the key fob so it couldn't have been the immobiliser.

I rang the AA and their driver, Kevin Gorman, arrived outside my house in Addlestone, Surrey.

He looked equally baffled, but seemed convinced it did have something to do with the immobiliser.

Then I remembered...

When I'd been changing the battery, I'd dropped the key fob on the floor. Something had fallen out. 'It must have been the immobiliser chip,' explained



Kevin. But where had it got to? We couldn't see it anywhere. Then Kevin had a thought.

'Could your dog have eaten it?' he suggested.

Both laughing at how ridiculous we looked, we held a reluctant George up to the steering wheel to try it out.

It wasn't easy. George, who's a Hungarian Vizsla, is quite a big dog and not that easy to keep hold – especially when he must have been uncomfortable.

But together we managed it.

I put my key in the ignition and immediately it started.

So George must have eaten it!

For the rest of the day, I had to take George on every car journey with

me. It was pretty exhausting,

but once 'nature had taken its course' we got the immobiliser back.

Now we keep a close eye on George. After all, he seems to have a taste for electrical items."



HUNGARY DOG:
Vizsla George ate
the car immobiliser

I was going through the menopause – then a little miracle happened

Susan Davies, 35, despaired of ever having a baby. But then she found an unusual solution...

"After 12 years together, Karl and I married in August 2002 and I came off the Pill to start a family. It took three years to get pregnant, so Karl, 35, a training manager, and I were delighted.

But I lost the baby at six weeks. My GP said there was no explanation, but I should wait a year before trying again. I began feeling quite desperate and after another year, my GP referred me to St James's Hospital in Leeds.

After a blood test in October 2004, a

hospital doctor dropped a bombshell – I could be going through the menopause. I was horrified. My periods were regular and I didn't have any symptoms. I was only 33.

Then my friend Amanda Dudley, 31, who'd been having problems getting pregnant, gave me an article about reflexology to help infertile women. 'I've been to see reflexologist Sue Calvert,' Amanda told me. 'She was great.'

Just before Christmas, Amanda told us she was pregnant.

Meanwhile, tests at Leeds General Hospital found everything was normal

with us, except Karl's sperm count was low. And we went onto the waiting list for IVF treatment.

Inspired by Amanda, I started seeing Sue once or twice a month. She was in Sheffield, not far from us in Harrogate.

It was strange, the areas of my feet relating to my ovaries were really sore when she rubbed them. I was suffering from stress both from my job as a teacher and trying for a baby.

But I always came away from seeing Sue feeling calmer and more hopeful.

In June came the news we'd longed for – the pregnancy test showed positive. Karl rushed home after work, looked at the testing stick and jumped around for joy!

Ruby came into the world a week

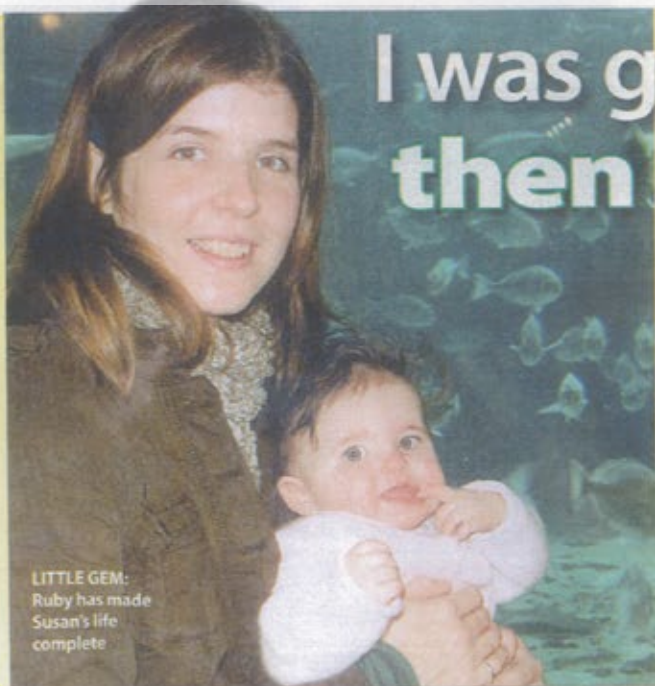
late, on March 17, 2006. She weighed 8lb 3oz, with her father's black hair, and a bit of a curl from my side.

I kept thinking we only had her on loan and someone would come and take her away.

I couldn't believe she was ours! Breast-feeding her for the first time, I felt such an intense love for her.

Having Ruby has made our lives 100 per cent better and we'd love to have more children. When the time comes, I'll be going back to Sue. They don't call her the babymaker for nothing!"

• Sue Calvert can be contacted at www.thebabymaker.co.uk (which includes a downloadable self-help fertility manual) or on 01142 368559.



LITTLE GEM:
Ruby has made
Susan's life
complete