



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists



Do they know it's Christmas?

NEWSLETTER

February 2005



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

February 2005

Dear all,

Happy New Year and welcome to the February edition of the newsletter. Especially welcome are the following new 'associates' currently on Fixed length course number 22.:-

Ian Mathews - Adcock, Joanna Carne, Bandana Chatterjee, Shahram Ghorbanian, Namita Gupta and Louise Slack.



Congratulations to the following who since the last newsletter have been recommended for membership of the IAM following test:-

Graham Beech, Peter Giblin & Emma Clarke

Remember now is a good time to start recruiting for course 23 starting on 26th April 2005.

Diary Dates:-

Sunday runs

Sun 20th Feb - Run 4

Sun 6th Mar - Run 5

Sun 20th Mar - Run 6

Sun 3rd April - Run 7

Sun 17th Apr - Run 8

Sun 1st May 05- Run 1. FLC 23

All Sunday runs start from the car park behind Sainsbury's in Wilmslow. Registration is at 09.30 hours, please make yourself known by checking in with Jose, Ivy or Gavin. Runs start at 10.00 hours. Please do let us know if you can not make the run to assist

in organisation. Contact numbers are on the back cover.

Classrooms:-

Classroom & meetings are at the Royal Oak, Heyes Lane, Alderley Edge at 7.45pm for 8.00pm starts.

Tues 1st March - Classroom 2

Tues 12th April - Classroom 3

Tues 26th Apr 05 - Classroom 1 (Fixed length course No. 23)

Other:-

Sat 26th Feb - Fancy dress party (Not 14th Feb as per calendar)

Mon 14th Mar - Quiz night?

Mon 11th Apr - To be announced

Further details at page of the newsletter.

Chairman's Chat

Christmas and New Year seems a long time ago now, but I do hope everyone had a good, but safe and healthy time over the period and we're not all feeling too gloomy as we await the arrival of spring.

The 'centre spread' this edition is photos from the Christmas meal which was very enjoyable despite the many hangovers the day after. Thanks go to all those who helped organise and make it a fun evening.

The Group does appear to be developing well now, with the use of the newer MDU (With generator power & lights!) and the website which is looking good.

www.w-a-m.info

All that is necessary now is to turn this into recruits for course 23 which starts in April, when it is hoped to get around 12 - 15 people and fill the course. This will require effort by many people and possibly some investment from group funds to create more publicity. Any ideas to myself or other members of the committee please. On that note, happy and safe motoring for the rest of the year & *'Spread the word'*.

Jerry, Chairman

E-mail: chairman@w-a-m.info

Max Driver -

'Drive like a God' -

'Essential Advanced Driving Guide'

This publication is very similar to the IAM's own manual, 'How to be an Advanced Driver' but has an interesting slant to capture the imagination of younger drivers, particularly males, and the direct extracts which follow make very interesting reading from a section:-

'Fear is not an aphrodisiac'.

'74% of girls say they have been scared by their boyfriends driving'

"My last fella drove like an idiot everywhere. Loser!"

Helen P

"Guys who drive too fast are usually compensating for something!"

Louise S

"I've ended up in two ditches and a hedge with my boyfriend. He still thinks he's a great driver!"

Mel P

"My Boyfriend wrote off my last car and put me in casualty. He still brags about it now. Idiot!"

Emma D

"I like to be driven quickly, but I also like to know I'm safe. Girls respect a good driver - if you know what I'm saying!"

Jacqui

HRH The Duke of Gloucester - IAM President

On Thursday 23rd December 2004 the President of the IAM, HRH The Duke of Gloucester appeared in court for a speeding offence and received a 6 month driving ban under the 'totting up' points system. The IAM issued the following press statement:-

"Today's sentence does not change the fact that HRH the Duke of Gloucester has been an effective and enthusiastic President of the Institute of Advanced Motorists for more than thirty years. With his support in that time the IAM has grown in both membership and influence to become the UK's most foremost advanced driving organisation and a powerful force for road safety.

Membership rules of the IAM, however, will be applied without exception and as a result the Duke will have his current membership removed. However the IAM would hope to work with the President when his licence is restored in order to reinstate his full membership"

24/01/05 - "The Duke's decision to resign the IAM Presidency has

now been received with great regret by all IAM Council Members, given his effective and enthusiastic Presidency over 32 years"

Maybe he should have tried the following?:-

(Doesn't work with cameras!)

Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your licence please?

Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Woman: Lost it 4 times for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see.

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the woman

and a police Inspector slowly approaches the car, clasping his half drawn gun.

Inspector: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please!

Woman: Is there a problem sir?

Inspector: The officer told me that you stole this car and murdered the owner.

Woman: Murdered the owner?

Inspector: Yes, could you open the trunk of your car, please.

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Inspector: Is this your car, ma'am?

Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers.

The officer is quite stunned.

Inspector: The officer claims that you do not have a driver's license. The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer. The officer snaps open the clutch purse and examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Inspector: I must admit, ma'am, that I'm confused; the officer told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered the owner.

Woman: I suppose the lying blighter told you I was speeding, too!

Fact or fiction?

You don't need a roof, doors or even a windscreen to pass your MOT test. Or even headlights: you can get it registered for daylight use. ???

MDU - Old & New

On Saturday 6th November 2004 there were fireworks and a ceremonial 'farewell' to the old MDU. This involved the burning of the board on the top of the old unit as shown in the photos:-



Does he know his arm's on fire??

(Honestly no one sustained injury!)

Terror at 10 000 feet!

(It's a long way down!)

Friday 20th August and the stark reality of what I had agreed to do months ago, suddenly hits me as I arrive at Tilstock airfield. The weather's cloudy with brief spells of sunshine and while I wait to see if I'm going to jump today emotions are mixed. Joking and laughing to calm the nerves and as the sun comes out again, silence while I contemplate what I am going to do. There's a break in the clouds and they're going to send some experienced skydivers up, am I going to get to jump today? No, the clouds are back and unfortunately no-one is going to get to jump today. So off I go and book another date, 9th October.

Saturday 9th October and all the forecasts have predicted sunshine over Tilstock. The nerves hit earlier this time, right about the time I woke up on Saturday. There are lots of people there already when I arrive at the airfield. Novice and experienced skydivers all waiting to jump, they've even hired a bigger plane to make sure we all get a go. Signing in made it all the more real and remembering your name becomes difficult. All the paper

work's out of the way, time for a coffee (unfortunately they don't have any Brandy) while I wait to be called for training. Three hours of similar emotions to last time and finally I'm called for training. We're told what to expect, what to do and when. Then just at the end of training I'm called to 'suit up'. 10 minute call to board the plane – can't be, I'm not ready yet!

I quickly tie my hair up, meet my Tandem partner and we go through to suit up. Luckily I don't have to wear a Pink jumpsuit, I'm tall enough for a Grey one! Next is the harness and as this is being adjusted and tightened I'm beginning to think I might have to go through with this. Hat and goggles next, Pink? I don't think so, I'll swap those for yellow please. Ok, off we go to the pen where we're picked up and taken to the plane. There's four of us to jump, two experienced skydivers, me and Chris, the guy I'm jumping with. We board the plane and I am strapped to Chris before we take off.

Ready for take off...the door is open up to 1000ft for an easy exit if we crash!?! The views are great as we climb higher and higher then

through the clouds and the ground only visible where the clouds break. 15 minutes later Chris goes through what's going to happen again and the harness is tightened for freefall. Another 5 minutes and the door is opened. The two skydivers jump first and then it's our turn. We move towards the door and I swing my legs over the edge, hold on to my harness, head back, WE'RE OUT! 3 seconds



later I feel a tap on my shoulder and I can let go of the harness and put my arms out. It's at this point I

remember to open my eyes. There's no sensation of falling just lots of noise as we hurtle at 120mph towards the ground. Into the clouds the ripcord is pulled and we're jolted upwards as we suddenly slow to a quieter, more relaxing pace. Out of the clouds and the view is amazing, I can see for miles, 6 minutes to landing and nothing to do but enjoy the scenery. Perfect landing and now my legs start to shake, as I make my way back to the building reality hits, Wow, I just jumped out of a

plane 2 miles high!

Would I do it again? Most definitely!

Thanks to all who sponsored me, Christies Against Cancer are now £350 better off.

Vanessa Torr

Christmas Meal

Friday 3rd December saw the gathering of the 'party animals' at the Coach and Four in Wilmslow for the annual Christmas meal, and what a smart turn-out it was!

The Chairman (me!) turned up late due to the taxi failing to turn up, which was in turn dealt with by some 'constructive' words of criticism over the phone, but finally we made it.

The photographic evidence follows on the centre pages, but it did appear that a good time was had by all. Raffle ticket sales did well and I remember at least Colin winning some prizes! Can anyone remember the Chairman's speech? Or was it just, "We've worked hard all year, let's party!"

Word has it that some lady did take a wrong turn and head into the Gents toilets, (saved in the nick of time I believe) and also that certain

Christmas Meal @ The Coach and Four 2004



Anyone seen the mince pies?



The wine did the trick!



You can stop signing cheques now!



Was that a speed camera flash??

Look at all those empties!!! - Bob!



“If we ignore him do you think he’ll go away?”



*Happy **th Birthday!*

'party goers' were stopped by the Police (Traffic car) for walking on the road in a drunken manner wearing dark clothes!!

One member also had a birthday that night which was a good excuse for some champagne!

After some members danced away downstairs at the pub the remnants were finally 'asked to leave' (it was closing time!) and the stragglers staggered off to continue partying elsewhere, ..but that's where this story ends!

Thanks to all those who organised & helped particularly as we'd had to change from our 'preferred' venue, and sorry to everyone for missing out on the mince pies and coffees. (No-one seemed to notice at the time!)

Next day - 'Hangovers a plenty!'

Ron Sugden

Ron has been a hard working member of the Wilmslow group for a longer time than I can remember and more recently has had to



take something of a 'back seat' in the group. In recognition of his years of hard work it was with great pleasure that on Sunday 19th December 2004 I was able to present Ron with a framed picture of himself on the previous MDU when it was in better condition. We wish you all the best in the future Ron and would love to see you anytime you feel like 'dropping in'.

Jerry

East Cheshire Walks

Wilmslow, Alderley and Prestbury all feature in a new book featuring scenic walks in the region.

East Cheshire Walks - From Peaks to Plains, was first published in 1985, the work of local author and keen walker, (*and Advanced Driver!*) Graham Beech.

The revised edition features dozens of unusual walks.

These include Wilmslow to Castle Hill, via Runway Two and Lindow to Mobberley, via Saltersford.

Other routes go further afield, covering Higher Poynton, Bollington, Gawsworth, Kettleshulme, the Peovers and Styal.

East Cheshire Walks is available from local bookshops priced £7.95

BBC Radio 1 DJs give Advanced Driving a spin

IAM News Release 12th Nov 2004

DJs and producers from BBC Radio One's weekend shows have lined up at Brands Hatch to have their skills at the wheel assessed as part of the Max Driver initiative run by the IAM in partnership with cult lads mag "Max Power".

Timed to coincide with Road Safety Week, six hand picked IAM examiners, under the guidance of Assistant Chief Examiner Steve Mead, took out Wes Butters, Spooky, JK and Joel, Trevor Nelson and Vernon Kay.

After an hour's formal assessment in Seat saloons on roads around Kent, the DJs took to the track with a manoeuvring challenge against the clock at Brand's lower paddock, followed by a three lap "thrill ride" around the famous Brands circuit itself, in Caterhams and a race prepped MG.

TV presenter and DJ Vernon Kay came "top of IAM pops" when examiners compared notes on the DJs performance away from the circuit. But Vernon, whose dad is a trucker, only came third overall. When all the marks were in he had to give way to his colleagues JK and Spooky who came first and

second respectively in the full Max Driver assessments.

The DJs all enjoyed the on road element and found it quite an eye opener.

"Now the BBC Radio One weekend crew and their producers have a first hand experience of how Max Driver can reduce the number of crashes that young drivers cause and save them cash on their insurance," said Max Power Editor in Chief John Sootheran.

"Too many of our readers, and Radio One listeners, are involved in crashes that need never happen."

I actually remember hearing the DJs talking about this event and the IAM not just 'Max Power' and welcome any initiatives to raise the profile of the IAM with the public.

Ed.

Life Quotes

'If Quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with, "Quit while you're ahead"?'

'When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane!'

'You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive!'

IAM Chief warns that driver alienation “Is not in the interest of road safety”

Safety on UK roads is at risk because drivers feel "targeted, vulnerable and alienated", said John Maxwell, chairman of the Institute of Advanced Motorists today. Speaking at the IAM'S annual lunch in London, Mr Maxwell said that motorists are made to believe that congestion, delay, environmental pollution and, not least, the accident toll, is all their fault.

"Car drivers and motorcyclists are not just part of the problem: they can be - and need to be - part of the solution. Treat them fairly and get them back on-side, and there will be a rapid pay-back - not necessarily in the way that the Treasury appears to understand best, but for road safety."

Specifically, it was the IAM'S regret that there has been a "dismal failure to 'sell' the safety benefits of speed cameras - allowing them, instead, to be misunderstood as instruments of entrapment and fund-raising," said Mr Maxwell.

"Cameras are frequently sited where drivers believe them to be unnecessary, with a trigger mechanism that is lacking in discretion and penalty notices that arrive like

overdue invoices. Too many road-users believe that speed cameras are nothing more than nice little earners, and that getting caught is less about discouraging dangerous driving than playing a game of chance."

In fact, Mr Maxwell argued, cameras have a "legitimate and valuable role in enforcing compliance, as distinct from ensuring capture", and there must be an urgent review of camera locations. In addition, all camera sites should clearly show the speed limit at that point, with more repeater signs needed on restricted roads.

Mr Maxwell said: "Rehabilitating speed cameras - re-defining them as instruments of compliance, not capture - would do much to take the pressure off the vast majority of sensible drivers and riders who need little persuading that safety is common sense and should always come first."

Also necessary, says the IAM, is a review of speed limits, recognising the change in enforcement methods. Limits need to be **right** if they are to earn respect and to be observed, and the message

must be that, whatever the speed limit, it is *inappropriate* speed that kills.

There should, said Mr Maxwell, be an "imaginative and positive response" to the Road Safety Bill, which already contains elements of driver re-education. And there needs to be more, not fewer, traffic police on UK roads. "A blue light and a sharp word will always have more effect, and earn more respect, than electronic surveillance and a penalty notice through the post."

IAM News release 8th Dec 2004

Be nice to your wife!

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says, "I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, sir".

The driver says, "Gee officer I had it on cruise control at 60, perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating?" Not looking up from her knitting the wife says: "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control"

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?" The wife smiles demurely and

says, "You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did".

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Darn it woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?"

The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic £75 fine".

The driver says, "You see officer, I had it on, but took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket".

The wife says, "Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving".

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife and barks, "WHY DON'T YOU SHUT UP?"

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?"

(I love this part....)

"Only when he's been drinking" she replied!



Skid Pan

Vanessa Torr is now in charge of the skid Pan so if you are interested in experiencing action on a skid pan please see her on a Sunday morning run - or by e-mail

Vanessa will forward your names to Bob Brittain who very efficiently organises these events for us. Anyone can attend as long as they hold a full, valid, British driving licence. Current fees are:

Members of Advanced Driving Groups £37.50

Non-members £40.00

It sometimes takes a while before you hear as it is very popular - the sooner you act, the sooner Bob can include you. If you e-mail Bob direct

.he will need your Group name and your membership number. Please let Vanessa know if you do so and contact her with any queries.

Video Rental

We have a selection of rental videos at very reasonable charge. In particular the excellent 'Roadcraft' video but there are others too.

Please see Tony Parkinson on a Sunday Run morning, or ask anyone 'manning' the MDU.

Can women reverse?

Survey report by 'Tom Evans' updated July 30 2004, figures from D.O.T. January 2004.

While female learner-drivers are better at checking their mirrors, they are let down by poor reversing skills when taking their driving test, new data from the AA and Department for Transport reveals. As a result, men pass in a shorter time and take fewer attempts.

Women are better at using their mirrors to keep an eye out for other motorists, with men 10 per cent more likely to make a mirror-related fault. But when it comes to the reversing and turning in the road part of the test, 40 per cent more women than men will fail their test attempting these manoeuvres.

Parents with daughters may need to set aside more money to get them qualified for the road. Compared to men, women tend to take another two and a half months to pass their test, needing another 15-16 hours of tuition. With driving lessons costing up to £25 per hour, that works out as an extra £400.

Practice makes perfect Linda Hatswell of the AA says: "Statistically, men have the edge when it comes

to the number of tests they take before they pass - although the difference between the sexes among 17-year-old learners is marginal, men are roughly 10 per cent more likely to pass between the age of 18 and 24. This is no bad thing, of course, as women are also proven to be safer drivers in the long run.”

"Generally, men are more technically-minded and tend to pick up the practical skills more easily. Women, on the other hand, often interpret what they are taught and develop their own technique when putting it into practice, which may take a little more time."

% pass rate by age Group

Age	Female	Male
17	56%	60%
18	49%	57%
19	45%	53%
20 - 24	46%	55%
25 - 29	45%	49%
30 - 39	42%	48%
40 - 49	38%	39%
50+	29%	29%
Total	40%	46%

A thought.....

“Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds in the driveway and leave all our junk in boxes in the garage?”

Social events:-

Saturday 26th February 2005 - Fancy Dress - 7.30pm on (& on!)

This is moved from the scheduled date of Mon. 14th Feb.

(Apparently many people may be ‘busy’?) and is being held at Jerry’s place - address on back cover. All are welcome, just enter into the spirit with a costume and come along for another fun evening. This is the non-serious side of advanced driving when everyone can relax, let their hair down and if they are not driving have a drink. Contact Jerry or Helen (social secretary) for further info.

Monday 14th March 2005 - Quiz night - Royal Oak 7.45pm

This is currently scheduled to be a quiz night at the Royal Oak starting at 8pm sharp. Do come along , these are very light hearted and enjoyable evenings.



And Finally.....

This is your newsletter and the editorial team appreciate your honest feedback, with ideas and articles for future editions. Thanks to all those who have helped with this edition (produced on time!!) and please do let us know what you think.

Editor

The Institute of Advanced Motorists
Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

(IAM No. 5141)

www.w-a-m.info

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Vanessa Torr

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily those of the Committee or the Institute of Advanced Motorists