

SEPTEMBER 2014

ISSUE 9/14



CHALLENGE
CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP NEWSLETTER



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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.



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 **Bob Stone** on **01246 568894** 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

FUTURE SOCIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY St Thomas's Centre, Chatsworth Road, Brampton

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 18 th September - | Chesterfield Cycle Campaign charity |
| 16 th October- | South Yorkshire Air Ambulance |
| 20 th November - | To be confirmed/horses charity talk/ homeless charity |
| 18 th December- | Christmas social |

Parking tickets, and more from the President.

The Ford Fiesta is now Britain's all time best selling car taking it past the Escort which was on sale from 1968 to 2000. So far 4,115,000 of the various Fiesta models have been made since 1976. Ford commented that it would take 80 modern ones to generate the nitrogen oxide emissions of a single 1976 model. Well done Fiesta!

Here is a letter from a commercial lawyer, published to help the general public in the event of a disputed parking fine - could prove very helpful as most of us are not totally "au fait" with the complex laws on who has the authority to demand money from us. You have his permission to use it if necessary.

Dear Sir/Madam

As the registered keeper of the vehicle (No plate, model etc), I am in receipt of a letter (ref no.) from you. In this letter you request from me as keeper, a sum of £70. You are aware that a contract, if any, was entered into by the driver of the vehicle and not by me as registered keeper.

You are obliged to place ample signage about the car park to make those persons using the facilities aware of the terms. The signs must be clear and unambiguous and must not be obscured, faded or covered up in any way difficult or impossible to read. You understand that the onus is on you, the claimant in a civil action, to prove the case. I am not required to tell you who the driver was. It is you who must supply evidence as to the identity of the driver and not the other way round.

I would also like to know what authority you have from your alleged principal, (Tesco etc), to write to me in such a fashion and whether it gives you the necessary power of attorney to instigate a civil action on their behalf. I am sure that you are aware of the provisions of S40 of the Criminal Justice Act and of Statutory Instrument 2083 of 1999.

Therefore, I require from you the following information;

1 The identity of the driver of the said vehicle

2 Proof that you have the authority you say you have.

If you are unable to provide me with all the information in items one and two above, please do not contact me again or it might constitute an offence under the Protection From Harassment Act 1997.

Yours faithfully (Name) Sent by recorded delivery.

More next month.....Stay safe and happy Mike.

2014 'Motoring Milestones' – Part 3 From Dom Booth, Chairman

In 1954, sixty years ago, the Highway Code saw the first of many triangular warning signs, does anyone still have a copy? The back cover was also changed to include first aid advice and guidance, with colour illustrations!

1964, fifty years ago, saw a register of ADIs (Approved Driving Instructors) was first started, requiring them to undertake strict practical and written tests. Was this a good thing? Also in '64 came the inevitable end to unlimited speed by introducing the 70mph national speed limit for motorways. Was this a good thing? I'll let you decide and write in to our editor.

Removing white lines

A theory I've had and said for a long time, is that if we removed the paint and signs from our roads, a lot of drivers might start thinking for themselves, reading the road ahead and planning their driving, instead of being told there might be a tractor ahead (on a narrow country road, who would have thought it eh?). TfL (Transport for London) have done just that! On three stretches of road they have removed the centre white lines, and have seen a "statistically significant" reduction in speed, by an average of 7mph. Of course this doesn't mean the road is safer, it just means people have driven slower through it.

Google's driverless cars

A DfT (Department for Transport) spokesman told BBC news recently: "There are no plans to change speed limits, which will still apply to driverless cars." Google's self-driving cars are by default programmed to break speed limits by up to 10mph. The reasoning behind it is quite straight forward, explains Dmitri Dolgov: "When surrounding vehicles were breaking the speed limit, going more slowly could actually present a danger, and the Google car would accelerate to keep up." Personally I wouldn't want a car that drives me about, I want to drive the car myself for obvious reasons, but for those that see driving as a mundane task to get from A to B, it could be worth it for them.

When are these being tested in the UK? In January next year the Government will conduct a trial, on public roads, in three cities.

Drive Safe,

Dom



Police fine hundreds of Yorkshire drivers using new powers

Article from Chris Lake

HUNDREDS of on-the-spot fines have been handed out to motorists in Yorkshire for offences such as lane-hogging, tailgating and dangerous overtaking on the region's roads since police were given new powers last year.

West Yorkshire Police has handed out more than 400 penalty fines for careless or inconsiderate driving since August, though Humberside Police only issued a handful in the same period, according to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act,

The new powers to issue fixed penalties for careless driving, along with a £100 fine and three points on the driver's licence, were announced by the Government to make it easier for the police to tackle problem drivers.

The changes give the police greater flexibility in dealing with less serious careless driving offences, freeing them from resource-intensive court processes.

Officers who previously might have ignored low-level offences or let the driver off with a warning have been told to consider a fixed penalty and offer the driver a chance to go on educational training instead of having their licence endorsed.

Between August 16 and June 11, West Yorkshire Police issued 247 on-the-spot fines for driving without due care and attention, and 182 for driving without reasonable consideration.

In a similar period Humberside Police issued eight fixed penalties for careless driving, though 517 drivers were sent to attend courses, 48 will be brought to court and 232 face enforcement action that has not yet concluded.

North Yorkshire Police officers handed out 48 notices for offences such as dangerous overtaking and failing to give way at a junction, lane discipline and “careless manoeuvres” between August and June, while South Yorkshire Police issued at least 108.

Inspector Joanne Field of West Yorkshire Police’s roads policing unit, which covers roads including the M62 and M1 said: “We rely on and respect our officers to use their discretion appropriately, and deal with the circumstances before them at the time of the incident.

“There are a number of reasons why officers will issue fixed penalty notices at the roadside. These include a driver’s offending history or the severity of the offence.”

A spokeswoman for Humberside Police said: “The use of on the-spot-fines is just one tactic in the armoury of options available to traffic officers. Although we have issued a small number in Humberside, that does not tell the whole story.

“Several hundred drivers have been stopped for the offence in this time period and although an on-the-spot fine may not have been issued, police action was taken and in many cases is still ongoing.”

Careless driving is not a new offence but since last August it became a “fixed penalty offence”.

A fixed penalty is not applied in all cases and in more serious cases offenders will still be summonsed to appear in court.

Guidance Officer Vacancy

You will know that Ray Parker has had to step down from the post of Guidance Officer for personal reasons. This of course means there is a vacancy. Please consider taking on this job (a job description is available from Bob Stone) so that other existing committee members are not having to 'soak up' what Ray used to do so well. Any queries please contact Bob Stone, telephone number 01246 568894.

From Headquarters

Dear all,

The IAM has started a review of the advanced driving and riding tests as part of the permanently ongoing process of keeping up-to-date and relevant to a changing world.

Mark Lewis said: "We have a great product in the advanced test, it is well respected and highly regarded in the UK and across other parts of the world. We want to ensure it remains a standard others are judged by.

"We invited a group of our members and examiners to attend a series of workshops to review the content of the car and motorcycle tests, and have gathered a large amount of information that we are now working through."

He added: "We had a very productive workshop with an enthusiastic group of volunteers who made some very interesting and valid suggestions about how the advanced test could be improved. We are very grateful to everyone who took the time out from their day jobs to attend for three days. We are looking forward to consulting about it more widely as we progress work on it all."

Peter Rodger, Chief Examiner, Mark Lewis, Director of Standards

Test Passes



Test Passes

**Marcus Walker passed his test on 9 August 2014
with a First**

**Michelle Cadet-Rose passed her test on
20 August 2014**

Many congratulations to both of you.



SOCIAL EVENT



**Swains Centre,
Unit 26,
Harper Hill Business
Park, Buxton, SK17
9JL.**

There is a 500m long outdoor track. We cater for any size of party or group and, providing the minimum height is achieved, most ages.

Established in 1995 the outdoor go kart circuit has undergone several upgrades from the original basic oval layout to the current custom designed 500m (with the inclusion of a flyover bridge) we have today. The new all tarmac surface even has the addition of extra grippy cornering surface on most bends to assist in keeping you on the track even in the trickiest of weather conditions.

Our current fleet of ten 160cc four stroke adult karts and four 160cc four stroke restricted junior karts are available virtually all year around seven days a week. Our only closure tends to be from Christmas Eve afternoon to the 2nd January every year.

We can do either:

Arrive and Drive (Both Adults and Children)

Arrive and Drive is for 10 minutes **Cost per person £15.00**

Or

Party Deals

Party Deals are two 15 minute sessions plus food and a drink (This package is limited to children aged between 7 and 18 years old and Family groups (a mix of adults and children)).

Cost per person £30.00

***** PLEASE LET CHRIS LAKE KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED *****

From the Editor

I have just had a birthday – another year older - not necessarily wiser – but I did get some very nice pressies. One of those was a tour of the Morgan Factory in Malvern for two, followed by a cream tea. I happen to like Morgans (as well as Mercedes) and if ever Bob manages to win a huge amount on the lottery and we get a big country pile, I would really like to have both makes of car sitting on the drive. We can all dream can't we?

But for now, I will be happy with the tour, and expect photos and a short report back in the next Newsletter!



Joke Corner

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." Then she hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it, drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman. The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday 7th	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park 9.30 am
Saturday 13th	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park 9.30 am
Thursday 18th	Social - Alastair Meikle, Secretary, Chesterfield Cycle Campaign will be coming to give us a talk/film/question and answer session on the Campaign.	St Thomas's Centre Chatsworth Road, Brampton 7.30 pm
Tuesday 26 th	Committee Meeting	Chesterfield Library Café, 7.30 p.m.

October Dates:

Guidance	Sunday October 5 th
Guidance	Saturday October 11 th
Social	Thursday 16 th – Yorkshire Air Ambulance
Committee Meeting	Tuesday 28th