Paul Hopkins wrote to sat how useful he has found an IR (infrared) temperature gun. This is what Paul had to say:

My temperature gauge showed a reading of around 190 (20 degrees too hot) so I replaced the thermostat and radiator cap and flushed the radiator (which proved to be very clean). The water pump was a new one as the engine had been rebuilt so that was OK, however, on specialist advice regarding warm up time I noted that the temperature rose very quickly from cold and I was suspicious that the gauge may have been over reading. I purchased an IR gun (£12 from Ebay) which is a fabulous item with a laser spot to ensure accuracy and proceeded to test all parts of the engine and radiator, specifically the point where the temperature tube is secured into the engine. Sure enough test readings were 20 degrees lower than that indicated on the gauge, including warm up and steady state, with the thermostat operating at a gauge temperature 20 degrees too high also. The IR gun is a very good way of testing for radiator efficiency (hot and cold spots) and can check for specific local temperatures or a wider general area - well worth the money.