



CHAIRMAN'S INTRO



First of all may I wish a Happy Christmas and New Year to all members and their families, and wish you all Safe Driving over the Christmas and New Year break.

This year has flown by, though not much happened last month. I have had a number of personal issues; A new Granddaughter on 15th November for example, so we have had visits to see her in Harpenden. For these trips we let the train take the strain.

It was good to see a few more members at the last meeting when ED Feldmanis, the Training Officer gave an interesting talk about Winter driving.

The next meeting is on 6th February, when John Bishop will give a talk about his life in transport, so I hope to see you there.

Once again Have a good festive break.

Anthony

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£42M IN PENALTIES LAST YEAR FROM MOTORISTS CAUGHT DRIVING IN BUS LANES

A freedom of information requests revealed that authorities handed out 888,760 bus lane fines and collected nearly £42m in penalties last year from motorists caught driving in bus lanes.

The Local Government Association (LGA) said "Money from fines for traffic offences was spent on local transport improvements and helps to keep pedestrians, motorists and cyclists safe and enable people to park near their homes.

Traffic enforcement cameras help to ensure public transport,

such as buses and trams, operates efficiently, reduces congestion, and keeps roads safe and flowing freely for road users.

Councils make no apology for enforcing the law and if any motorist believes they have been fined unfairly, then they have the right to appeal against it.

"The fact that over 99% of parking and bus lanes fines are not appealed clearly shows that the overwhelming majority of people who are ticketed accept that they have broken the rules."

MAY I WISH
EVERYONE A
HAPPY AND
PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HEALTHY AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR



Dear Members

1. Please note that your membership of the group is due for renewal at the end of this year (31st December 2018). The renewal fee is £18 for the year. However, for ease of accounting, we have decided to bring the membership year in line with our financial year which runs 01 May to 30 April. Therefore, we are asking members **for this time only to pay £24.00** which covers the additional four months fee to 30 April 2020.

2. Our preferred method of payment is via the 'buy now' button on our web-site: www.sussexadvanceddrivers.co.uk but if, for any reason, this is not possible please use one of the payment methods below:

3. Some who pay by standing order may do so as before but will need to change the amount for this year only.

4. If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to 'Sussex Advanced Drivers' and send it to me at: **121 Southdown Road, Seaford, BN25 4JS**

5. Newer members or associates who have joined recently and have already paid up for the year will need to pay the additional fee of **£6 for the four months taking us through to 30th April 2020.**

6. Committee members do not pay – it's their reward for their hard work in keeping the wheels turning!!!

7. Active tutors equally get their membership free. If you are a current tutor who is prepared to carry on tutoring please let me know by the end of the year. Note that you are expected to tutor at least one associate during the year. If you are unable to tutor then you are expected to pay your membership fee.

8. If you currently hold a Silver or Gold and wish to become a tutor for 2019/2020 you will also get free membership. Please let me know so that I can arrange for our Training Officer to contact you with further details and some tutor training

9. Please note that any members who have not renewed by January 31st 2019 will be deemed to have rescinded their membership and will be taken off the list of members. **Please do not rely on being reminded to pay your fees.**

I would be grateful if you could email a reply to kathy.blythe@icloud.com so that we know you have received this email.

I look forward to welcoming you all to an exciting 2019.

With kind regards

Gwyn Davies

Email: membershipsecretary@mail.com

Registered Charity Number: 1075367



50,000 MOTORISTS HAD THEIR LICENCE REVOKED OR REFUSED DUE TO POOR VISION

Recent DVLA figures show that nearly 50,000 motorists had their licence revoked or refused between 2012 and 2016 due to poor vision.

A survey involving more than 2,500 GEM Motoring Assist Members, showed that 75% support mandatory eye testing for anyone returning to driving after a driving ban or medical revocation. 71% of respondents were also in favour of requiring a current eye test certificate to be

provided at the time of renewing a photo card licence. Neil Worth, GEM road safety officer, said:

“If you can’t see properly, you shouldn’t be driving. Poor eyesight is linked to more than 3,000 casualties every year. We are worried that there are just too many people driving whose eyesight has deteriorated to an unacceptable level. We believe it is entirely practical and sensible to require

a test of visual acuity and field of view every 10 years, something that would fit in with licence renewal. Tests of this kind would not only make our roads safer but would also play a vital role in the early diagnosis of many other costly medical conditions, irrespective of driving. The time has come to accept that the current driver eyesight test simply isn’t fit for purpose. Self-certification is not acceptable for drivers, especially as more and more people expect to stay behind the wheel into their eighties and beyond.”

A survey conducted by IAM RoadSmart, has found that many drivers have a real lack of awareness of the rules of the road, putting themselves and others in danger.

□ More than 50% admitted their road knowledge was so poor, they didn't recognise the roundabout sign.

More than two-thirds of drivers had no understanding of the two second rule

□ More than two-thirds of drivers admitted they had no understanding of the two second rule.

□ Some 68% of drivers were unaware of the two-second following distance in dry weather, with 53% confusing this for two car lengths. This results in a gap of less than a third of a second when travelling at 60mph, for an average-sized family car.

MANY DRIVERS LACK AWARENESS OF THE RULES OF THE ROAD

□ Only 43% correctly recognised the Highway Code 'dual carriageway ends' sign, with respondents aged between 17 and 39 being the largest group to answer this incorrectly.

□ Almost half (48%) were unaware that the first thing you need to do when arriving at a scene of a serious crash is to warn others of the danger by turning on hazard lights.

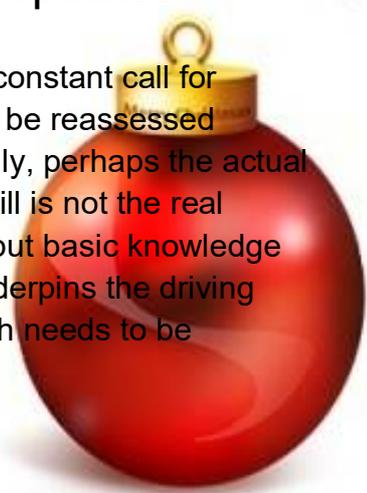
□ Over half were not able to identify that a circle shaped sign demonstrates traffic signs that give orders – a crucial piece of information when on the road. Drivers aged 70 onwards statistically scored below average on this question.

□ Two-thirds of those surveyed admitted they were unable to

recognise the colour of the reflective studs between a motorway and its slip road, with only one in five (20%) of those aged 17 to 39 answering correctly that they are green.

basic knowledge needs to be updated

With the constant call for drivers to be reassessed periodically, perhaps the actual driving skill is not the real problem but basic knowledge which underpins the driving task which needs to be updated?



RAC ANNUAL REPORT ON MOTORING

The 2018 edition of the RAC Annual Report on Motoring provides a detailed picture of drivers' attitudes and opinions on important topics such as understanding the continuing role the car plays in so many people's lives, to the condition and maintenance of the UK's roads, and the behaviour of other road users. The views of the UK's approximately 40m motorists are important to politicians, local authorities and the motor industry when it comes to developing policies and plans for the future. The report this year highlights the growing frustration amongst

The fourth annual Safety Culture Survey published by IAM RoadSmart from the views of over 2,000 drivers about their worries, fears and attitudes has shown that traffic congestion is the top concern and drivers engaged in social media on the move is seen as the biggest risk to personal safety.

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More than three-quarters (76%) of those surveyed said that congestion is a bigger problem than three years ago, followed by mobile phone usage (73%). The third biggest concern was aggressive drivers, which more

motorists particularly in terms of road maintenance. The Report also compares the most recent findings with those from previous annual Reports on Motoring in order to highlight changes and trends in motorists' views. The research contained within the Report is based on interviews conducted with a representative sample of more than 1,800 drivers from across the UK.

The top concern among motorists is now the condition and maintenance of local roads.

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ANNUAL SAFETY CULTURE SURVEY BY IAM

than a third (68%) of respondents said was a bigger problem than in 2015. However motorists feel 'a serious threat' to their safety while driving is drivers checking or updating their social media or texting ranked first, with 93%. Other major concerns were people driving after using illegal drugs (91%) and after drinking alcohol (90%), drivers speeding on residential streets (89%), talking on mobile phones (89%) and ignoring red lights (88%). In terms of drivers' attitudes, 48% of respondents said driving at 10mph over the limit on a motorway was acceptable,

potholes – has become the most frequently cited concern among Britain's motorists. This year, 42% of motorists say the condition and maintenance of local roads is one of their four main concerns, a significant rise on the 33% recorded in 2017. Almost one in five drivers (17%) say this issue is their number-one concern.

Meanwhile, 78% of motorists believe the state of both local and strategic roads – major dual carriageways and motorways – is 'generally poor'; 66% say the condition of their local roads has deteriorated in the past 12 months, while 40% say the same of major roads. The majority of drivers (83%) would like to see a proportion of the motoring taxes they pay ring-fenced to fund maintenance of local roads.

while 45% believe it is 'alright' to talk on a hands-free mobile phone. 23% of respondents said they were willing to drive at five miles an hour over the limit in a residential street, 11% said they would drive without a seatbelt and 9% said they would drive at 5mph over the limit near a school.

Talking about their own bad habits, 5% admitted they regularly talked on a mobile phone while driving, with 4% confessing to have regularly driven while feeling drowsy or tired. When asked what traffic police should make a top priority, drink and drug driving was significantly the biggest choice (59%), followed by drivers using hand-held mobile phones (12%) and speeding on local roads (10%).

PROGRAMME FOR MEETINGS 2019

Date	Speaker	Confirmed/TBC
Wed 6 February	John Bishop – ‘My Life with Transport’	Confirmed
Thurs 30 May	AGM + Katie Bourne Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner	Confirmed
Wed 4 September		TBC
Wed 4 December		TBC

Group Secretary's notes:

All meetings are held at:

St John Ambulance, 16 Crowhurst Road, Hollingbury, Brighton, BN1 8AP

Start time: 7.30 for 8pm

To ensure you are kept informed of news and extra activities arranged for the group, please could all members and associate members let us know of any changes to your contact details so that we can update the group's database.

Kathy Blythe: kathy.blythe@btinternet.com

Sussex RoSPA

Disclaimer: The information contained within this communication is drawn from a variety of sources and whilst every effort is made to ensure it is correct, Sussex RoSPA cannot be held responsible for any misinformation provided by third parties. It should also be noted that in using the information it does not necessarily reflect RoSPA policy, practise or its position on any given matter, unless specifically stated, but is provided for the purposes of information to its members.



WINTER DRIVING BY ED FELDMANIS

"ONLY A FOOL LEARNS FROM HIS OWN MISTAKES!"

INTRODUCTION

Why?

Preparation before the onset of Winter

Preparation before each Journey

Driving in Wintry Conditions

What (not) to do in a Breakdown

What Next?

WHY?

Days are shorter and nights longer

**Covered last year in
Night Driving**

Ice

**Increased chances of
skidding**

Snow

You may also get stuck

Cold (and wet and often windy)

**Ripe conditions for exposure/
hypothermia/death!**

BEFORE WINTER

Make sure that your vehicle is ready for winter:

Serviced

Battery is fit

Correct anti freeze concentrations

Wipers/washers/lights

Breakdown cover for when it goes wrong

Tyres

TYRES

Winter tyres

Wider tread pattern

Different rubber compound

More effective below 7C and in snow

Better traction in snow than a 4x4 with summer tyres

ECONOMICS

D3 Auto 2WD - £30,920

D3 Auto AWD - £32,320

Difference - **£1,400**

Cost of 4 winter tyres - **£476**

Cost offset by less wear

2WD - 4 mpg better economy

Tyre hotels if space an issue

ALL SEASON TYRES

Provide a good compromise

between summer and winter tyres

BEFORE THE JOURNEY

Check weather forecasts:

start, route and destination

**Is your journey really
necessary?**

Plan your route

BE PREPARED

Warm, weatherproof clothing including hat and gloves

Food and hot drinks

Torch, high visibility vest, warning triangle

Snow shovel, old mat/carpets,

tow rope, jump leads, deicer

Charged mobile (breakdown number pre-programmed)

Sleeping bag, blankets

BEFORE THE JOURNEY

Check weather forecasts:

start, route and destination

**Is your journey really
necessary?**



WINTER DRIVING BY ED FELDMANIS

"ONLY A FOOL LEARNS FROM HIS OWN MISTAKES!" PAGE 2

Plan your route
Clear all glass surfaces
Clean all snow off the car - requirement

DRIVING

Adequate fuel for journey (and more!)

Prevent flat batteries:

Starting drill

Avoid unnecessary drains on the battery

Keep a larger gap from vehicles in front

Be gentle with all controls

Use higher gears and/or special snow driving settings

BE AWARE

Low sun - have sunglasses available

Listen - no tyre roar = ice

BLACK ICE

BE AWARE

Look - black ice looks like damp patch on road

Be alert to micro climates

MICRO CLIMATES

SNOW

Headlights on if it is snowing heavily

Be wary when driving in tracks of vehicle in front

Don't overtake snow ploughs!

Be alert to dangers of driving under trees laden with snow

Some other things to consider:

IF STUCK IN SNOW

Consider turning off the TCS and rocking the vehicle by driving forwards and backwards

Switch TCS back on when moving

ABS

Does not necessarily shorten braking distances

Allows you to brake and steer the vehicle with control

BREAKDOWN

Every situation will be different

Wear high visibility jacket and put out warning triangle

Call breakdown service

Keep warm

Beware of dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning if running engine in a snow drift

SKID CONTROL

Don't get into a skid in the first place!

WHAT NEXT?

Best way to improve winter driving techniques is to experience a low grip surface

Please let Kevin Reader know if you would be interested in this kind of event in future

