

AUGUST 2012

ISSUE 8/12



CHALLENGE

CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS

GROUP NEWSLETTER



facebook

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017471

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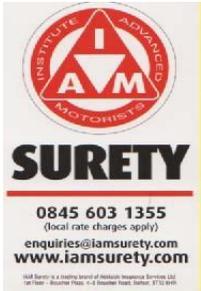
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DATA PROTECTION ACT

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

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WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

LOUISE HOLTOM
 MICHAEL CURLEY
 PETER HOLLAND

More insurance newsand more info on MOT from the President.

It seems that every month there is a different story concerning car insurance. This month it is my personal story.....last year's renewal with Surety in August was £440, but included legal aid club membership. At the time I did not query this too much as it was not much more than the previous year, but this year I decided to shop around to have some ammunition when the renewal papers came through. The AA were very competitive quoting £328 but without the legal "add on". Armed with this I rang Surety and told them I wanted a re-think on my quote. "Give me half an hour and I will ring you back" Lo and behold, true to her promise, the phone rang and guess what.....a firm quote of £324 WITH legal aid included. This is less than I was paying 5 years ago when I first bought my Jag!!! Moral of this story... even if you want to stay with and support the IAM's exclusive car insurance provider, get an alternative quote... AND HAGGLE. They really do not want to lose anyone.

Those of you following our efforts to support Ashgate Hospice, there is an update.....another £25 has been added to our total due to Gift Aid. The way this works is because I am a registered Gift Aid donor, any items taken in to the charity shop – in my name, has a bar code attached, and when sold, is added to my account and every couple of months I am informed as to the amount the goods have fetched since the last update. So if you ever take anything to Ashgate Hospice shop, mention my name and post code, S18 1UH, and it will be credited as being a donation from the Chesterfield IAM Group.

As from November 18th this year, all pre 1960 vehicles will be exempt from the yearly MOT. Out of approx. 36 million licensed vehicles, only 0.6% are pre 1960 and according to government figures a mere 0.03% were involved in road accidents. There are at least two sides to this coin, one assumes anything as old as this will be run by a pure enthusiast and so will be in tip top condition BUT items such as tyre ageing, suspension/steering wear can only be determined by an expert using a wheel free lift. In the words of one sceptic"An Austin A30 hurts just as much as a Fiesta when it hits you". What is your opinion?

More to follow....stay safe and happy

Mike.

Thoughts, Reports and Retorts .

From the Chairman.

As I write this the sun is blazing away and for me it is a little too hot for comfort, but then I am not a sun worshipper but for many it must be a bonus after the shocking spell of bad weather we have hopefully now passed through, and for many thoughts will be for a long awaited holiday, which brings me very conveniently to the subject of this article which is Holiday Driving.

Although many travel abroad to find the sun it is quite possible that this year with the hard financial times we are all experiencing there will be more people holidaying at home and travelling to the more exotic and far flung parts of the British isles and whether it be the to the far South, the far North or across to the far West – that is England, Scotland or Wales’ , it will put a good few hundred miles on the car clock, not just for the journey there and back but including the sight seeing that is part of the holiday – that is unless you prefer to laze in the sun on the beach at Blackpool or Skegness – but enough of this light hearted banter and get down to the Nitty Gritty of the Retorts.

Yes it has been a poor winter, followed by an equally poor Spring and then an unbelievably poor start to summer, and **we** have all suffered from it to some extent and so must **our cars**, what with the Snow and Ice and subsequent potholes, then the rain and floods and subsequent potholes and then there are the potholes which although repaired with a small mountain of tarmac seem to prefer their former

status and develop into even larger holes. So what must the suspension be suffering? Has the car been adequately serviced since the onset of this period of ill treatment and did that include the Suspension? The Exhaust? The Lights? The Electrics? The Battery? The tyres? All of which can be affected by any severe shocks or vibrations. It is better to prevent any adverse breakdowns than to have to cure them particularly during what is planned as a relaxing holiday. Some of the above faults could also land you in a certain amount of jeopardy with the Law since Law Enforcement is particularly active during high levels of holiday activity and particularly on popular routes – the choice is yours but don't let it spoil that hard earned break.

Where are you going? It is very advisable to know your route before departure. If you are not sure remember the 5p rule which states “ Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance” (Attributed to Jan with Thanks) personally I always set up a route on Sat Nav and then check it out on a map, but that comes of being a lifelong caravanner and aware of the difficulty of correcting errors when towing, this is known as the 2B rule “ Belt and Braces” (Attributed to myself). In fact it is best to write it all down, including road numbers, especially where they change and not forgetting M' Way exits, roundabouts and place names on the route to ensure you are heading in the right direction. Timing is important particularly if passing through areas at rush hour so allow time for any possible delays and here another rule comes to mind “ More Haste, Less Speed” . Knowing the area you

are passing through and the local radio stations can be useful for road information regarding delays, accidents or diversions and try to avoid event traffic such as car or horse race events and summer shows and football matches where localised traffic can create holdups or tailbacks.

Hopefully with due preparation all will go well but you should always - another rule coming up - “ Be Prepared” so ensure you know where your Wheel Jack is and how to use it, that your wipers work and can cope with adverse conditions and the washer bottle is full and not struggling on the last few drops when you need a full screen wash. Is the spare wheel inflated to the correct running pressure and do you have a means of inflating it if needed. Don’ t forget that cockpit drill saying that all outside checks have been done according to POWDERY and the Y is very important, are you fit to drive a long distance, particularly not overtired from all the planning and preparation work to ensure a happy and well earned holiday.

Enjoy it and Safe Driving.

Bill Harrington.





Photo Competition

UPCOMING THEMES - 2012

Theme	Opens	Competition closes	Winner Announced
The Olympics/Sport	1 st July	27 th August	2 nd September
The Great British Holiday	2 nd September	29 th October	4 th November
Bridges	4 th November	31 st December	6 th January
2013			
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.

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September Newsletter

Any articles for the September newsletter to be e-mailed to me by noon on 30th August please.

Ed (ymstone@aol.com)

Imperial War Museum Duxford

Well I was asked if I had organised a trip to an air show this year, and I have not. But I would like to go to Duxford, I did go a few years ago but it was winter and spoiled by bad weather. So I would like to plan for a trip down sometime soon.

The website is <http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford> so go take a look and see what you think. All the prices are on the site and we can get tickets in advance. The total mileage there will be 136 miles and the same back. If there is enough we could think about a minibus or car sharing which I prefer as I don't like being a passenger, but hey that's just me. I'm also thinking that October might be a good time to go.

Now it's over to you to tell me if you're interested in going. Speaking for myself, yes I'm going. I'll keep a list and you can tell me at guidance or by phone or even e-mail.

Ray

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Answers to last month's car quiz.

1. Sir Alex Issigonis
2. 1769
3. Charles
4. Morris
5. Vauxhall
6. Dino
7. Passat (VW)
8. S.S. manufactured by S.S. Cars Ltd (renamed after WWII)
9. Colin Chapman
10. Cadillac

A likely taleand more from the President

When the pope visited this country some while ago, he was met at the airport by a driver and limo. Having always wanted to drive one of these he asked the driver to swap places and let him drive. The driver could hardly refuse, so putting it through its paces along the motorway, it was not long before blue lights and sirens were in evidence. The young constable was a bit surprised (not to say confused) to see who was driving and contacted H Q for advice. The PC said the passenger must be very important... ..”more important than a footballer?” asked HQ. “Oh yes” replied the PC. “More important than a pop star?” asked HQ. “Oh yes”. “More important than royalty?” asked HQ. “He really must be very very important, BECAUSE HE HAS THE POPE DRIVING HIM!!!” (I am assured this is true, but I have my doubts).

Last month I had the great pleasure of a factory visit to Jaguar Cars at Castle Bromwich, just off the A 38 before Birmingham. Totally impressed watching the men , and women, plus robots doing the heavy lifting and the repetitive work, building the all aluminium XJ saloon. All the pressed panels are riveted and bonded so no welding or sparks – just a quiet atmosphere of calm as the as the rivets are punched through with the equivalent noise of a desk stapler. Before painting (which we were not allowed to go near as WE might contaminate the environment!) the line passes through a measuring laser which scans length, width and height and if it is more than 0.5mm out, yes half a millimetre, it is rejected... but so far none have been pulled off, showing the accuracy of the fabrication process. It is a good job too, as all body units have their own specific internals, engine, wheels and trim etc. somewhere else in the factory moving at a slow walking pace to all magically join up to fulfil the correct specification as every car is ordered – usually by dealers, although you can visit to see “your” car being built, as a bar code system can tell exactly where it is to be located in the line at any time.

No freebies I am sorry to report but a wonderful 2 hours spent seeing how far mass production has evolved since a certain Henry Ford was in business.

More next time, stay safe and happy Mike

Night Driving

It's been a while since I talked about this so let's give it a second airing. Driving at night has its own set of specific problems, mainly your perception of distance and speeds can and do appear different from daytime driving. In night conditions you can see less of what is on the road and colours and edges of roads become less distinctive. So with having been said always make sure your windows are clean and smear free. Any marks on your windscreen can alter the way you see something on the road. I always feel the worst part of night driving is that period between daylight and nighttime; it's neither light nor dark so try to increase your observation skills.

So let's look at our lights, these must be checked to make sure all your lights are in good working order and the lamp lenses must be clean. Secondly check that your dip beam is lighting up the road in the correct way and your beams are level. How many times do you drive and see other cars coming towards you with one beam down and one shining high up and which dazzles you? Check this also with your main beam. Not only you must be able to see but also others must be able to see you. Even if your car is dirty I say again make sure your lights are clean.

Normal driving around town you should drive only on dipped headlights and out on country roads if there is no street lighting use your main beam. But as soon as you see a car coming towards you switch to dipped beam. You don't want to dazzle others, as you don't want to be dazzled. Going round bends you can often see the approach of a car long before you see the car, as you will no doubt see his main beam, dip yours and he will dip his. If for some reason he does not dip his lights slow right down and when he's in full view turn your head away briefly till he is gone, do not turn on your main beam in retaliation. Similarly when following another vehicle keep your lights on dip beam, you do not want to dazzle him. If you pull out to overtake then you can give a quick flash of your main beam to let him know your intentions, do not put on your full beam. Keep your lights dipped until you have completed the overtake.

For more detailed information on this subject refer to your Advanced Driving or Roadcraft, and even the Highway Code.

Safe Driving
Ray

WHATS ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE



TUESDAY JULY 31ST	COMMITTEE MEETING	7.30 pm CHESTERFIELD LIBRARY CAFÉ
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AUGUST 2012 - No group social

Sunday 5 th	GUIDANCE	9.30 am Sainsbury's Car Park
Saturday 11th	GUIDANCE	9.30 am Sainsbury's Car Park
Tuesday 28 th	Committee Meeting	7.30 pm Chesterfield Library Cafe

Future Dates:

September: - Please note guidance dates

Guidance:
Darley Dale Transport Festival
Chesterfield Club-Social
Committee Meeting

Saturday 1st, Sunday 2nd,
Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th
Thursday 20th - TBA
Tuesday 25th