



Mid Wales Matters



The Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists

Web site: mwam.btck.co.uk

I AM a better road user ...

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IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

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Mazda MX5

The old.....



And the new.....

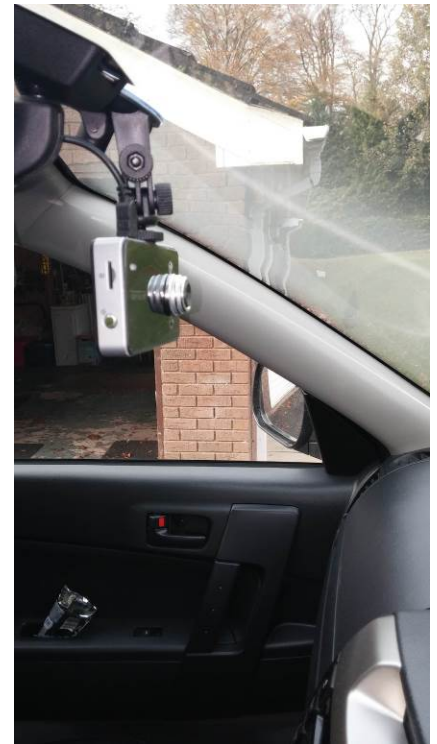


Photo courtesy of Auto Express

After a number of updated models over the past 25 years Mazda has returned to its roots with the 2015 model shown above. The latest model has been reduced in size and weight to bring the build proportions nearer to the original Mk1 weight of around 1000k.

Enthusiastically welcomed by the marque followers and motoring press there is as yet little to gather as to the performance and handling. However, word has it that the latest model will more than live up to its reputation as the best handling and all round performer in the true sports car sector

In Car Video Camera



Over some 60 years of motoring there have been many times when I wished that I had a camera to hand when experiencing some dangerous or careless driving moments. A recent browsing of the internet rekindled that desire when I spotted adverts for 'in-car' cameras.

So, a couple of clicks and an outlay of £30 saw me installing the camera in my car. Installation is easy with the unit fixed to the windscreen with the usual sticker system behind the rear view mirror so as not to interfere with the view. Power is provided by plugging into the cigar lighter/12 volt socket. Conveniently, the camera starts to record as soon as the ignition is switched on and powers down with the ignition off. A further benefit is the fact that the unit can be removed and used as an ordinary camera for video or still shots.

The high definition recording is stored on a micro card in the camera. There is a choice of 2, 5 or 10 minute record segments which loop from one segment to the next until the cards 16gb is used up whereupon the camera starts at the beginning again recording over the previous segments in doing so.

A useful facility is the ability to set the camera with a 'g' force factor which has the effect of storing that part of the filming when an accident caused the g force to operate. The SD card recordings can be loaded onto your PC or lap top in order to store or copy for evidence etc. or maybe to do an analysis of your driving!

So depending on your view, a useful piece of kit with perhaps an unexpected benefit of making sure that you as the driver are driving to the IAM standards as in effect you are on candid camera yourself!

Dangerous Cyclist



Shortly after fitting the in-car camera and as driving into Newtown from Welshpool I caught up with and passed a cyclist travelling in the same direction. This was a man on a mission and probably a timed run. Whatever, his manner of riding left a lot to be desired and in my opinion was dangerous to himself and other road users.

I know that as drivers or riders we must at all times be vigilant and observant but someone at speed coming up on the inside, using the 'wrong' lane, tailgating a lorry and swopping lanes is taxing our skills to the utmost. For me, capturing the event on film illustrated and proved the use of an in-car camera. The film clip can be viewed on You Tube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrdT5R72M6Q>

From the Web



Country Roads

Brake before the bend, not on it

60% of all fatalities occur on country roads. These roads often have sharp bends, blind bends and unexpected hazards so brake before the bend to give yourself time to react and stay in control.

The facts

- 60% of all fatalities occur on country roads
- Three people die each day on average on country roads
- The number of people killed on country roads is nearly 11 times higher than on motorways
- In 2013, there were 1,070 fatalities and 9,104 serious injuries on country roads

Mutterings !



What is it about the colour of green? Am I the only one to wonder about the colour which seems to put motorists to sleep waiting at traffic lights? There you are, lights changed to green and first vehicle sits there unmoving! Or that one moves but not the next. Don't we all sit waiting hand on brake to set off? No we don't!







Speed bumps effective? In my view a very debatable question. Have you ever noticed that as a responsible motorist you reduce speed to the 20 or 30 mph limit but there are more motorists that blindly ignore them? Indeed some seem to charge at them. If this is the case then is it not true to say that the only reduction in danger comes from those of us who abide by the control anyway whereas those who don't are the ones speeding, bumps or not and are of danger to pedestrians and children.










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
Velma Hather 	Aberystwyth	Rees Thomas	Sep 14
Bill Harmon 	Old Radnor	Humphrey Morgan	Oct 14
Mike Price  FIRST	Llanymynech	Nigel Godman	Oct 14
Paul Smith 	Cemmaes	David Tompsett	Oct 14

Associate Course Dates 2015

 Denotes Car Course  Denotes Motorcycle Course

Course	Start Date	Day	Times	Location
 15/1	18/03/2015	Wednesday	7:00PM 9:30 PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
 15/2 	20/05/2015	Wednesday	7:00PM 9:30 PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
 15/3 	22/07/2015	Wednesday	7:00PM 9:30 PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
 15/4 	23/09/2015	Wednesday	7:00PM 9:30 PM	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

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 our Secretary Geoff Smith if you require any further details.**

Your Committee

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