

JULY 2013

ISSUE 7/13



CHALLENGE
CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP NEWSLETTER



CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE SHOW RENISHAW HALL

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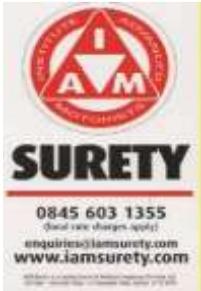
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DATA PROTECTION ACT

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER PAUL BERRY



Old bangers or classics? And morefrom the President

The old.....

A recent analysis by “Honest John”, an industry expert, reveals some fascinating facts.....The Austin Allegro is probably the most endangered to become extinct very soon, as fewer than one in 200 is still being driven today.(642,340 were made, and 291 remain now.)

The Allegro is closely followed by the Montego – 296 remain, the wedge shaped Austin Princess 121, Hillman Avenger 369, Vauxhall Viva 1057, Morris Ital 174, Morris Marina 401, Rover SDI 310 and the Vauxhall VX series (Victor and Ventura) of which fewer than 1000 are still around. The Austin Metro 1930 remain, but 1.5 million were made, Ford Cortina still has 5411 soldiering on, but that is only 1.13% of the 4.15 million built over 20 years. The “Jelly mould” Sierra- would you believe 15,282 still are smoking along out of a run of 3.47 million.

And the new....

Sales of new cars have soared above pre-recession levels in the UK, May’s figures are up 20% on last year, 84,202 being registered in this month alone. It marked the 15th successive month of growth and the best performance for six years. Good news indeed.

And finally.....

Many, many articles ago, I gave my “top tips” for buying a used car, well I can report I have just gone through the process again.

Having been searching for a specific vehicle for about six months now-it finally is mine! The problem has been that I was restricting myself to another X Type Jaguar on a 59 plate (the latest it could be as the last one rolled out in December 2009), must be a 2.0 litre diesel, of the “top spec” this time, manual and average to low mileage AND at the right price! NO pressure then!

After trawling the net for months, one appeared – a November 59 plate SE diesel, similar in colour to the one already owned BUT with full leather interior, Sat nav, park assist, automatic headlights and wipers, full Jaguar service history et al, but the price was wrong. Anyway, I pursued the matter and after numerous calls from the dealer slowly

offering a better deal, the good news came when on the last day of the month, the manager needed to hit his targets and he offered me £900 off the “difference price” – and the deal was almost done. I say “almost” as I had not seen the car in the flesh, but had seen internet photos – it looked (and is) superb. Why had I not seen the car? Well it was 170 miles away at the Ford Motors Car Sales in Dagenham!!!! A quick trip down to the East End at the beginning of June and I was driving back in my new car within 2 hours. Quite a test drive.!

Moral..... don't appear too keen, and hold out for your price – there are (usually) plenty more out there.

Stay safe and happy

Mike.

Chesterfield Canal Trust Festival



The caravan will be at the Chesterfield Canal Trust Festival on **SATURDAY 29TH JUNE.** We will be setting up there from 9.30 a.m. on this day –

HELP WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

Please let Bob Stone know if you are available, and from what time, and for how long.

Directions :Post Code: S43 3XZ

from Staveley, straight ahead at the first two roundabouts.

After 2 miles, go **LEFT (1st exit)** at the roundabout towards **Staveley**.

After 1 mile, go **LEFT (1st exit)** at the roundabout, you will see the basin on the left. After 300 metres, go **LEFT** for **Eckington**, B6053.

The basin is 200 metres ahead on the left after the last house.

Message from the Chairman, Chris Lake

Hello, well it's the middle of summer already and aren't those light nights amazing, it's a good time for our associates to be out practicing their Skills For Life! Are you?

Anyway, last month saw our last social event before the summer break and we saw Bill Storey do a talk on high speed driving. There was a good attendance and I'm sure this was down to our members being enthusiastic on the topic. I thank Bill for his time - a great talk appreciated by the Chesterfield group.

On the 12th of June Jan and Ray organised an event at the Eckington charity classic car & bike show at Renishaw Hall, it looks like Ray got some good pictures of classic cars and was eager to practice on his new camera.

Coming up we have our committee meeting on the 25th June and so we will get a newsletter and updates shortly after this.

On Saturday the 29th of June, Chesterfield Group are attending the canal day. We are looking for volunteers to come and help out so if you can, please email robstone@aol.com

I leave you with an article on the new fines the government have introduced in motoring so let's see over the next few years if it improves the standard of driving. I know a cheaper way for the motorist - join our Skills For Life.....

Fines for middle-lane hogs & tailgaters

The government is to introduce new fines for anti-social driving behaviour such as tailgating and middle-lane hogging from July.

Annoying and dangerous driving practices such as tailgating, middle-lane hogging and mobile phone use have been complained about by road-users for years.

But now new measures announced by the government means that from July 2013 culprits will face on-the-spot penalty notices from police officers.



New fines to tackle careless driving

Currently many careless driving offences go unpunished because of the bureaucracy involved in prosecuting a case.

A motorist has to be stopped by a police officer, a summons issued and evidence presented in court.

Transport minister Stephen Hammond says: "Careless drivers are a menace and their negligence puts innocent people's lives at risk.

"That is why we are making it easier for the police to tackle problem drivers by allowing them to immediately issue a fixed penalty notice."

'Bad' drivers to be offered additional training

The fixed penalty will also enable the police to offer remedial training as an alternative to points on your licence.

A motorist who is offered and completes one of these courses will avoid getting points, but they will still have to pay the fine.

However, in this instance, rather than going to central government, the money will contribute to paying for the training course.

And although the fixed penalty notice will be issued on the spot, motorists will have 28 days in which to pay.

If the motorist feels they have been wrongly accused, they will have the option of refusing to take the penalty and defending themselves through the court process.

Careless driving & dangerous driving

But Simon Best, chief executive of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, feels there may be pitfalls in the new legislation.

"What we don't want is for the line between careless driving, which attracts these fixed penalties, and dangerous driving to become blurred.

"For example, there could be an instance of dangerous driving which would, if pursued, involve a court case.

"But instead it's downgraded to careless driving and a fixed penalty notice is issued because that's easier from a procedural point of view.

"Then, of course, we're also aware that to issue on-the-spot fines you do need to have a police officer in the vicinity.

Fewer traffic police

"And as we have about 50 per cent fewer traffic police than we did in the late 1990s that is going to make enforcement difficult.

"We do feel that offering driver training is a very important step. Speed awareness courses are already widespread.

"But the courses to remedy careless driving focus on wider issues as well as speed such as mobile phone use, jumping red lights and not wearing seatbelts.

"The two main courses on offer are What's Driving Us?, which is classroom based, and Driving for Change, which covers both a classroom session and practical driving skills.

"They attract a greater mix of participants than speeding courses, and while a fine is one form of deterrent, we have found that being in a learning environment has a much greater impact on drivers."

Motoring organisations back new fines

Many road safety organisations are supporting these changes.

Edmund King is president of motoring organisation and car insurance provider the AA.

He says: "We are pleased that at long last new powers and fines will be given to the police to tackle the top three hates of drivers: tailgaters, mobile phone abusers and middle lane hogs.

"We believe that an increase in the standard motoring fixed penalty fine will help deter those who commit motoring offences.

"We also fully support educational training as an alternative to penalty points."

The RAC Foundation is also behind the moves, saying that they will free up police time.

Current motoring fines to rise

Many current motoring fines will also increase under the changes.

For example, using a mobile phone while driving or not wearing a seatbelt which would have incurred three penalty points and a £60 fine, will now result in three points and a £100 fine.

The fixed penalty fine for driving with no insurance will rise from £200 to £300.

Fixed penalties for parking, waiting and obstruction aren't affected by these changes.

Thank you for reading: Information sourced from Confused.com

You can also watch Tim Shallcross from IAM on the BBC news video on this subject. Please use link below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22770064>

SENSIBLE - What does it mean?

This years holiday took me to Truro, in Cornwall, to take a look at the Cathedral. Everyone who knows me will know that I headed to the cafe first for a coffee. There was a large notice at the entrance, saying, "Fresh meals and light snacks at sensible prices.". Sensible prices. You can imagine what I thought when I got the bill and the coffee had cost £3.35, this was by the way for one cup and without a refill. I did wonder if sensible had changed it's meaning but apparently not. We all have our own meaning of the word and one persons sensible won't be the same as another persons interpretation of the word.

Female motorists are being asked to put road safety before fashion and wear sensible shoes. In other words shoes without high heels. New research shows how cavalier motorists are about wearing unsuitable footwear whilst driving.

In a poll of 2,000 drivers by the insurance comparison site Confused.com, it was revealed that 40% of women admitted driving in high heels. Are these sensible shoes for driving? It was also revealed that 39% of women and 27% of men have driven in flip flops, 24% of women and 22% of men had even driven in bare feet, there were also 10% of motorists who admitted driving wearing slippers. Are any of these types of footwear sensible?



photos courtesy of Google Images

Driving in high heels is not acceptable and could cause accidents. People should keep a pair of sensible shoes in their car.

It was also revealed that 10% of women admitted putting on makeup whilst driving and 15% of men have shaved whilst behind the wheel. Very worrying. So you see the price of the coffee is not sensible, just as driving in heels and putting on makeup is not sensible. I always have a pair of flat shoes; the sort that you can feel the pedals in for driving. They are pink with a leopard-skin print, SENSIBLE shoes but perhaps not a sensible colour.

IAM has always been about safety and improving the standard of driving; so I am presuming that those reading this do not fall into any of the above categories. Always think SAFETY and wear sensible footwear.

Always think of your safety before anything.

Jan



More classics from Renishaw Hall





In the last issue of the *Advanced Driving* magazine, the following question was put to "The Experts": *My daughter recently received notice of prosecution for contravening a red traffic light ... she is adamant that the duration of amber was insufficient to stop safely or cross the junction, before the change to red. Are there official requirements for the duration of the amber light?*

The (unsigned) answer was, I felt, in the style of Peter Rodger, Chief Examiner of the IAM: *The length of the amber light is of less relevance than at first it appears, since you must stop on amber unless it would cause a crash. The driving trick is to see how long a light has been green, because the longer it was green, the sooner it will be red.* Would you say this was helpful? Me, I felt obliged to send in some comments:

"The simple answer ... is that the duration of amber alone is three seconds (in the UK). Also, calculation from this figure plus the stopping distances in the Highway Code shows that if, when amber appears, you are closer to the line than the theoretical stopping distance, then you can always get your car over the line before amber changes to red – at any speed below 65 mph. Above this speed (or below it, in poor conditions) you might find you can neither stop at the line nor cross it in time."

[...which makes the duration of amber seem highly relevant, as it would significantly affect the 65 figure. By the way, I notice that this is less than the 70 mph I calculated back in June 2005 for this column – possibly because I'm now allowing for the fact that really, your whole vehicle ought to be over the line before the lights go red! The Highway Code stopping distances haven't changed since 1946, of course, but that's another story. Anyway, to continue...]

"What's puzzling is the answer that was printed: *...you must stop on amber unless it would cause a crash.* This isn't quite what the Regulations say, which is that you may cross the line on amber, but only if you cannot safely stop behind it (as explained by Peter Rodger in the Winter 2007 issue, I think it was).

No need to worry about trying to predict a crash, then, when amber shows: just decide if you can safely stop behind the line or not. Or better still: at every approach to traffic lights, simply judge where your 'point of no return' is, and from there on ignore the lights and concentrate on possible hazards."

[...yes, Peter R made the regulation crystal-clear in 2007 (replying to a question from me, in fact). Yet now in *Advanced Driving* we're being advised to obey what is effectively a précis of Rule 175 of the Highway Code, which I see as being different. As for the statement that the longer the lights have been green the sooner they will be red, it doesn't necessarily follow: they might stay green until triggered by cross-traffic or by pedestrians, or the change might be delayed by your own vehicle. And you can consider the situation from another angle...]

"I sometimes face a dilemma at familiar intersections if clues are telling me well in advance that a green light is going to change to amber just before I reach the line. What should an advanced driver do: safely press on in order to make good progress – or anticipate the amber, slow down early, and safely stop as per the Regulations?" [That's the end of the comments I submitted.]

I've read some startling items of physics-related news recently. One was also traffic-light related (well, nearly): first a type of lens was devised for spectacles to help medics see faint blood-vessels in the skin, by enhancing their apparent redness. Then the specs (called Oxy-Iso) started being sold as "amplifying your perception of health, distress, and emotion signals on the skin." And lately it's been found they help to overcome red-green colour-blindness! But alas, they're no good for driving, as they mask yellow and blue tints, so drivers who have a problem at traffic lights must continue relying on the position of the light.

Are you a smoking driver? Here's an offer for you: would you like to test a small disposable container for your cigarette-ends which even extinguishes them as you drop them in and close the lid? It's supplied by an anti-litter group that I belong to, called Zilch. Take a look here if you're interested:www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZilchIn-CarBinTrial.

(The above article was slightly edited to ensure it adequately fitted into the Newsletter. Editor)

Paper or plastic, in or out of date?

Jan Creswell

Are you one of those 2.6 million drivers who risk a £1,000 fine by failing to update your licence? According to insurer Direct Line this is the number of bills the DVLA could send out to all those who do not comply.

The DVLA, (Driver and vehicle licensing Authority) requires all drivers to keep details on their licence up to date; this includes change of name and address, or face a potential fine.

Recent research has also found that 3% of married women still have their maiden names on their licence. There are also 2% of motorists who have omitted to tell the DVLA of a medical condition such as a physical disability or visual problem since their current licence was issued.

There is a £20 charge to renew a photocard driving licence, THIS HAS TO BE DONE EVERY 10 YEARS, it is however free to update your licence. All motorists have a duty to update their licence with any changes, whether these changes affect ability to drive or not. It does seem however that a great proportion of you don't realise that you are breaking the terms of the licence.

Research has also found that 20% of driving licence holders, that is about 7 1/2 million, still have the green paper driving licence, which is to be phased out by 2015. Yes I admit to being one of them; perhaps DVLA don't realise how incredibly proud we who still have them are, especially if there are no points added to the back, and yes I like others will keep hold of it for as long as I legally can.

The DVLA write to all drivers before the time of renewal, providing instruction on what to do and warning them of the potential fine. This is to no avail, and does not affect drivers insurance; nor should it incur penalty points.

You can, if you are into IT do it online; create a Government Gateway ID, and go on from there. This process for some might seem long winded and a little off-putting. Well it's just another option.

It sounds to me as though we should be telling our Associates what to look for, so that they renew on time, and are kept legal whilst on the road.

Do you know how to check a driving licence?



Following the recent publicity about the crack-down on 'Middle Lane Hogging' on motorways, Bob and I were listening to a Radio 2 phone-in one lunchtime whilst in the car. It was worrying to hear one person phone in and say that (words to this effect) "driving in the nearside lane can be dangerous because a lot of the time you have to brake suddenly when cars are trying to get on to the motorway". My reaction was to shout out "ANTICIPATION". I am not an Advanced Driver as you will all know, but even I know that the slip-road on to the motorway doesn't 'suddenly' appear to the left does it? It is usually preceded by an 'Exit' slip-road, which has markers approaching it, so you must assume that there will also be an 'Entry' slip-road on to the motorway beyond that. Am I wrong?
Ed

Reminder – There are no socials in July/August

**Next Social – Thursday 19 September
– John Rogers Derby DriVability**

WHATS ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE



JULY 2013

Sunday 7th	Guidance	9.30 am Sainsbury's Car Park
Saturday 13th	Guidance	9.30 am Sainsbury's Car Park
Saturday 13th	Cutthorpe Gala, classic cars/dog show	2 p.m. Main Road, Cutthorpe S42 7AJ
Tuesday 30th	Committee Meeting	Chesterfield Library Café 7.30 p.m.

Future Dates - August :

Guidance Saturday 4th and Sunday 10th

Committee Meeting Tuesday 27th

Observer Training Day Saturday 31st Darlington

September 19th Social – John Rogers Derby DriVability

