



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

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The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells



A message from your Newsletter Editor

Hello MWAM members, so here is my first attempt at editing your newsletter. You may be aware that the IAM is rebranding itself to IAMRoadSmart. Hence the flash across page 1 and in a new friendly and cuddly bright blue colour scheme. At this moment in time we are considering how to incorporate this rebranding into our local group. The IAM carried out research that suggested after 60 years the red colour was likely to put people off as it indicated danger, and that talking about safety was a bit of a turn off too. Rest assured we will be looking at something mild rather than wild so words like racing, drifting and doughnuts probably won't feature very much. More to follow...

Our website will be harmonised into the IAMRoadSmart scheme in due course and I hope the process of updating information will be straightforward once the migration process has been undertaken.

Annual General Meeting 2016

Our 12th Annual General Meeting of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists was held on Saturday 19th March 2016 at the Bracken Trust, Cefnlllys Lane, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LJ. We are nothing without our members and we need support and guidance on what we should be doing for the groups and your benefit. I am pleased to announce I became your newly elected Chairman and I trust our small group may continue to punch above its weight regarding the high standards that have been achieved over many years. I am delighted to report that our Committee has received help from two members willing to give some of their time to helping our Group with our rebranding exercise. Welcome to Clive Todman and Martyn Davidson.

We expect this year to be busy as we align ourselves with the IAM rebranding but also with the substance behind this. That is the IAM wanting to appeal to more people by aiming to become the key organisation delivering driving and riding courses across the UK and not simply remain a lobbying group in the eyes of the government. Whether that is at Westminster or in Cardiff. With this in mind I would like to take the opportunity to point out if there is anyone who feels able to offer voluntary time to assist with this, then please get in touch. There is no requirement to join our Committee at the AGM it is possible to be co-opted at any point in the year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

On a jovial note the move by the IAM away from notions of safety may be a step in the wrong direction at a time most Accident and Emergency Departments are finding they are a little busy themselves.

I would ask at this point for suggestions of a suitable caption to go alongside this image. Please email me your ideas. Depending upon the response from you I may create a regular competition piece within our newsletter.

If it proves a popular feature I may seek the Committee to make available a competition prize of a small monetary value.



Driving and Riding Tips on Country Roads

1. Look as far ahead as possible to see what direction the road is taking – hedge lines, telegraph poles or lamp posts all give clues on twists and turns ahead. And always be prepared for something you can't see round the bend – a group of cyclists or a horse, for instance.
2. Wet roads can seriously effect on car control. Keep an eye out for wet leaves or standing water on the road – as well as being slippery they can hide a multitude of hazards.
3. Be mindful of any animals that may also use the road and look out for these warning signs. Horses in particular can be easily startled, so when approaching reduce your speed and give them plenty of room. Pass wide and slow when it is safe. The British Horse Society offers more advice here:
<http://www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/dead-slow>.
4. Keep an eye out for agricultural vehicles on the road too – they probably can't go as fast as you want to, so try and be patient. On a single carriageway road only overtake where there is plenty of room to do so and where there is no oncoming traffic. Remember, any break in the hedge line is a potential junction for a tractor – if in doubt hold back.
5. If you're driving behind a bus or school coach, keep a look out for passengers that start to move around inside. This is usually an indication of passengers getting off at the next bus stop – be prepared to slow down for children crossing the road in front of or behind the bus.

Richard said: "Most country lanes will have a speed limit of 60mph – but this doesn't make it a target. You should be able to stop in the distance you can see to be clear on your own side of the road. On a single track road you may need to stop in half of that distance to allow for oncoming traffic – if you can't see slowdown.

"There are so many potential distractions in this environment, but nothing beats a country road through beautiful scenery on a nice day. Take your time, plan ahead and enjoy the journey."

Richard Gladman is the IAM's head of driving and riding standards

Vehicle Insurance

Isn't the world a funny place at times? I have reached a stage in my life where I thought I had gotten to grips with the way insurance underwriters determine accident risk. Having practiced looking the part of really sensible and mature - that is grey and with very little hair. I was astonished to find that taking up a suggestion made by my wife of "why don't you get a new car instead of running around in old jalopies that go wrong?" - with hindsight probably more astonishing I did anything at all with such a suggestion. If I am honest at first I thought she was talking about my Ferrari and Jaguar, when it was the daily commuters! At the time of writing this the old cars are really going well, now that I have mentioned this, one or two of them probably won't be for much longer.

Anyway having test driven a Ford Fiesta ST2 and for a little car it went very well, and so one is on order from the dealer. My first ever brand new car. Then I wondered what sensible modifications can be done to help its performance a little bit. I was amazed at the possibilities by searching the Fiesta tuning companies and soon put together a wish list. Nothing too outrageous; I think more horsepower is always useful, 240bhp up from 180bhp by fitting a new air intake, a sports cat and performance cat back exhaust with a new chip and re-mapping and a front splitter with side splitters and a rear spoiler extension and a set of wheel spacers is all that is desired.

Then I thought wait a minute what difference to the insurance premium might this lot make? The insurance quote was sought and to my surprise and frankly disbelief, the underwriter arrived at a price which was actually cheaper than insuring a standard vehicle. All arranged with the knowledge that the car has to complete 2000 miles before it has the modifications fitted and no extra administration charge for the alterations when they are added.

Unbelievable! Not that I may advertise here, safe to say something that goes jolly well with a soldering iron.

Group News

CAR and BIKE NATIONAL OBSERVERS - plans are underway by the IAM to address the shortfall of when police officers are reaching the age of retirement with its impact on lack of IAM Examiners. The IAM may create a pathway for Observers to become Test Examiners, more to follow.....

Associate Training Course Start Dates 2016

Course		Start Date	Day	Times		Location
16/2		23/05/2016	Monday	19:00	21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
16/3		25/07/2016	Monday	19:00	21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
						
16/4		26/09/2016	Monday	19:00	21:30	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
						
		Denotes Car Course				
		Denotes Motor-cycle Course				

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