



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity Number 1113682



Ever had days that felt like that?

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

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Dear all,

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter. Especially welcome are the following new 'associates' since the last newsletter:- **Joan Roberts, Margaret Wrigley, Jan Hennessey, Sheila Knotts, Zoe Homolky, Helen Withington and Paul Ashworth**



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

Judith Holmes, Jane Davies, Pat Baker, Sue Heap and Julie Davenport.

Diary Dates:-

Sunday runs

Run 6 - 21 March 2010

Run 7 - 11 April 2010

Run 8 - 25 April 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 4th May 2010 - Classroom 1
(Fixed length course No. 38)**

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

1st Run - Sunday 9th May

Chairmans's Chat

Welcome to the latest newsletter. I'm Gavin, most of you know me. I am now the Chairman of the Wilmslow Group (your group). Apparently I volunteered!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jerry in his role as Chairman for all his work, efforts and banter (together with the committee) keeping this group on track (OK. I know he drives a 4x4, but it is a Jeep with a snorkel). Jerry being Jerry has taken on yet another new challenge and hence has decided to release his position on the committee for this year. I know we all wish him well and when he returns will be welcomed back on the committee.

Our group, as many others, are striving to 'recruit' new associates. Word of mouth works well, **so spread the word**. New recruiting ideas are always welcome (so if you have any, speak up).

On that note, we have vacancies on the committee – don't PANIC.

To help will small tasks you do not have to be a committee member, but to get your ideas across it can and does help. (many hands make ..., NOT too many cooks).

Our treasurer, Alan, after many years of keeping our finances stable (Thank You), has requested to stand down at the end of the year.

We need a new treasurer. Apparently this is not all that time consuming or difficult (Alan says). Alan is perfectly willing to guide the new volunteer.

All our associates have increased their skills and confidence in driving and therefore are safer on the road (result!).

To all associates, thank you for listening to the advice of the observers and taking it onboard. Once you have passed, keep up the standard. Re-fresher runs available on Sunday mornings, just let Jose know you're coming!

Many thanks to the observers for your free time and effort (another result).

In 2010 it would be nice to have more associates, some observers are up for re-test (including me) and we need a new treasurer (interesting time ahead).

This is Your group (all ideas will be welcome but nothing wacko please)

Gavin — Chairman

What to do when your kids start to drive...

New drivers, particularly the under 20s, are most at risk in the early weeks and months after they pass their driving test.

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has produced top tips to help parents encourage responsible driving in the crucial first few months – and to encourage safer, more responsible drivers.

Parental involvement is one of the sections in the IAM Motoring Trust report *Younger Drivers, where and when they are unsafe*.

The IAM recommends the following tips on how parents can help their new novice drivers:

- Use a professional instructor to teach them to drive whilst giving them extra practice
- Teach by example: always use a seat belt and keep to the speed limit restrictions
- Take them on routes they are likely to drive on regularly and talk to them about where the risks are
- Help them to practice driving in various conditions, such as night time, in poor visibility and if possible on rural roads
- Educate them on the potential risks (i.e. lack of concentration, showing off) and the

distractions that can follow having their friends in the car for the first time

- Help them to further develop their driving skills by proactively encouraging them to continue developing their driving by undertaking further training, such as an advanced driving course.

“The real reason the country grinds to a halt whenever there’s a nip in the air is that everyone has lost the ability to drive a motor vehicle “

Jeremy Clarkson

HELP!

Do we have a “figure - head” amongst our members? Our Treasurer will be leaving us at the end of the year and we will need a replacement. We should stress at the outset that the job is unpaid! However, we are assured that it is not too time-consuming or mind-boggling!

Ideally, it would be advantageous if the new Treasurer could work alongside the present Treasurer to understand what is required. Please get in touch with us (details on back cover) if you feel you could help.

Thanks

So Long Farewell....

We are very sorry to lose one of our valued observers - Steve Shaughnessy, who is going to work in Canada. Many Thanks Steve for all your hard work and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Do hope you keep in touch.

PRESENTATIONS

We would be interested to hear from anyone who either belongs to an organisation (ie WI, Townswomen's Guild, Rotary, etc) or has friends who do, to see whether any of them would like us to come along and give a presentation on the benefits of becoming an Advanced Driver.

The presentation would involve a short video screening (we have our own equipment – we just need a handy plug!) and we could also give a small quiz if time allowed.

As some of you will know, we are experiencing difficulty with recruitment nowadays and are hoping that actions such as this may help.

How to Check your Brakes

Working on brakes isn't a job for an amateur, but it is easy to check disc brakes for obvious faults. Almost all modern cars have discs at the front. To assess these, all you need is a good torch and a mat to keep the dirt off your knees. Start by checking the brake pads. With alloy wheels, shine the torch through a hole in the wheel and inspect the pads. With a steel wheel, you'll have to remove the hubcap. Assess the amount of material on the pads. When this gets down to 1/4in (6mm), book the car in for new ones. If the pads wear out, their metal backing could score the disc. Rear-wheel drum brakes are usually a job for a mechanic.

Inside the wheel arches, you'll see pipes leading to the brake callipers. If the pipes are rubber, look for signs of splitting or perishing. This can result in the pipes ballooning under brake-pedal pressure, which would impair braking and could lead to a burst pipe. On metal pipes, check for damage or corrosion. Under the bonnet, check the brake-cylinder fluid level; it should not vary greatly from week to week.

Brake problems aren't always mechanical, as the recent problems with the Toyota Prius show. If you suspect an electrical or software problem, take the car to a specialist.

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The Institute of Advanced Motorists
Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

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www.w-a-m.info

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Chief Observer: Gavin Hutton

Committee members:

Tony Parkinson

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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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