



IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

MID WALES MATTERS

Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists
Registered charity 1109844 Group 3247
Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists

Volume 12, Issue 4



WINTER EDITION!



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- The cost of the advanced test
- First year's membership of the IAM

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Please quote SFLX15C for car or SFLX15B for bike during checkout to qualify for your 10% discount. Order by Friday 19th December for delivery before Christmas.

Reservations across the UK are only valid for 12 months. Terms & conditions apply.
*Some local networks provide the cheap assessment but not the test.

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From £130 to £116

Skill for Life, advanced driving and riding gift vouchers

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A message from your new Editor

Hello MWAM members, welcome to my first newsletter. Also thanks to Geoff Smith for his help and contribution. I have volunteered my services to take on this role because I have an interest in motoring, particularly motorbikes and hopefully help improve the profile and seek new members for the association.

I firstly want to introduce myself as Vince Gilroy 39 years old recently moved to Mid Wales from the urban lights of Solihull, West Midlands. I am married and have a six year old daughter. I am head Greenkeeper at Llandrindod Wells Golf Club and as a keen golfer makes my job even more enjoyable. I have recently passed my skills for life bike test and might think about doing my advanced car. I currently ride a 2004 Yamaha R1.

Communication is vital in this modern era. I personally am a user of social networking sites such as twitter & Facebook. I am looking at setting up a twitter account for the MWAM and we already have a Facebook page. Work is also in progress in improving the website. These all help in communicating possibly bringing new members and people knowing that we exist!

Any information, facts or something else that we need to know then please contact me. My details are on the last page of this newsletter.

More next edition. Need your help guys and girls.

Look out for twitter!!

Vince

Diving in bad weather

The Met Office has issued an amber weather warning for heavy rain across the UK. The IAM are advising on how to keep safe in the storms.

- Take care when setting your heater controls. Rain can cause windows to mist up in seconds – you don't want to be fiddling with the controls when you should be concentrating on the road so familiarise yourself with the fast demist and directional controls.
- Remember, always see and be seen at all times – as rule of thumb, whenever you need to use the wipers you should also make sure your dipped headlights are switched on, and before overtaking put your wipers on their fastest setting.
- Keep your eyes on the road ahead and plan your driving so that you can brake, accelerate and steer smoothly – harsh manoeuvres will unbalance the car.
- Slow down – in the rain stopping distance is at least doubled. Give yourself more space to help avoid spray, especially when following a large vehicle.
- If you have cruise control, avoid using it on wet roads – you need to pay more attention to road surface conditions and alter your speed gently.

I've started so I'll finish!

The image below is taken from the front facing camera in my vehicle as I approached the A489 Moat Lane junction travelling from Caersws towards the A470. The oncoming driver overshot the left turn from the A470 on to the A489 but still made it by coming over onto the 'exiting' side of the road at this junction and passed on my left side. I was already breaking in readiness for a right hand turn but still had to brake harder in order to avoid a collision.

The video is a bit unusual as I also had a rear view camera operating which shows that had there been a vehicle behind me it would have been hit. Equally, if another vehicle had made the correct entrance towards Caersws from the A470 on to the A489 to my right side this could well have been in a position for a collision as the offending driver crossed over onto the correct side of the road - you'll see what I mean ! The photo is a snap shot from the video clip which can viewed by following the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrJXHwxclKw>

Bill Smith



Motoring tips from Peter Rodger

As British Summer Time has now ended these tips from the IAM's head of driving standards, Peter Rodger, are looking at what you can do to ensure your journey is as safe as possible in the dark. Here are our latest tips to see you through.

- With morning and evening fog expected, it's important that you keep your windows clear of ice and frost throughout. Use a good quality windscreen washer fluid to keep them clean, and keep the reservoir topped up.
- As you will be using your dipped headlights more often it's important you make sure they are working properly. The same applies for all other car lights, indicators and tyres too – make sure you check the tread depth regularly. If any of these need replacing, do so as soon as possible. A spare set of light bulbs is a very worthwhile investment for your car.
- Automatic headlamp systems do not always put dipped headlamps on in foggy weather conditions, so you may need to switch them from an auto to manual setting. Remember, you don't need to wait until it's completely dark before you switch on your dipped headlights – you may need to use them in reduced daylight conditions too.
- Where there are no street lights or you are driving on an empty stretch of road in seriously reduced visibility, switch on your full beam to help you see further ahead. However, you mustn't use your full beam during the day even in poor visibility as you risk dazzling other road users.
- Look out for vulnerable road users in the dark including motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. Take particular care when driving near schools in the late afternoon when children are travelling home – see and be seen at all times.
- Pedestrians are not easily spotted when they wear dark clothing. Keep your eyes peeled and avoid speeding when your vision is reduced in both dark and bad weather conditions.
- Keep an eye out for reflective road signs and motorway studs that help you drive in poor light. Use these to guide you with your journey.
- Judging the speed of vehicles is difficult in the dark – increase the distance between you and the car in front of you. If you cannot see ahead, you must slow down to give yourself more time to react to a potential hazard.

Peter said: "It might sound obvious, but you cannot drive the same way in the dark as you would in daylight – but that's what a lot of people do. Make allowances for your own abilities in darkness; your eyes take time to get used to the dark. And be aware others might not be as careful as you, and might not be wearing reflective or bright clothing as they should do. Take on the responsibility of looking out for others, and your journey will give you a warm glow inside – even if it's chilly outside."

Peter officially retired from the IAM at the end of October. His role is being taken over by Mark Lewis who is the IAM's Director of Standards.

IAM Gift Vouchers

The IAM has announced the availability of gift vouchers as a Christmas present idea. Skill for Life courses, both car and bike, are available at a 10% discount in the run up to Christmas, bringing the cost down to £135. The Skill for Life gift pack contains all that is needed to reach advanced status including the IAM manual. It also includes a years membership of MWAM.

The gift vouchers can be bought either online by visiting www.iam.org.uk/christmas or calling membership services on 0300 303 1134. They are guaranteed to arrive for Christmas if ordered before 18th December 2015 and are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.

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* Some local motorcycle groups may charge an observer's fuel contribution.

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£14
Usual Price £149


Skill for Life, advanced driving and riding gift vouchers





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Group News



New Associates

NEW MEMBERS 2015

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

Name	Location	Observer	Date
John Hough 	Llandrindod Wells	Humphrey Morgan	Aug 15
Mike Price  + existing 	Arddleen	Dave Tompsett	Aug 15
Vince Gilroy 	Howey	Dave Tompsett	Oct-15

Associate Training Course Start Dates 2016

Course	Start Date	Day	Times	Location
  16/01/2015	21/03/2016	Monday	19:00 21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
  16/02/2015	23/05/2016	Monday	19:00 21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
  06/03/2015	25/07/2016	Monday	19:00 21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
 06/04/2015	26/09/2016	Monday	19:00 21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
	Denotes Car Course			
	Denotes Motor-cycle Course			

Your Contacts

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