



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity No 1113682



Road Rage

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2007



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

Autumn 2007

Dear All,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter.
Especially welcome is Martin Lee the one and only new 'associate'
attending fixed length course number 31.

Diary Dates:-

Sunday runs

Sun Nov 4th Run 5
Sun Nov 18th - Run 6
Sun Dec 2nd - Run 7
Sun Dec 16th - Run 8
Sun Jan 13th - Run 1
Sun Jan 27th - Run 2
Sun Feb 3rd - Run 3
Sun Feb 17th Run 4
Sun Mar 2nd Run 5
Sun Mar 16th Run 6

All Sunday runs start from the car park behind The Sam Finney pub in Wilmslow.

Registration is at 10.00 o'clock, please make yourself known by checking in with Jose, Ivy or Gavin. Runs start at 10.30 .

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:-

Classrooms for course 30 will be held at: **The Drum & Monkey– Alderley Edge** These are at 7.45 for 8.00 pm

Tues Oct 29th Classroom 2
Tues Dec 11th Classroom 3

For course 31 in 2008

Tues Jan 8th Classroom 1
Tues Feb 26th Classroom 2

Committee meetings

Mon Nov 26th
Mon Jan 21st 2008

Observer Meeting

Tues Jan 29th 2008

All the above three meetings will be held at our usual venue:- **The Drum & Monkey Alderley Edge** but check before coming along.

Chairman's Chat,

Well here we are again, and since the last newsletter we have been at the Wilmslow Street Party and Barclays Fun Day. On Grove Street we had one of IAM's fully kitted MDUs which certainly looked the part and provided a clear focal point. I have to say that bearing in mind what I said in the last newsletter there are clear benefits to having them centrally managed although there may also be a 'downside' as we were unable to get one for Barclays.

Associated with this newsletter will be the notice for the Annual General Meeting which is being held at the Drum & Monkey. This year there will be some food laid on and I hope that it will encourage as many members as possible to attend. Whilst the matters dealt with might be considered 'routine' I believe that this year in particular it is important that as many group & IAM members as possible attend as we do need to get more ideas on how to develop the group and for fresh people to step forward and put something in. I am (again) standing for re-election as Chairman but I am only too painfully aware that if a small number of the current officers and committee members were to decide not to continue we could end up in the same situation as Macclesfield group who over the last year have merged with Congleton due to lack of 'volunteers'!

Have you heard one of the latest proposals by our driver bashing government, to have 20mph built up area speed limits rigorously enforced with cameras? I certainly do not advocate driving at even 30mph where there are many pedestrians or residential areas with children, but surely responsibility has to be taken by pedestrians and parents as well to keep themselves safe rather than impose blanket reduced limits as well as driving responsibly? Speeding motorists should be made to think how they would like others to do the same down their street where their children may be!

(continued over the page)

Coming up soon is the Christmas dinner being held again at the Bridge Hotel in Prestbury which is a welcome opportunity to let our hair down and enjoy good food & refreshments in excellent company. Don't be shy, come along and get in the Christmas spirit.

Don't forget the best gift of all is the gift of life - 'Skill for Life'. Sign someone up for a course today, you don't know whose life you might be saving.

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

Recent Events

Wilmslow Street Party

We were successful in obtaining a loan of the refurbished MDU from headquarters for the above event which gave a good visual impact on the street

A great deal of interest was shown but to date no positive results.

Many thanks to the members who 'manned the stall'.

Barclays Fun Day

We were unable to obtain the regional MDU for this event so had to use our Gazebo. As we were running the driving tests in the car park we were lacking a presence on the field.

Thanks to those members who assisted and many thanks to Barclays for their donation.

Congratulations

Chris Roberts has been successful in passing her Advanced Driving Test and has been recommended for full membership of the IAM.

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at the Drum and Monkey on Tuesday November 20th at 8.00 pm.

Formal notification along with nomination forms is included with this mailing.

Will all members please make a big effort to turn up and support the committee in their efforts.

This year free refreshments will be provided so don't miss out on this splendid offer.

Christmas Meal

As mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter we have booked a limited number of places at The Bridge Hotel in Prestbury for the evening of December 7th.

Tickets are £25.00 each and will be available on a first come first served basis.

The proposed menu is enclosed along with a booking form. As the menu is fixed (with plenty of choices) we have to let them know your selection in advance so would you fill in the last part of the form and return it with your cheque when you applying for tickets.

We have to let the restaurant know numbers by November 7th so there is no time waste.

Applications to Barbara Helm
address on back page

Just for fun

What do you call two rows of cabbages?
A dual cabbage way.

What do you call 100 nuns in a shop?
Virgin megastore.

New Highway Code Could Help Cut Congestion say Advanced Motorists

Road works misery and the congestion that goes with them could be radically reduced, according to the IAM if UK motorists take on board new advice in the Highway Code published on the 28 September 2007).

For the first time, the Highway Code has a rule on “merging in turn” under the section on lane discipline (Rule 134; Highway Code 2007).

“We are pleased to see this as we believe it will ease many pinch points at road works,” said IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger.

“Too often we see a long, empty lane leading up to road works, doing nothing, because drivers have been told to get in lane too early. Then there is a tension with people perceived as ‘pushing in’. The new recommendation to merge in turn in the Highway Code will encourage drivers to use all the available lanes – right up to the lane closure - and could make road works less of a problem,” he said.

“It will avoid frustration and mean everybody gets through the restriction that much quicker.”

Mr. Rodger, a former Metropolitan Police driving instructor, said that the IAM had long campaigned for merge in turn recognition in the Highway Code.

“We are convinced everybody will get through sooner if they merge in turn. If drivers try it, encouraged by the Highway Code, it could be the end to the ‘I’m first, you’re next’ attitude that slows everybody down”.

“We now need to see this initiative supported by physical ‘merge in turn’ roadside signs as well, because we know many drivers don’t bother with the Highway Code once they have passed their test.”

A survey in 2006 supported by the IAM found that in a test, only 29 out of 1000 motorists recognised all of the ten Highway Code signs they were shown..

The Highway Code is a best selling title in the UK. The new edition - last revised eight years ago-now describes smoking as a distraction for drivers, an increasing problem following the UK wide indoor smoking ban.

“If you are on a long journey, then it makes sense to combine your rest break away from driving with a smoking break. While it is not as big a distraction as a hand held mobile phone, it is not worth the risk. Just think of the consequences of a cigarette dropping into your lap while you are driving," added Mr. Rodger.

Issued by the IAM Press Office.

My Living Will

Last night, my wife and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

She got up, unplugged the TV, and threw out my beer.

She's such a bitch.

Danger in the East

Eastern Europe's roads are the most dangerous on the continent it was claimed in a recent study warning British tourists of the risks of driving abroad.

Whilst you may not be thinking of driving in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia or Poland there are concerns that the bad driving habits of these countries are being imported into the UK as the EU expands.

Not so far from the truth

A young man named Gordon bought a donkey from an old farmer for £100.00.

The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day, but when the farmer drove up he said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news... the donkey is on my truck, but unfortunately he's dead". Gordon replied, "Well then, just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "I can't do that, because I've spent it already".

Gordon said, "OK then, well just unload the donkey anyway". The farmer asked, "What are you going to do with him?"

Gordon answered, "I'm going to raffle him off". To which the farmer exclaimed, "Surely you can't raffle off a dead donkey!" But Gordon, with a wicked smile on his face said, "Of course I can, you watch me. I just won't bother to tell anybody that he's dead."

A month later the farmer met up with Gordon and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey"?

Gordon said, "I raffled him off, sold 500 tickets at two pounds a piece, and made a huge, fat profit!!"

Totally amazed, the farmer asked, "Didn't anyone complain that you had stolen their money because you lied about the donkey being dead?"

To which Gordon replied, "The only guy who found out about the donkey being dead was the raffle winner when he came to claim his prize. So I gave him his £2 raffle ticket money back plus an extra £200, which as you know is double the going rate for a donkey, so he thought I was a great guy!!"

Gordon grew up and eventually became the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and no matter how many times he lied, or how much money he stole from the British voters, as long as he gave them back some of the stolen money, most of them, unfortunately, still thought he was a great guy .

The moral of this story is that, if you think Gordon is about to play fair and do something for the everyday people of the country for once in his miserable, lying life, think again my friend, because you'll be better off flogging a dead donkey.

As many as 7% of drivers have fallen asleep at the wheel in the last year, a survey has revealed.

) The study by road safety charity Brake and breakdown service Green Flag found some motorists had nodded off 10 times or more.

More than a quarter of the 1,000 people polled said they had been a passenger in a vehicle with a tired driver, while many put their trust in ineffective measures to stay awake.

Drivers were three times more likely to open a window when tired than take a nap while safely parked.

As many as 41% drank caffeine to stop nodding off, but only 30% of them reckoned this helped. More than 70% said they took regular breaks to prevent fatigue, while about the same number ensured they had a good night's sleep before setting off.

Brake spokesman Jools Townsend said: "It is shocking that drivers are so ignorant about how to prevent tiredness on the road. It's crucial that drivers planning long journeys or driving at unusual hours are aware of the dangers of driving tired and know how to avoid it."

He said they should be getting a good night's sleep beforehand, taking regular breaks and pulling over if they felt tired. Green flag spokeswoman Abi Clark added: "This research highlights that drivers need to be aware of the dangers they are putting themselves and others in when driving while tired."

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Spelling Mistake



Mc Burnt



Can you read a Map?

Nearly half of all motorists are lost when it comes to reading a road map– and are put to shame by Cub Scouts who make a far better job of it.

Part of the blame has been placed on drivers' increasing reliance on satellite navigation systems as they dump the trusty road atlas.

Research shows that almost 50% of Britain's drivers– an astonishing 15 million– are unable to identify simple map symbols and about 11 million admit they 'cannot read a basic road map'.

The deterioration in traditional map-reading skills coincides with an increased reliance on satnavs–despite evidence of the gadgets directing drivers down routes which are impossible to follow or even into swollen fords. The lack of basic knowledge has alarmed road safety experts and map makers who say electronic equipment is not infallible.

Research commissioned by insurer Esure found that 63% of motorists (about 21 million) would be lost without a satnav system. This is despite the fact that 50% say they are driven round the bend by poor instructions at least once a month.

Of the 1000 drivers who took part in the survey, all aged between 18 and 65, over half said their traditional map was out of date and 16% no longer kept one in the car. Men were better at reading maps but women scored higher on map symbols.

Drivers in Scotland were worst at understanding maps with 56% failing to identify five or more symbols.

A representative of Esure said "It's pretty embarrassing that the majority of Cub Scouts have better map reading skills than the majority of the adult population. This could lead to dangerous scenarios where people are relying solely on technology which can and does go wrong.

The Drunk

Paddy had been drinking at his local Dublin pub all day and most of the night celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Mick the bartender said, "You'll not be drinking anymore tonight Paddy"

Paddy replied "OK Mick, I'll be on my way then." Paddy spun around on his stool and stepped off and fell flat on his face. "Hell" he said and pulled himself up by the stool and dusted himself off. He took a step towards the door and fell flat on his face again. He looked towards the doorway and thought to himself that if he could just get to the door and some fresh air he'd be fine. He belly crawled to the door and shimmied up the door frame, stuck his head outside and took a deep breath of fresh air. He felt much better and took a step out onto the pavement and fell flat on his face again. "Bi'Jesus I've had too much," he said.

He could see his house just a few doors down, and crawled to the door, hauled himself up the door frame, opened the door and shimmied inside. He took a look up the stairs and said "No way", but he crawled up the stairs to his bedroom door and said "I can make it to the bed." He took a step into the room and fell flat on his face again. After a struggle he climbed up into the bed.

The next morning, his wife, Jess, came into the room carrying a cup of coffee and said, "Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night?"

Paddy says, "I did Jess. I was a bit worse for wear. But how did you know?"

Mick phoned, "You left your wheelchair at the pub."

Philosophy

Don't put off until tomorrow that which you could do today; do it today, and if you like it you can do it all over again tomorrow.

Slippery Slope

A council which invested thousands in road signs that alert drivers when they are going too fast says it is unable to erect them as it's staff are not allowed to climb ladders.

Under health and safety rules, workers must receive training before erecting the signs even though the installer would only need to be 3ft or 4ft off the ground.

Lancashire County Council is now in talks with the local fire service to see if it can help.

In the meantime, more than 30 speed indicator display signs are languishing in village halls across the county.

Police were responsible for maintaining the first six 30 mph indicators in the county. but since they have become more popular—another 20 have been installed—police say they can no longer cope with them.

Peter Andrews, from Lancashire's environmental directorate, said; "We won't be able to get any new signs up and running because we have to make sure people are safe and within the law.

It is not a decision we have taken lightly but we have to make sure people are properly trained because there is an element of risk.

For Man city supporters

You do have too hand it to Sven:
He's not the most gifted of men
But, thanks to his payoff
He's had a nice lay off
And he's back earning millions again.

A Project

Take your time and see if you can read each line aloud without a mistake.

The average person over 40 years of age cannot do it.

1. This is this cat.
2. This is is cat.
3. This is how cat.
4. This is to cat.
5. This is keep cat.
6. This is an cat.
7. This is old cat.
8. This is fart cat.
9. This is busy cat.
10. This is for cat.
11. This is forty cat.
12. This is seconds cat.

Now go back and read the third word in each line from the top down and I betcha' you cannot resist passing it on.

This was developed as a mental age assessment by the School of Psychiatry at Harvard University

Keyless Entry

Motorists are being forced to spend as much as £326 on replacement car keys because of increasingly sophisticated alarm systems according to a new survey.

A poll of 2,000 drivers found 16% had lost their keys at least once, while as many as one in ten did not own a spare set.

It usually costs about £200 to design, make and programme a new key, the survey for Britannia Rescue found.

However, advanced alarm and immobiliser systems mean Ford Focus owners face paying up to £266 for replacement keys, while Nissan Micra owners would have to spend as much as £326.

Road signs 'lost' on many drivers

Many British motorists are lost when it comes to understanding common road signs, a survey suggests.

Some 67% of the 2,500 people polled did not recognise "no through road" signs, and one-third could not identify the sign for "no motor vehicles".

Fewer than 33% knew what a "no cycling" sign looked like and one-third were confused by height restriction signs.

Vauxhall's poll found drivers would like to see signs such as "cash machine nearby" and "urban foxes crossing".

The next most popular new signs motorists wanted to see were ones warning drivers to be more environmentally friendly by switching off their engines - for instance, outside schools while waiting to collect children.

Other popular suggestions were:

- Wifi hotspot;
- Healthy eating zone - indicating places where healthy food is on offer;
- Drive-through approaching;
- Up-to-date children-crossing signs - with the boy wearing a hoodie;
- Beware of skateboarders.

Simon Ewart, of carmaker Vauxhall, said: "UK motorists love to drive, but our research shows that there is a need to contemporise the road landscape to mirror the needs of modern motorists.

"We are all more aware of green issues, so a simple reminder to turn the engine off when waiting has to be a good thing".

"We've all been on wild goose chases looking for cash machines. A new road sign could save endless hours searching the streets."

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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