



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity Number 1113682



Mixed messages?

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

Spring 2010

Dear all,

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter. Especially welcome are the following new 'associates' since the last newsletter:- **Ed Chapman, Brendan Parr, Clive Redhead and Pam Woollam**



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

Sheila Knotts and Zoe Homolky.

Diary Dates:-

Sunday runs

Run 1 - 12 September 2010

Run 2 - 26 September 2010

Run 3 - 3 October 2010

All Sunday runs start from the car park behind **Revolution** in Wilmslow. Registration is at 10:00 hours, please make yourself known by checking in with Jose, Ivy or Gavin. Runs start at 10.30 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 currently at the **Drum & Monkey, Moss Rose, Alderley Edge.**

Next course:

Tues 7th September 2010 -

Classroom 1

(Fixed length course No. 39)

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

1st Run - Sun 12th September

'Blast from the past!'

Well despite being approximately 3.500 miles away I still try to keep an eye on what's happening back home and did manage to see a few people at the Wilmslow show where there were some positive signs of interest from potential new members. It was however, still the same people doing the work with no new faces on the scene, which is a shame.

I've not done much driving myself over the last few months since arriving in Afghanistan – a few miles in a 4x4 pick up truck and a few on a 4x4 Quad



bike which is fun. There's not much of a highway code out here, but they do have stop signs on the camps which must be obeyed at junctions and a maximum speed limit of 26kph which actually does make sense when most of the soldiers don't look where they are walking! Apparently that theme actually continues in the UK with many pedestrians not paying attention because they are e-mailing or 'chatting' on mobile devices or listening to music.

I have found it refreshing that with the new government the over reliance on fixed speed cameras in many areas seems to be coming to an end. I wonder however if they will also run down further Police Traffic enforcement which I have always found preferable.

Vanessa and I have signed up for the Mac4x4 again in March 2011. This will be the 10th Mac4x4 and 100th year of Macmillan Cancer Support so they've made it a special **4 day** event instead of the usual 3 which sounds 'interesting!' Marissa Wayne, daughter of the legendary John Wayne who died of cancer is participating this time around and based on that theme we have decided on a team name of 'Wilmslow Wranglers' and for anyone wishing to donate to a worthy cause please visit www.justgiving.com/ww45

Whilst I've been away Gavin has taken the Chairman's role and David and the rest of committee have kept the group running, however as far as I know no one has yet shown any willingness to take role of Treasurer from the soon to retire Alan Brown. Will I be back in November just in time to see the demise of Wilmslow Advanced Motorists as a stand alone group?

Hopefully see you all when I get back.

Jerry Stone
Ex Chairman

Parking ticket for car with lines painted beneath it

Accountant Sally Barker had parked her Peugeot 206 CC on Little Quay Street, near her office. There were no yellow lines on the road and no parking restrictions in place. But the council was so keen to get new double yellow lines painted that it used a tow truck to hoist the car into the air while it did the work.

A parking ticket was issued immediately, though after being challenged by the Manchester Evening News, council workers replaced it with a note reading, 'your car has been repositioned by the council'.

Top 10 tips on how to ensure your new car retains its value

1. Regular Servicing
2. Don't buy an entry-level version
3. Avoid quirky limited editions
4. Choose tasteful paintwork
5. Steer clear of modification
6. Leave the engine alone
7. Buy popular
8. Registration matters
9. Be wary of 'run-out' models
10. Keep it in good nick

Personally I get what I like, enjoy driving it and apart from 1 and 10 don't worry about the rest! - *Ed*

Cheaper Car Insurance?

One of the first things we are asked when talking to people about the IAM is "Will I get cheaper insurance?". All insurance is dealt with on an individual basis relating to your own circumstances but there are several companies that will offer preferential premiums to IAM members. This can mean quite substantial savings, especially for young drivers.

The following is taken from Adrian Flux website...

If you've passed your test recently, get yourself a **PassPlus, IAM or Max Driver** qualification and we can knock 25% - usually hundreds of pounds for teenaged drivers - or even more off your premium. All of these schemes give the novice driver additional skills. The Max Driver scheme (set up by Adrian Flux in association with Max Power magazine and the **Institute of Advanced Motoring**) has been shown to vastly reduce the likelihood of accidents involving drivers who have taken it. And that means cheaper insurance.

Copied from Adrian Flux website (www.adrianflux.co.uk)

Non-functional speed cameras to remain in place as a deterrent

Government spending cuts will see many speed cameras go out of action, but senior Ministry of Transport Officials plan to leave the empty shells of cameras in place as a deterrent to speeding motorists.

Government officials reckon that up to nine out of ten speed cameras will not be functional soon.

If you think you might have been caught by a speed camera, go to this website to find out :

www.speedcameracheck.co.uk

Why your car's tyres are so important

Time for some honesty: when you're looking for a new set of tyres, you buy the cheapest set you can 'get away with', right? Most drivers are savvy enough to know that dirt cheap tyres probably aren't worth the risk, but how many of us can honestly say we really consider much more than cost?

In 2012, when an EU law introduces a new tyre rating system, we'll all be forced to look more closely at the tyres we buy, for their strengths and weaknesses. In fact, the new standards that accompany the system will make one third of the tyres available now obsolete - most of them from cheaper brands. So, it's time to start thinking about why good tyres are so important.

Fuel consumption:

According to Michelin, up to 20 percent of your car's fuel consumption can be attributed directly to the tyres - that's one whole tank of fuel in every five.

Safety:

All tyre makers face the same issue. The trick to getting the right balance of grip and fuel economy is in the rubber mixture itself. Michelin's mix is a secret, like the recipe for Coke, but it involves adding a substance called carbon black - which dissipates heat from the tyre - and silica, a hardening substance found in glass.

Wet weather:

Braking distances and cornering grip are massively affected by wet weather, which is why the tread pattern of a tyre is so vital. The actual contact patch between a tyre and a road surface is only about the size of your hand - a fact that makes it easier to understand why it's so easy to skid in wet weather.

Car Club Provisions

The IAM have welcomed the announcement that an additional £40,000 in extra funding will be made available to support the development of car clubs.

Neil Greig, IAM Director of Policy and Research, said: "Car club schemes offer many in urban areas access to cars, providing opportunities for those who couldn't otherwise afford or find room for them, and they reduce congestion and free up parking for other residents.

"The environmental and congestion-busting benefits of car clubs are clear, but their frequent car renewal means better road safety as more drivers will be using newer, safer cars with the latest in modern crash protection and collision avoidance features.

"Car clubs, government and individuals should also be aware that this could mean an influx of inexperienced drivers on the roads. Driver training or drive-checks should be offered as part of the package to ensure car club members stay as safe as possible."

I would love to hear from anyone who has an opinion on this, either for or against! *Ed*

Treasurer

As you know, having read page 3, the Wilmslow Advanced Motorists are still in need of a volunteer to take over as group Treasurer when Alan Brown retires at the end of this year. If you would like more information or to discuss the role, please contact Alan Brown or David Adderson.

Your Group needs you!

The Institute of Advanced Motorists
Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

(IAM No. 5141)

Registered Charity Number 1113682

www.w-a-m.info

Newsletter Editor Vanessa Torr

Committee

Chairman: Gavin Hutton

Vice-Chair: Jose Cole

Secretary: David Adderson

Treasurer: Alan Brown

Associate Co-ordinator: Ivy Qualter

Social Secretary: Vacant

Asst. Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Barbara Helm

Chief Observer: Gavin Hutton

Committee members:

Tony Parkinson

Vanessa Torr

Webmaster: Vanessa Torr

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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