



Mid Wales Matters



The Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists

Web site: mwam.powys.org.uk

Volume 4, Issue 3

Registered Charity Number 1109484

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Chairman's Comment

At a recent outing involving numerous 'classic' cars, the conversation came round to the driving characteristics of modern as opposed to older cars. With petrol injection and 2 litre engines, even 1.2 litre ones quite able to do 0 to 60mph in the twinkle of an eye, the temptation to speed becomes almost irresistible.

But when one gets behind the wheel of a 'classic' the over-riding instinct is to ease your vehicle along rather than thrash the engine half to death. "Sedate motoring" used to be the phrase to describe motoring in days long gone by. How times have changed!

We are able to attack the tarmac more quickly, stop more quickly, get more out of a tank of petrol - but are we enjoying our motoring any more? That's my question for today's drivers.

We appear to be hell-bent on getting from one place to another in as short a time as possible without thinking of the enjoyment we could be getting out of the journey.

Ah, the benefits of advanced motoring!

Frank Torrens.

Editor's Spot

I was once a back seat passenger in a vehicle travelling along the Big Sur in California when the driver decided to take off her jumper. She didn't stop, but managed to divest herself of the garment while bowling along the coastal highway at 50mph. I don't need to tell you that the moment when it came over her head was a particularly tense one. Still, one had to be grateful that the car enjoyed the benefit of cruise control, otherwise we could have been hurtling along at a much higher speed.

I've seen people doing really daft and dangerous things at the wheel – eating a sandwich, swigging a can of coke, turning to talk to back seat passengers, carrying a dog on their knees, trying to read a newspaper. But the most frequent offence against common sense involves the use that scourge of our times, the mobile phone. The recent change in the law doesn't seem to have reduced the number of drivers cornering with one hand on the wheel and the other clamped over an ear.

The Vatican's list of ten motoring commandments (see article on the next page) makes no reference to this particular sin, but I know that my list would feature it - and close to the top, too!

Members' Corner

From the Daily Telegraph - contributed by Harry Barbour

Driving without due care and attention has long been illegal. Now, if you are a Roman Catholic, it is a sin, too. The Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care has drawn up a new set of the Ten Commandments aimed specifically at drivers.

- Thou shalt not drive under the influence of alcohol.
- Thou shalt respect the speed limit.
- Thou shalt not consider a car an object of glorification or use it as a place of sin.

These and other instructions are to be found in the 36-page *Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road*. As the Council is based in Italy, it is little wonder that reckless driving is a cause for concern - to take to the road there is to take your life in one's hands. For the man at the wheel of a Fiat, it seems preferable to travel hopefully at speed than make an effort to arrive in one piece.

Now, as far as the Vatican is concerned, irresponsible driving is totally unacceptable and ill manners, gestures and blasphemy are not a fitting response to the bad practice or rudeness of others in these days of road rage. It hopes that this initiative, with its comprehensive practical and moral guidance, will have a positive influence on the motoring behaviour of its flock.

We shall have to wait and see.

Gift Aid Claim

A BIG thank you to all our members who have signed gift aid declarations. I have recently submitted the claims to the Inland Revenue for the period 2003 to 2007, and we have now received our payments. You will see that each year the amount claimed has increased significantly and the Gift Aid claimed has helped boost our funds immensely. The details are below :

2003 - 2004	£ 11.28
2004 - 2005	£ 290.47
2005 - 2006	£ 361.87
2006 - 2007	£ 406.72
Total received	£ 1070.34

If you haven't signed a Gift Aid form but would like to do so, please contact Geoff Smith who will make the necessary arrangements.

Amanda Giordano - Treasurer

Senior Observer Success

We congratulate Ron Collins who has recently attained his IAM Senior Observer qualification. Ron is a very successful Observer who has to date assisted 11 associates into full membership of the IAM. Ron had to satisfy the IAM Staff Examiner, Mike Lovelock, of his abilities as an Observer to achieve this nationally recognised status. Ron will be continuing to utilise his skills to assist other associates and train new observers for our group.

IAM Mobile Display Unit

MWAM is attending The Prestigious Motor Show, Newtown, Powys on Sunday 12th August 2007. This event is being held in the grounds of The Park Offices adjacent to the car park and bus station in Newtown. The event starts at 10am and runs until 4pm. We will have the use of the IAM Mobile Display Unit which will be manned by members of our group throughout the day. Please come along and support this event and our members.

Off Road Driving Experience

MWAM is considering organising an Off Road Driving Experience in conjunction with J V Like Land Rover of Three Cocks, Brecon. This will take the form of driving a 4x4 vehicle on their off road course under supervision. The initial response to this venture has been insufficient to make this viable. If you are interested in this please let David Leppard, our Events Organizer, know as soon as possible.

IAM Group Achievement Award

The group has now used some of the £1 000 awarded as the 2006 IAM Group Achievement award. The committee has decided to purchase a colour laser printer and consumables to enable production of the newsletter utilizing colour as evidenced by this edition. It will also enable the production of more effective and appealing advertising material. Both associates and observers will also benefit from the production of our course and training materials using colour. The group already had its own data projector which it uses for presentations, so we have also taken the precaution of purchasing a spare lamp for this equipment from this award. In total we have spent about £600 on these items and are considering how we can best utilize the remaining £400.

New Members Presentation

The group has now changed its procedures and IAM Pass Certificates for successful associates are sent to the group rather than the individual. We now invite all our new members to attend the next group meeting when they are personally presented with their Certificates. The first group to receive its certificates is pictured below being congratulated by Geoff Smith, Group Secretary, at the new associates introduction meeting held at the Bracken Trust on 30 May 07


Adam Cusack

Peter Gilbert

Philip Jennings



New Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following associates who were successful in their IAM Advanced Driving or Riding Test 

Name	Location	Observer	Date
Peter Brown	Llandrindod Wells	Ron Collins	May 07
Ray Garner	Llandrindod Wells	Humphrey Morgan	Jun 07
Barry Carrington	Builth Wells	Humphrey Morgan	Jun 07

These new members will be presented with their certificates at our next meeting at the Bracken Trust on Wednesday 1st August 2007

Situations Vacant

Chief Observer To organise the training and accreditation of observers
Associate Co-ordinator To organise the allocation of associates to observers.

National Traffic Control Centre Visit

The Walsall IAM group have a visit to the NTCC at Quinton arranged for 9th August at 4pm until 6pm. They have some spare places so if any of our members would like to join them they would be very welcome. The NTCC is located in Quinton to the West of Birmingham near to junction 3 of the M5 motorway. NTCC is responsible for the core of the Strategic Road Network in England covering most motorways and major A roads (4818 miles) which link the major cities/towns and carry one third of all traffic and two thirds of all freight. Contact David Leppard if you are interested

Associate Course Dates



Denotes includes Motorcycle Course

Course	Start Date	Day	Times		Location
07/4	01/08/2007	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
07/5	03/10/2007	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

Observer Training Dates

Date	Day	Times		Location
09/08/2007	Thursday	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Newtown, Morrisons Car Park
09/09/2007	Sunday	10:00 AM	12:00PM	Builth Wells, Co-operative Car Park
06/10/2007	Saturday	10:00 AM	12:00PM	Crossgates, Knill's Car Park
04/11/2007	Sunday	10:00 AM	12:00PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
08/12/2007	Saturday	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Newtown, Morrisons Car Park

Please note that all the above-published dates and venues may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond the committee's control. For the latest information, visit our web site: mwam.powys.org.uk or contact the group secretary.

Please contact Humphrey Morgan (01597 822082) who will be co-ordinating observer training if you require any further details.

Your Committee

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ASSOCIATE CO-ORDINATOR	Vacant	

Mid Wales Advanced Motorists (MWAM) publish this Newsletter to provide a means of communication within the group to Members and Associates. The opinions are those of the Editor and individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the view of MWAM or the Institute of Advanced Motorists to which it is affiliated.