

FEBRUARY 2013

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CHALLENGE

CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS

GROUP NEWSLETTER



The Carnarvon, Teversal – 3 January 2013

facebook



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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017471

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DATA PROTECTION ACT

PLEASE NOTE - Details that members have supplied to the group are held a database for Groups use. If you object to your details being held this way, please inform the Secretary in writing.



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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS –

PLEASE attend the forthcoming Sunday &/or Saturday guidance sessions at the **SAINSBURYS CAR PARK** as listed in 'What's On'.

If this causes any difficulty, please contact **Ray Parker** on **01246 206959** so that other arrangements can be made. New joiners are welcome to come along at anytime during the morning for a free assessment drive, or you can phone Ray to arrange a drive at any suitable time.

It is a fundamental part of your on-going training that you attend at least one, if not both of the guidance sessions each month. So please try to attend.

WE THANK THE MANAGEMENT OF SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET FOR ALLOWING US TO USE THEIR CAR PARK FOR OUR GUIDANCE SESSIONS

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IT SEEMS I FORGOT TO GIVE THE ANSWER TO THE MATHEMATICAL CONUNDRUM FROM THE DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER SO APOLOGIES FOR THAT – THE ANSWER WAS 4.

Another New year dawns.....some bits and pieces from the President

It is comforting to know that we are all still here, no thanks to the gloom and doom merchants who foretold all would end on December 21.

Looking back on 2012, it was a good year for most aspects of our driving ambitions, some very good results individually, and others for the good of the Group, unfortunately counterbalanced by the sad loss of Alan Morgan our friend and Group PRO..... but we have our memories.

The near future holds a few changes planned for the organisation and qualifications of the IAM, the committee will be looking at how these changes will affect us individually and be guiding us through them.

The monthly newsletter is looking better than ever BUT.....where are YOUR articles? It really makes a nice change to read an article from a new contributor instead of the views of the same people (myself included) month after month.

Yet another £92 has been added to our running total for the Hospice last month through shop sales – it will not be long before the £2000 target will be reached. I hope to see you all at the February Auction night on the 21st. I can assure you there WILL be bargains to bid for. **DO NOT MISS IT.**

Not a lot to report on the car front this month although 2012 was a bumper year (if you will excuse the pun!) for some of our homegrown vehicle manufacturers, long may it continue.

Just one recent report caught my eye this month..... it is 100 years of car making at Cowley in Oxford. March 28th will be 100 years to the day since the first Bull Nose Morris rolled off the line. This is the same plant that produced the first Mini. I well remember, slightly enviously then, a friend's father buying him a Mini Van as a 21st birthday present, in 1960 at a cost of £365!! (Much cheaper than the car because there was no purchase tax to pay – unless you fitted side windows!

More next month stay safe and happy Mike.

Thoughts, Reports and Retorts

From your retired chairman.

Yes you have read it correctly, this will be my last “Thoughts, Reports and Retorts” as group chairman. At the AGM in January I along with the whole committee retired and mainly for reasons of health and age I did not seek re-election for the coming year. The past two years as chairman have been interesting and productive in several ways and I did say at the outset that I undertook the position for a limited period. That period has now expired and I feel, like so many of our young graduates, the need to take a year out , a thing which up to now I have been unable to do. I am pleased that Chris Lake, with a” little persuasion from the floor” was willing to accept the position. I know he will do well and that he has the interest of the group at heart, I personally wish him well and success in the position.

Having not sought re-election to the committee I have also vacated the position of Training Officer, a post I have held and developed over seven years. The position now goes to Jan who is very well qualified to undertake and carry on with the present system and to make any future amendments if needed to comply with nationally revised standards. I wish Jan well in this position and know she will enjoy the work as much as I have enjoyed it over many years.

In any organisation there is a need to step back and take a searching look into the past when planning for the future. New and younger blood is often needed, but not too young and inexperienced to cope with present day advancements . I think we are at that stage and need an injection of that new blood, so at the beginning of this new committee year, be you young, middle aged or elderly you could volunteer and be co-opted onto the committee. Think about it and volunteer. I am sure Bob would be very willing to give you any information and answer any questions. For two hours every month your thoughts, comments and ideas would be very welcome.

I will close with those few words of wisdom since I have the benefit of the age factor, but the response must come from you.

Bill Harrington.

AGM – January 2013

We were pleased to welcome Chris Tatlow to our AGM this year.

As you will see from the list of contacts on Page 2, and Bill's article, following the AGM on 24 January 2013, there have been a few changes on the committee.

Bill Harrington has decided to retire from the committee at the moment, and many thanks go to Bill for his input and commitment in the past. Our new Chairman is Chris Lake, (also pictured on the front of this Newsletter!).

Reg Holmes has also stood down and, again, his knowledge and experience have been invaluable.

Sue Wheatcroft has stood down as Social Secretary which means there is a vacancy for this post. If this is something you feel you would like to take on, you can obtain a job description from Bob Stone.

Associate members are always welcome at committee meetings. The dates can be found on the back of the Newsletter.



Welcome to the following new members:

Grant Herrington, his observer is Sue Wheatcroft,

Penny Evans, her observer is Chris Lake

Mark Webster, his observer is Bob Stone,

Julia Love and her observer is Chris Lake

Browsing through the motoring news I came across this interesting snippet. I wonder if anyone would like to follow up on any points. Just one point I would like to make is when I listen to associates doing commentary I find they do not put in “mirror check” and “speed Check” as often as I would like to hear it, and see it done. Yet these people seem to think it wrong to check mirrors so often !!

Ray

Drivers 'not looking at the road 18 per cent of the time'

A study reveals that drivers are easily distracted by satnavs, clouds and adverts, taking their eyes off the road every nine seconds . It's not just mobile phones that distract drivers - satellite navigation devices can be just as distracting. We all know it's impossible to keep your eyes on the road all of the time, but a new study employing eye-monitoring equipment has revealed that drivers spend 18 per cent of their time behind the wheel not watching the road at all.

The study, which utilises the latest eye-tracking technology to record drivers' eye movements, found motorists using satellite navigation devices were even more distracted, with 22 per cent of their time focused away from the road.

Participants in the experiment wore special glasses that monitor the exact focus of the eye by tracking microscopic movements in the cornea. The experiment was captured on film and enabled researchers to establish exactly where drivers focus their vision. It found that when not looking at the road ahead, drivers tend to gaze at clouds, scenery, adverts and other non-driving related distractions, on average taking their eyes off the road every nine seconds.

The study into driver behaviour commissioned by insurer Direct Line shows that drivers with a satnav have their eyes fixed on the display for 12 per cent of their total journey time. Drivers using satnav also spend six times longer watching their device than watching oncoming traffic. The average driver spends only 3.2 per cent of the total journey time checking their mirrors while, on average, drivers spend seven per cent of their time gazing at clouds and scenery and 0.8 per cent of their time observing adverts.

Two per cent of their time is spent actually looking at oncoming vehicles and 0.6 per cent observing road signs.

Motorists spend the same amount of time (three per cent) watching pedestrians (who were neither on or crossing the road) as they did checking their mirrors. And while both men and women appear to have been distracted by good looking pedestrians, only men turned their heads completely away from the road as a result.

Simon Henrick, spokesperson for Direct Line, said, "For the first time we know exactly where people focus their eyes when driving and the results are frightening. Even when drivers appear to be watching the road, by tracking movements in the cornea we now know they are often watching clouds or shop window displays."

Video evidence also reveals drivers engaging in dangerous behaviours, such as changing between two satnav devices and gazing down at a mobile phone held in their lap to navigate.

The findings are backed up by the results of another survey, carried out on behalf of moneysupermarket.com, in which three quarters of motorists admit to being distracted behind the wheel and that one in 10 driving convictions is for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. More than half of those surveyed (54 per cent) admitted to changing music while driving; 47% eat, 47% drink and 16% send texts from a mobile phone. Six per cent admitted to using apps on a smartphone or tablet, updating their Facebook status or tweeting. The research also found that motorists, as well as distracting themselves, are easily distracted by others. More than a third of people (35 per cent) admitted to being distracted by children or other passengers and one in five (20 per cent) said a good-looking person made them take their eyes off the road.

Kevin Pratt of moneysupermarket.com said, "We all lead busy lives and find ourselves trying to multi-task, but taking your eyes off the road for only a second could have disastrous consequences for yourself and other motorists and pedestrians. Using a mobile phone to text, call or tweet when behind the wheel is not only very dangerous but also illegal."

Mike's Charity Auction Night

Thursday 21st February, 7.30.p.m.

Club Chesterfield



It's a fun evening, and there will be great bargains to be had.

Family and friends welcome.

*Let's try to exceed the target of £2,000
for Ashgate Hospice.*

Driver location signs

This all started for me some months ago, when I had a young man in for his test. The starting point was to be Morrison's at Halfway near Sheffield and I was to meet him afterwards to find out the result. As happens sometimes the associate is asked questions afterwards by the examiner, so as to ascertain his or her understanding on certain aspects of driving. This was such an occasion and as the answers were not known, he was told to ask his Observer, that being me.

These signs have been introduced at regular intervals along the motorways and some other roads, including the A38 in our area. In the event of a vehicle breakdown or some other emergency, the exact location can be identified very quickly. The signs are small, blue, rectangular ones, as in the picture; but what does it all mean? Think about it.

From what I have already said, you can deduce that the top letter and figures, indicates the road number or motorway that you are travelling on, but what of the rest of it?

The centre letter is a carriageway identifier; 'A' denotes that you are either travelling North or on some occasions East, but on other roads it might appear as 'B' and denotes either South or on some occasions West. Why ever didn't they just use N, S, E, and W? Who knows?

The bottom figure indicates how far you are from the start of the road or motorway. It is an exact reference point, one that would locate you very quickly in time of need.

So now when you are out and about you will at least know in what direction you are going and on which road.

Jan



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This photo was published in a tabloid newspaper last week. Apparently, someone was actually DRIVING this car in this condition!



You may want to watch out for these rather sneaky new speed cameras. Two are already in operation on the A52 dual carriageway into Nottingham, and six further cameras became operational on the A1, between Great Gonerby, Lincolnshire, and Oakham, Rutland, on Monday, 22nd October, 2012. Take care.



The above is being sent around the Internet as one of the many circulating emails passed between friends, but we have not as yet reached the First of April. In fact it is a spoof email. Do a Google search for “new version of speed camera” and the fun starts. The hoax is spreading through Facebook and Email. The claims are entirely false. The images have been lifted from a Swiss Police PowerPoint presentation where this device is being trialled. The device is NOT a speed camera, it is a speed measurement instrument and it is deployed in conjunction with the standard speed camera on a pole. It IS NOT a new form of covert speed camera and IT IS NOT being tested in the UK.

Article courtesy of Graham Richards

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



UPCOMING THEME

2013

Theme	Opens	Competition closes	Winner Announced
Agriculture	6 th January	25 th February	3 rd March

Images must be your own but may be from your collection. They do not have to have been taken especially for the competition.

Please email your wish to enter and you will receive the password.

iam.chesterfield@yahoo.com

Due to a lack of interest in the recent photo competitions, it will be taking a break this year. I thought you could have some time to build up your photo libraries. If you take some fantastic photos in 2013, let me know and I can create a theme just for you next year.

Clare

I found what I was looking foreventually (by Yvonne, Editor)

I am referring back to my article in November's Newsletter where I stated I had been looking for another car to replace my elderly Punto.

Bob and I did more tramping about car dealers and browsing the internet. Finding a small automatic is not very easy, and those I did find did not inspire. I was thinking I would have to resort to a particular model which I found ugly looking, because I was getting desperate. My car tax was due, and the MOT and service was due within 4 weeks. I thought there was little point in spending such money on a car, which was apparently only worth around £500! Over the weekend of 11/12 January we decided to re-visit a car dealer in Killamarsh. We wandered up and down the rows and I was totally uninspired, except by cars which I couldn't afford - or couldn't justify like a nice Mercedes.

Then I saw a sign saying "More cars behind the showroom" so I wandered down there, and within a couple of minutes found one which had what I wanted and was within my budget. We both had a go at a test drive, and I took delivery a few days later.

My new addition is a Chevrolet Aveo LT 1.4 auto in a metallic 'greyish-brown', described officially as 'Urban Grey'.



So far, so good, although I think the jury may be out on whether I get more MPG! Also it is not in the low tax bracket, but hey, I can plug in my iPod Nano, and I can tell people "I have got a Chevy"!

Selwyn recently found some articles from when he was editor of the Newsletter several years ago.

Here are a few snippets:

Advanced Driving:

You watch the guy who drives ahead,
And the guy who drives behind,
You watch to the left and watch to the right,
And drive with a calm, clear mind.
But the guy you really have to watch
On the highway, you will find,
Is the guy behind the guy ahead
And ahead of the guy behind!

Dates in motoring history:

- 1865 The Locomotives Act imposed 14mph speed limit in the country and 12mph in towns. All mechanically propelled vehicles to carry a crew of 3, 1 of whom to walk in front with a red flag by day and a lantern by night.
- 1885 The first cars sold to the public, made by Karl Benz
- 1894 Henry Ford built his first car.
- 1895 The red flag abolished for accompanying all power driven road vehicles.
- 1903 The Motor Car Act passed. Speed limits increased from 14mph to 20 mph. Number plates introduced
- 1904 The A.A formed
- 1920 The first roadside petrol; pump introduced in Britain
- 1955 The first Highway Code published in Britain
- 1956 The IAM formed.
- 1967 The Breath Test introduced

**NB from Editor: 14 mph sounds a bit hopeful to me,
especially if driving in London!**



WHATS ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE

FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday 3rd	GUIDANCE	9.30 A.M. Sainsbury's Car Park
Saturday 9 th	GUIDANCE	9.30 A.M. Sainsbury's Car Park
Saturday 16 th	Bob Stone reaches his 60 th birthday!	☺
Thursday 21 st	Mike's Charity Auction Night	7.30 pm Club Chesterfield
Tuesday 26th	Committee Meeting	7.30 p.m. Chesterfield Library Café

FUTURE EVENTS:

March:

Sunday 3rd	Guidance
Saturday 9th	Guidance
Tuesday 26th	Committee Meeting