

MID WALES MATTERS



The Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists

Affiliated to the institute of Advanced Motorists

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In this issue:

- From the Secretary Page 2
- Bike Safe - what is it? Page 3
- Two Wheels Page 4
- Four Wheels Page 5
- Blood Bikers? Page 6
- Mutterings Page 7
- IAM News Page 8
- Editor Page 9
- Courses & Contacts Page 10



The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

**AGM Saturday 14 March
see page 2 inside!**

Group Meeting Venues



New Inn, Llanbadarn Fynydd



STOP PRESS!

Bike Safe courses heavy booking. See page 3




Annual General Meeting

You are cordially invited by the group committee to the 11th Annual General Meeting of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists which this year is being held at **2:00pm on Saturday 14th March 2015** at the Bracken Trust, Cefnlllys Lane, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LJ. This is to enable the trustees of the group to present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 for approval by the members and also to conduct an election.

This is your opportunity to find out how we have spent your money and to question the committee on its activities. We are nothing without our members and we need support and guidance on what we should be doing for the groups and your benefit. If you don't like what we are doing, come along and say so; if you do, please come and let us know. Your continued support is appreciated and we would encourage as many members as possible to become involved in the running of the group. We would also welcome new committee members who are able to give their time and energies to the future success of the group. If you feel that you cannot play an active role, please continue your financial support by renewing your membership of MWAM. A formal notice for the AGM and nomination forms has been sent to members who do not have computer access and copies are available for download from our website for those who have this facility. If you have not received these or you would like a printed copy, please contact the secretary.

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
Leslie Johns 	Aberystwyth	Chris England	Nov 14
Martyn Davidson 	Kerry	Tina Whitmore	Nov-15
Elaine Morgan 	Rhayader	Humphrey Morgan/ Geoff Smith	Dec 15

Membership Renewal 2015

We thank the 75% of members who have already renewed their membership for 2015 and for their continued support. Annual subscription was increased this year for the first time since the group was formed. Group membership is payable on 1st January each year and renewal notices were sent out at the end of last year requesting payment of the increased £12 fee. Over 75% of our membership now pay their subscription by banker's standing (SO) order and this is the preferred method to ensure that membership does not lapse. New SO's were sent out to all members but unfortunately some were either ignored or not actioned in time and many members have paid the lower £10 rate. All those affected have been contacted and asked to pay the additional £2. If you have not received your membership renewal notice and MWAM membership card for 2015 please let the membership secretary know and these will be sent to you again. If you have not yet attended to your renewal please do so promptly otherwise your local group membership will lapse.

Unfortunately, unless you hold current IAM membership you are not allowed to be an associate or member of a local group and we are not permitted by the IAM to accept your renewal. However you can apply to the group committee to transfer your membership to that of Group Friend at the same annual rate of £12. This classification is intended for those who may wish to support a local group whilst not willing to commit to either IAM membership or advanced driver or rider training. If you wish to transfer to the Group Friend class of membership please indicate this when you return your form. Any member who has or lets their IAM membership lapse and has paid their MWAM subscription will be transferred to a Group Friend unless they advise otherwise. Equally if for some reason you have decided not to renew membership of our local group please return your membership card with your resignation confirmation.

Geoff Smith - Membership Secretary



Bike Safe - What is it?

BikeSafe is a police led motorcycle project that is run by most forces throughout the UK. The main aim is to reduce the number of bikers being hurt on the roads. We think that riding should be fun and by improving skills, knowledge and hazard awareness it will hopefully make riding safer and more enjoyable.

The BikeSafe workshop explores the main riding hazards that you as a biker face. By delivering theory presentations and observed rides, a BikeSafe workshop will help you discover your strengths and weaknesses and also where to go next to develop and get more from your biking.

BikeSafe is about starting on the right path to development as it "Bridges the Gap". Riders should continue to train throughout their riding years and not just stop once they have passed their bike test.

Having enjoyed a BikeSafe workshop or ride out, the next natural step that we actively encourage is post test motorcycle training from either – **I.A.M. (Institute of Advanced Motorists)** RoSPA (Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents) or E.R.S. (The Enhanced Rider Scheme).



Dyfed Powys Police & Powys Road Safety Unit
have released the dates of their Bike Safe workshops for 2015.

Newtown Fire Station (SY16 1HF)

Saturday 21st March 2015

Powys Road Safety Unit will provide FREE places for Powys Residents !

Contact:

Email: road.safety@powys.gov.uk

Aberystwyth Fire Station (SY23 1BE)

Saturday 20th June 2015

Phone: 01597 827465

or : 0845 6027035

Llandrindod Wells Fire Station (LD1 5BF)

Sunday 22nd March 2015

Sunday 20th September 2015

Address:

Road Safety Unit
Powys County Hall
Spa Road East
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG



For more information or find other venues visit www.bikesafe.co.uk
(can also be contacted on 08444 151206)

Two Wheelers

£50,000 Kawasaki Ninja HJ2R ! Designed for track only and sporting a 998cc in line supercharged engine with a target of 295bhp the machine is hailed by enthusiasts as an historic launch. Clad in carbon-fibre over a frame designed for high speed stability the bike will offer the kind of acceleration no rider has experienced before. Kawasaki plan to produce only 10 bikes for the UK but a road going model is also available. Courtesy of Motor Cycle Monthly



A little more affordable? The VFR800X Crossrunner costs £10,299. This gives you a comprehensive package of extras as standard which includes handlebar switchable 3-stage traction control, ABS, heated grips, LED lights, a 31 litre topbox, centrestand, Akrapovic exhaust, as well as a Tom Tom sat nav all standard fitment. Optional extras include Honda quickshifter, crash bars, panniers and LED fog lights. An impressive spec by any standard.



Maybe a classic bike is more to your taste. It's still no cheaper option though as is illustrated by the machine shown here which is the 1929 **Brough Superior** 986cc SS100 Alpine Grand Sports which recently sold at public auction for the world record sum of £315,000!



George Brough is described today as a motorcycle genius who designed and personally tested his machines; in one instance by undertaking and winning the tough Alpine Trial on an SS100 which resulted in the award of six trophy cups. The design of the Alpine Grand Sports took inspiration from that achievement, and it was introduced to the market in 1925 for the 1926 season.

Famously, the Brough Superior came with a certificate which warranted that it had been tested at 100mph around the Brooklands race circuit. Some achievement for the 1920's. Perhaps a somewhat little known fact is that Lawrence of Arabia owned seven Brough Superiors. It was of course, the motor cycle on which he tragically lost his life. Credit: Motor Cycle monthly.



T.E. Lawrence of Arabia

Four Wheels !

News from the Shows and Media



Vauxhall has revealed it has priced its sporty [Adam Grand Slam](#) from £16,995 with deliveries in March **Auto Express**

It features a turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol engine with 148bhp and 220Nm of torque, which results in a 0-62mph sprint time of 8.5 seconds and a 124mph top speed. Economy of around 44.1mpg can be expected, with emissions hitting 149g/km of CO2.

New MINI JCW is the most powerful MINI ever with 228bhp, and has been revealed here at the *Detroit Motor Show*. Powered by a 228bhp 2.0-litre ... 5.6 seconds.

Read more:

<http://www.autoexpress.co.uk/search/site/detroit/page/1/0#ixzz3PLipKY00>



- [Volkswagen CrossBlue review](#)

Whether it will come to the UK is still up for debate but in the opinion of people in the know it's unlikely to be offered initially but there's certainly a never-say-never attitude.

The CrossBlue will be based on the same MQB architecture as the [Golf](#), which means it will be available with a similar range of [engines](#). Four cylinders diesels are on the cards as VW tries to convince America of their benefits, while the plug-in hybrid system due to arrive in the Golf this year is also a possibility.

As well as the Volkswagen version, [Skoda](#) is also understood to be interested in creating a seven-seat SUV to sit above the [Skoda Yeti](#), which is also likely to arrive in 2016. **Credits Auto Express**

The [Dacia Duster](#) has been given some minor visual tweaks inside and out for 2015. On sale now, prices start from £9,495 for the entry-level compact SUV, rising to £15,495 for the flagship [Laureate model](#) in 4x4 guise.

What's new is the chrome front grille, made up of two layers of four intakes, as well as 'Duster' branded roof bars for all trim levels – finished in chrome for Laureate spec. Round the back there's a Duster-badged black tailgate bar, while top-spec variants also get 16-inch [alloy wheels](#), body-coloured door handles and dark metal wing mirrors. **Credits: Auto Express**



Blood Bikers, who and what are they?

About Blood Bikes Wales

We are an enthusiastic group of people keen to make a difference. Most of us are riders and we aim to use our skills, time and enthusiasm to help the Health Service in Wales.

The NHS uses its own transportation system to move blood supplies, plasma, documents and other items between hospitals during the day on Mondays to Fridays. Between 7pm and 7am on weekdays, on weekends and on bank holidays, the regular system used to stop and the NHS used the police, the ambulance service, taxis and couriers to carry the vital supplies. You can imagine what this used to cost the NHS.

This is where Blood Bikes Wales comes in. Our volunteers provide the NHS with out-of-hours transport thus saving substantial sums which can be put to better use. Based on figures from our fellow Blood Bike groups in England, we estimate that for each pound we receive, the NHS will save at least five pounds.

We currently give our services free of charge between 7pm on Friday evening until midnight on Monday morning and over bank holidays to:

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (Swansea),
Cwm Taf University Health Board (Merthyr Tydfil, Llantrisant) and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Newport, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire) ... and talking to the other health boards in Wales.

Blood Bikes Wales is a member of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes which shares our quest to provide a reliable, good value and high quality service to health institutions throughout the country.

Our meetings are held at Carmarthen, Pontyclun and Cwmbran. Details are posted on our Facebook page.

Courtesy Blood Bike Wales Web Site

Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes border Mid Wales and cover the Shrewsbury and Telford areas.



Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes seen here on Awareness Publicity Day in Shrewsbury

Mutterings

Years ago before motorways, the A38 south into Devon and Cornwall was notorious for delays due to high traffic volume. On the route was a major cross roads controlled by traffic lights. Additional control in order to speed up throughput was in the form of a Police Officer whose role was to walk to the line of waiting vehicles from the lights ordering drivers to keep closed up to the vehicle in front thus ensuring the maximum numbers went through the lights in any one sequence. I'm often reminded of this when I see 25 or so yard gaps in slow moving or queuing traffic. Cure that and my previous mutter about 'green traffic light sleepers' and we could perhaps ease some traffic issues!

Agricultural Tractors

A bane in your motoring life? Tractors - often like a comet with a long trail of vehicles behind them. Do they have secret competition as to which can get the longest queue behind them! But seriously they have a job to do and a place to go and to put some perspective on it, can you remember the days when sheep and cattle were driven on foot from place to place and to sheep and cattle markets? Then you had to carefully wend your way through them and their copious droppings often with cattle bumping against your precious paintwork!



Don't Hold Up Traffic, Police Urge Tractor Drivers

Police in Herefordshire are issuing a plea to tractor drivers in the county to pull over, where safe, if they have a queue of vehicles behind them, following a number of complaints from irate motorists of delays caused by slow-moving agricultural vehicles failing to yield.

Sgt Tony Jones, from the Road Policing Team based at Hereford Police Station, said a number of people had contacted West Mercia Police over the issue recently and now was a good time to remind all drivers of tractors and other slow-moving vehicles of the need to comply with the law in respect of driving without due consideration for other road users.

Sgt Jones said: "A few tractor drivers will travel slowly along main roads, towing long, laden trailers and not give other vehicles the opportunity to pass. This causes a long snake of cars behind the tractor. Driver frustration then sets in, making impatient car drivers take extreme risks trying to overtake."

"The police recommendation to slow-moving vehicles is to pull over, where it safe to do so, when you have six or more vehicles behind you."

Tractors drivers are urged not to pull over where there are double solid white lines and would mean passing cars crossing those lines. Common sense should be the order of the day.

"Some staff on farms who drive tractors, particularly migrant workers from overseas, may be unaware that failure to pull over when you have a long queue of traffic behind you could constitute an offence of inconsiderate driving," said Sgt Jones.

"The offence could earn you 3 to 9 points on your licence and a fine of up to £5,000. We would urge farm owners to ensure that that staff are aware of the law and they should pull over where necessary and safe to do so. A little consideration for others goes a long way."

Feeling blue about the dark? Let the **IAM** shed some light on the matter

The IAM is warning drivers about the dangers of travelling without their car lights switched on. This week we are advising drivers about using their car lights more effectively when travelling in bad weather and in the dark.

Full beam

You should use your full beam when you need the extra vision on an empty dark road. But, if you see a vehicle approaching you in the opposite direction you should dip your headlights as soon as possible.

Dipped headlights

You can use your dipped headlights during both day and night. They are particularly important to use when you are travelling in bad weather to make you visible to others.

Fog lights

If fog is thick enough that you cannot see beyond 100 metres, you must use your fog lights. But don't forget to turn off both your front and rear fog lights once the fog lifts. Fog lights can be quite dazzling to other drivers, and the rear ones hide the effect of brake lights

Broken light bulbs

It's important you check all the lights are clean and working before you start each journey. If any of them are not working you should get these replaced as soon as possible. Keep a spare pair handy in your car; you never know when you will need these.

Driving with faulty or broken lights is dangerous and may result in a serious accident – avoid travelling with lights that are not working properly. The law on vehicle lights is very detailed. As a rule of thumb, all lights you have fitted must work, or you may be prosecuted.



and



Launch 'No drink, No doubt' Campaign

Auto Express, Britain's biggest selling motoring magazine, has teamed up with the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) to launch the 'No drink, No doubt' campaign, urging Britons not to drink a drop of alcohol if they're thinking of driving.

Auto Express polled over 3,000 of its readers to find out how they felt about the current drink-driving laws – the results revealed that 46% of them would welcome the introduction of a zero tolerance policy on drink-driving in England.

Auto Express took a snapshot of drivers attending this year's Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) rehab course, and found 13 per cent recorded no higher than 55mg per 100ml on a roadside breath test – just over the legal limit of 35mg.

Chris Ebbs, Consumer Editor of Auto Express, said: "There is real uncertainty about how much you can legally drink before taking the wheel, with more than 10 per cent of those caught drink-driving being just a fraction over the limit. Kath Pavitt, Driver Education Director at IAM Driver Retaining Academy, said: "What drivers need to understand is that there are many factors that can take a person over the limit, and it isn't the same for everyone. One glass of wine can affect a person very differently depending on their build, height, weight, their sex, and how much they've eaten.

"It's very simple. The only sure way of making sure you are safe, is don't drink any alcohol if you plan to drive. You might not only lose your licence, but your job too."

"Our research and experts agree there's no way to ensure that you're not over the limit at any time of the year," Ebbs continues. "Even one glass of alcohol can have an effect on driving – with potentially devastating consequences for everyone involved – so for safety's sake it's best not to drink at all, and we're urging Britons to not touch a drop if they know they will be getting behind the wheel."

A note from the editor! Just to say 'thanks' for bearing with me as I get into my new role as editor and to let you know that In an effort to at least gain some basic skills I have undertaken a desk top publishing course with 'The Monty College' at Montgomery so I'm hoping that we will gradually see an improvement in our publication. Apart from reporting group matters I am casting around general motoring matters for suitable material which may be of interest to members but as this is 'our' newsletter it would be very helpful if you would put your thinking caps on and let me know your thoughts as to what you would like to see in the newsletter.

Contact details overleaf.



Bill Smith Editor

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PLEASE JOIN US AT THE AGM AND HAVE YOUR SAY!



Associate Course Dates 2015

 Denotes Car Course  Denotes Motorcycle Course

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

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