



**Wilmslow  
Advanced Motorists**

**Registered Charity No 1113682**



**Wilmslow Parish Church**

**NEWSLETTER**

**November 2006**



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

# Newsletter

## November 2006

Dear all,

Welcome to the November edition of the newsletter and especially welcome are the following new 'associates' attending fixed length course number 27:-Raymond French, Jane Taylor and Angela Westington.

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

### Diary Dates:-

#### Sunday runs

Sun Nov 5th - Run 5

Sun Nov 19th - Run 6

Sun Dec 3rd - Run 7

Sun Dec 17th - Run 8

Sun Jan 14th - Run 1

Sun Jan 21st - Run 2

Sun Feb 4th - Run 3

Tues Jan 30th Obs Meeting.

All Sunday runs start from the car park behind Sainsburys 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 as this assists in organising observers. Contact numbers are on the back cover.

### Classrooms:-

Classroom & meetings are currently at the **Drum & Monkey, Moss Rose, Alderley Edge.**

These are at 7.45 for 8.00 pm

Wed Nov 1st Classroom 2

Tues Dec 12th - Classroom 3

Tues Jan 9th Classroom 1

### Committee meetings

Mon Nov 26th

Mon Jan 22nd

**This venue may change so please do check before coming along.**

Now that you have experienced advanced driving at first hand this is a good time to try and influence your friends and colleagues to come and enrol for the next course.

## Chairman's Chat

Now that the summer is over and we have survived the wind & rain of the various events attended, it's now time to think about Christmas, our group Christmas meal (& 'antics!') has been booked for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the Bridge Hotel in Prestbury and there is still time to book your places if you contact Barbara Helm as soon as possible. (£22.50ea) See enclosed menu details.

Prior to that there is the AGM held at the Drum & Monkey on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November where it would be nice if members could come along & support the group's committee or just see how things are run.

For my part I've been pleased that our observer team have been kept busy with the 'associates' preparing for test, but I would like to say thank you to everyone for playing their part. Hopefully some new full members of the group will take up the challenge (very rewarding) of becoming observers themselves & help to guide others through the Advanced test? Volunteers one step forward!

One matter up for consideration at the moment is a slight change to the run start time from 10:00 to 10:30 hours. Apart from people not having to get up quite so early on a Sunday morning it would also mean that the runs finish nearer to 12 o'clock and perhaps there would be the opportunity to chat (& unwind?) over a drink in a local hostelry such as the Samuel Finney? They do do coffees etc. and maybe we can develop more of the type of camaraderie enjoyed by bike groups of the IAM! Feedback please would be appreciated.

We are now in the final throws of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the IAM and whilst perhaps there hasn't been as much going on as would have been liked, I did see some developments from the National Conference at Alton Towers recently and the appointment of Nigel Mansel as President, who was there, must be a positive move in terms of the IAM's image. Also watch out for a series of adverts in various car & motorbike publications.

That's just about it for this year, have a very merry safe Christmas and new year – see you all in 2007!!

*Jerry. Chairman*  
*E-mail: chairman@w-a-m.info*

## **Forthcoming event**

### **November 14th. AGM**

For those fully paid up members enclosed with the newsletter is the formal notification of the above meeting along with nomination forms etc.

Please make a big effort to attend and hear what has been going on over the last 12 months.

### **December 1st. Christmas Meal.**

Although this event was announced in the last Newsletter as being on November 24th the date has been put back one week to get the event a bit nearer to Christmas.

The venue is The Bridge at Prestbury where we have a booking for 20/30 people. The price is £22.50 each, contact Barbara for tickets, which will be on a first come first served basis.

## **Recruitment**

Two of our best opportunities to meet the public and hopefully get new associates were ruined by the weather and lack of volunteers.

### **Wilmslow Street Party.**

We were unable to field enough members to man a stall (the MDU was hired out by another group and our gazebo cannot be anchored to the footpath!) Although two of our stalwarts did some leafletting the event was marred by poor weather and the general turnout was low.

### **Barclays Fun Day.**

Although we had a reasonable presence at the event the weather again reduced attendance.

### **Overall**

Associate numbers for the current course are good but we need to keep working at recruitment so that our observers are kept busy in the New Year.

## **Drivers Switch off**

Millions of motorists suffer memory blanks while behind the wheel, it has been revealed.

As many as 24% of drivers arrive at destinations - such as their workplace - with no recollection of their journey, a survey found from car insurance company Churchill.

As many as 5% have had accidents as a result of losing concentration, while 48% of male drivers said they were most likely to “switch off” when driving on a motorway

Based on responses from 2,788 motorists the survey showed :-

1 12% of school run drivers have crashed at least once in the last year while driving on “autopilot”.

2 Those travelling to work by car are most likely to have reached a destination with no memory of the drive itself.

3 Distractions such as children in the car, thinking about family problems and listening to the radio, meant that 25% of drivers regularly break the speed limit.

4 13% brake far too late and 12% don't give way to other drivers, while 5% say they end up driving in the middle of the road and 2% do not stop at pedestrian crossings through inattention.

5 On average, Britons make eight journeys a week on familiar routes every week and it is on those routes that motorists' minds wander the most.

A spokesperson for Churchill Car Insurance, said: “Driving has become habitual as we are so reliant on the car in our everyday lives. The stresses and strains of everyday life mean that many motorists end up with motoring memory blanks—the consequences of which can seriously affect getting from A to B safely”.

## **Realisation**

A man came round in hospital after a serious accident. He shouted “Doctor I can't feel my legs”. The doctor replied “I know I've cut your arms off”.

## **Little old lady**

A little old lady is walking down the street, dragging two plastic rubbish bags with her, one in each hand. There's a hole in one of the bags, and every once in a while a £20 note flew out of it onto the pavement.

Noticing this, a policeman stops her...."Ma'am, there are £20 notes falling out of that bag". "Damn!" says the little old lady....."I'd better go back and see if I can still find some. Thanks for the warning!"

"Well, now, not so fast," says the policeman. "How did you get all that money?" Did you steal it?"

"Oh, no", says the little old lady. "You see, my garden backs on to the car park of the football ground and when there's a game on, a lot of fans come and pee in the bushes, right into my flower beds! So, I go and stand behind the bushes with a big pair of shears, and each time someone sticks his little thingy through the bushes, I say "£20 or off it comes!"

"Hey, not a bad idea!" laughs the policeman. "OK, good luck! By the way, what's in the other bag?"

'Well", says the little old lady, "not all of them pay".

## **Headache**

Why do cyclists wear helmets?-To prevent head injury when riding down streets that have flower baskets suspended from lamp-posts.

## **Temptation**

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie "Tie me up," she purred, "and you can do anything you want".

So he tied her up and went golfing.

## Ex Stock



**Now you know where to get that much needed item from.**

## How clean is your wheel?

Car steering wheels carry more than twice as many germs as the average toilet seat, according to recent research.

A study found that the average steering wheel had 41,600 germs resting on the surface compared to toilet seats that have on average 17,400.

The unhygienic state of our cars is put down to drivers leaving traces of food or dirt behind and never bothering to clean up.

Five per cent of motorists admitted they had never cleaned their car and just 13 per cent cleaned them regularly.

A typical response was that people's cars were rarely cleaned, an answer given by 45 per cent of those surveyed.

A car care buyer for Tesco, which commissioned the survey of more than 1,000 drivers, said Brits needed to clean their cars more often because the steering wheel was an ideal breeding place for germs.

## Don't eat and drive

Eating and drinking at the wheel can almost double the risk of a car crash, according to a new study. Yet around 75 cent of drivers drink and eat while driving, research from Privilege Insurance found.

Although drivers try to compensate for eating and drinking by driving more slowly and carefully, they are often unable to brake in enough time to avoid a collision, the study found.

The findings came following tests of motorists on a driving simulator.

The tests showed that drivers' mental workload was significantly higher when eating or drinking, suggesting that the consumption of refreshments reduces a motorist's ability to deal with other events.

So although drivers were slowing down and steering more consistently they were still not compensating enough to avoid a crash.

Participants were asked to drive an urban route once without eating, and once while eating from a bag of sweets or drinking from a bottle of water at two intervals, coinciding with a pedestrian stepping into the road.

The number of crashes doubled during the food and drink trial. Nine in 10 occurred at the point the driver was eating sweets or sipping water, resulting in a collision with a pedestrian.

Dr Mark Young, a researcher lecturer from Brunel University in west London, who carried out the study on behalf of Privilege, said: "The results strongly indicate that eating or drinking while driving increases the risk of a crash".

"Drivers may not perceive the risk to be any higher than other menial in-car tasks, but the impaired reactions combined with the increased workload suggest drivers should exert caution".

Kate Syred, commercial director of Privilege Insurance, said: "These results are extremely worrying as they suggest that consuming food or drink while driving has a similar effect on driver workload and reaction times as using a hand-held mobile phone, which is of course now banned".

"In light of our research, we advise drivers to keep eating and drinking to times when the vehicle is safely parked. Not only will this ensure drivers don't fall foul of the laws prohibiting driving without due care and attention, but it will ensure our roads are as safe as possible for pedestrians and other road users".

## What pets do when you are at work



### **Fact**

"Drivers in Athens can have their licences taken away if they're deemed either 'unwashed' or 'poorly dressed' " !!!

### **Playtime**

Sign seen in a Mobile Home park :-  
"Beware grandparents at play"

## **To see or be seen**

A contributor to a motoring column in a National daily newspaper described, whilst driving through Rochdale, how he was stopped by the police and waved into a pub car park.

The driver was told a camera had identified his car as having no registered owner. The vehicle had been owned for three years, was taxed, tested and insured and was completely legal.

At this point the police officer walked away and spoke to a man in plain clothes and returned and said he wanted to check the tinted windows.

A device that gauged the darkness of the tints was attached and he explained what the readings should be to attain a pass. They did not.

After explaining that the tints were on the car when it was purchased and the car had been through three MoT tests this cut no ice. Apparently the driver had two choices, either accept a £30 fixed penalty ticket, or be referred to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) inspector who was on the other side of the car park. The driver would, without doubt, be issued with a prohibition order notice that meant he could not drive away without removing the tints. On asking how this could be done on a pub car park he was advised by the police officer to take the penalty notice and avoid the fuss.

The driver felt this was a money making scam by Greater Manchester Police but had the tints removed later, at considerable expense.

The explanation given was that VOSA and the police are starting to enforce an EU directive that bans any tints with less than 70% visible light transmission on the windscreen or front side screens.

The problem is not the vision of the driver – it is the fact that he or she cannot be seen behind the tints and cannot therefore be monitored by the tens of thousands of security cameras in the gaze of which we live.

## **Compensation Culture**

Drivers will have to pay more for their insurance in the future as premiums rise to cover increased claims, one of the countries leading car insurance groups stated recently.

Royal Bank of Scotland which owns car insurers Direct Line and Churchill, indicated that it could follow Norwich Union and put prices up.

A spokesman for RBS stated “We agree that prices are unsustainable at the current level given the rate of claims inflation and that prices need to rise”.

Norwich Union said it would lift premiums by as much as 40% for some customers with an average rate rise of 16%. It said it expected other insurers to follow suit.

A spokesman for Admiral said that as Royal Bank of Scotland has a 35% market share, when they decide to put rates up, the market will follow. He continued to say the number of injury claims is on the rise –it’s a bit of a compensation culture.

The article concluded by saying that the UK customer is very savvy. They shop around far more than anyone else in the western world.

## **Remember When**

‘Made in Japan’ meant junk, the term ‘making out’ referred to how you did in your exams, ‘stud’ was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and ‘going all the way’ meant staying on a double decker bus all the way to the terminus. When cigarette smoking was ‘fashionable’, ‘grass’ was mown, ‘coke’ was kept in the coalhouse, a ‘joint’ was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and ‘pot’ was something you cooked in. ‘Rock Music’ was a fond mother’s lullaby, ‘Eldorado’ was a make of ice cream, a ‘gay person’ was the life and soul of the party, while ‘aids’ just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

## Opportunities for advanced drivers



Your editor buggy driving at Styal Mill.

## Spectacles

A Polish immigrant went to the DVLC to apply for a driver's license.

First, of course, he had to take an eye sight test. The optician showed him a card with the letters:-

**C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.**

Can you read this?" the optician asked.

"Read it?" the Polish guy replied, "I know the person".

## **Website** [WWW.W-A-M.info](http://WWW.W-A-M.info)

If you are not sure of dates for runs, meetings or social events don't forget our website. Mark does a great job in keeping it up to date — it's one of the best around — have a look and let us have your comments.

## **Know your Registration Number!**

Parking in Spring Gardens, Buxton, is a whole new ball game. Locals have got used to the new system but visitors were providing much amusement, scurrying back and forth between the pay machine and their cars!

Apparently, the procedure is to tap in your car registration number and then insert the appropriate money. Presumably this information is held on a computer and the system alerts the operator when the parking time has elapsed, one can imagine a little man in a small room avidly watching the screen. Then, maybe, another little man scurries along to issue a ticket, or perhaps a fine is issued at the time of expiration of the ticket and posted to you? Cheaper than a traffic warden perhaps? So remember, read before inserting your money! Of course, this may be in operation in other areas as yet unknown!

## **Road sign cull**

Roads in Hampshire are to be stripped of unnecessary signs and road markings, signs will be amalgamated where there is a duplication and unclear language will be amended.

The clean-up by the county council is the first response to a national "clutter reduction project" launched last month by the Royal Automobile Club and the Campaign to protect Rural England." The rural environment is being ruined by roadside clutter and intensive traffic calming and confusing signs may be putting motorists' lives at risk," says the RAC.

The project will begin with an audit of 15 miles of the A34; several other stretches of road will follow.

Will Hampshire's initiative lead the way for others?

## **Video Library.**

Following complaints about the sound quality on some of the Road craft tapes (which were rather old) we have now 'splashed out' and purchased some new DVDs.

The rental price is still the same at £2.00 per hiring (see Tony Parkinson on a Sunday morning) If you do hire them please make sure they are returned as they are too expensive to lose.

## **Autumn is upon us**

By the time you will be reading this the clocks will be about to be put back (October 28th) making the trip home from work that much more difficult.

It's always a good idea at this time of year to check the condition of your tyres and if in doubt seek professional advice as they can be the difference between stopping safely and an accident.

## **Justice ?**

In a recent court case a person was found guilty of driving without a licence. They were fined and their licence was endorsed with three penalty points!

## **Any cyclists out there?**

The IAM (Vince Yearley) are looking for some cyclists to give feedback on a number of issues including 'road surfaces', 'close passing' & 'inappropriate cycle lanes' ideally with photographs of the last item.

If you wish to assist by providing feedback with these and perhaps a further in depth survey please let me know and I will pass you the specific details.

**Jerry – chairman@w-a-m.info**

## **Vicar's curtsey?**

Involuntary nodding of passengers heads due to heavy braking.

## **Empty car puts brake on fuel thieves.**

An unmanned police car which has been parked permanently outside a filling station since July is proving better at deterring thieves than a uniformed officer.

Thefts from the pumps of the Welcome Break services on the M11 at Stansted Airport in Essex trebled during the period a full-time community support officer patrolled the services.

Then, police agreed to lend the filling station a marked Ford Escort, that was parked outside the shop front and occasionally moved around the forecourt. "It's proved effective in reducing the number of drivers who make off without paying," said a police spokesman. "It's the oldest vehicle in the fleet, it might as well be there preventing crime".

(This idea didn't work in our locality did it?)

## **Fact**

The number of women with driving convictions has doubled in three years according to the website confused.com Nonetheless they still have fewer than men.

## **Seasonal Greeting**

As this will be the last edition of the Newsletter for 2006 I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and safe driving in the New Year.

## **Suitable ending ?**

Remember - Life should **NOT** be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!" Have a wonderful day.

*The Institute of Advanced Motorists*  
**Wilmslow Advanced Motorists**

(IAM No. 5141)

**www.w-a-m.info**

Registered Charity No 1113682

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**Data Protection Acts:** The group intends to hold names and addresses on computer record for ease of administration, but if anyone objects to this then please notify the membership secretary.

*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*

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