

# *IN GEAR*



*Barnstaple & North Devon  
Group of  
Advanced Motorists*

**Issue 3&4 2010**

Group No. 1189  
Registered Charity 1080449

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## **Data Protection Act 1998**

In order to comply with the terms of this Act, all members are entitled to know that Membership details are kept on a computer database for convenience and efficiency of the Group.

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*The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Institute of Advanced Motorists or of Barnstaple & North Devon Group, but those of the individual contributors.*

## Chairman's Chatter.

Welcome to the combined 3rd and 4th issue of "In Gear" for this year, time seems to be flying

I'm happy to report that we have up to now had a good year and recruited several new members, and the way things are looking, we are heading towards the new year with a waiting list of Associates.

We have had some new banners publicising the group made, hopefully I can get some photos shortly.

I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's looking forward to another good year for the group!

That's it for this issue, and this year, until the next time.

Safe driving!

*Dave Folland*

Chairman 2010/11

# Editorial

## Or Is It Dave's Rave ?

Here we are once again,

Well, I had no replies to the question I posed regarding my old Rover, so I can only surmise you were not interested.

This is your Newsletter please give me some ideas, any suggestions will be listened to.

Without items from Group Members or friends this newsletter will be a very small issue in the future.

That's it for this issue, I'm off back into my darkened room until the next time.

Until then keep the shiny side up and the dirty side down!!

Safe driving.

Your Editor

*Dave.*

## News From IAM House

### **Prepare your car for cold-snap**

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) is offering drivers in Scotland tips on preparing their cars for winter, as Arctic winds and snowfall are forecast over the next few days.

It is predicted that unseasonably cold temperatures will be accompanied by wintry showers on the east coast and in Scotland with hail, sleet and even snow on higher ground.

Peter Rodger, IAM Chief Examiner said: "Now is the time to give your car a health-check before winter conditions take their toll. Bad weather can strike quickly, and more severely than you expect, so it's really important to get your car ready to face the elements before they deteriorate."

Mr Rodger suggests some easy tips to prepare your car for winter:

1. In a British winter you are more likely to encounter wind and rain so make sure your windscreen wipers are in good condition and you clean the inside of the windscreen regularly
2. Do a proper winter check of your vehicle particularly the tyres, top up your washer fluid and make sure your old ice scraper and cans of de-icer are up to the job
3. The legal minimum for tyre tread in the UK is 1.6mm, but for optimum safety start looking for replacements

if the depth is below 3mm. Tyres with less than 1mm of tread depth have one third the braking friction of one at the bare legal min of 1.6mm, and below 3mm the tyres skid resistance begins to decline rapidly

4. Check all lights. While someone observes the lights around the car, switch on each light one-by-one: headlights, sidelights, fog lights, indicators, brake lights, reversing lights, hazard warning lights and number

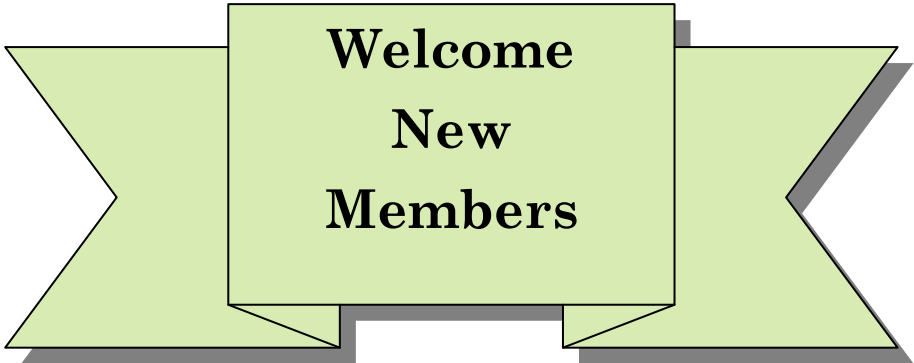
plate lights. If alone, park by a reflective surface such as a garage door, illuminate all lights in sequence and look for the reflections

5. Pack an emergency kit in the boot. The IAM recommends a warm coat and a high visibility jacket, some food and water, a good pair of boots, de-icer and scraper, a torch, a spade and a mobile phone with a well charged

battery. It's also a good idea to programme your breakdown provider's emergency number, and your own customer reference number into your phone

Mr Rodger continued: "A survey\* has found that ten out of 11 rural councils still

have not managed to complete all the necessary road repairs after last winter's severe weather, and it is likely that budget cuts will make things worse. If this problem is reflected across the country, having a well-maintained car, with particular attention to your tyres, is going to be of massive importance."



- ◆ Dr Jeff Smallcombe
- ◆ Ruth Isaac
- ◆ John Harrison
- ◆ Dr Angus MacDonald

## **This Newsletter.**

I know I've asked before, but I need items for the newsletter, anything will be considered, as long as it has some connection to driving, or motoring, even loosely!!!! I would like to bring the group 4 newsletters a year, but without your input I will struggle. **Please Help !!!!**

# Congratulations !

To the following people on passing their Advanced Driving Tests.

**ASSOCIATE.**

Paul Hancock  
Sylvia West  
Roger Bristow



**OBSERVER.**

Percy Mound  
James Dilworth  
Bob Salisbury

If you have any thing you would like included in future issues, see me at the meetings; it's easy to pick me out, I'll be near the table at the front. Or if you have a computer E-Mail it to me at [chair.dave@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chair.dave@hotmail.co.uk)

**DEAD LINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.**

**11th February 2011**

## October Group Meeting

Gerry warmly introduced Barrie Styles on 13th October, 2010 who returned and spoke to us about attitudes to driving and characteristics of good drivers. Being a good driver involves developing appropriate attitudes such as caution, awareness of others, courtesy skill and of course consideration not only to other road users but also pedestrians as in 1066 King John said everyone had the right to roam freely

Whilst driving one uses all senses and it is important to look but also 'to look and see' which involves 100% concentration to spot potential hazards – if you do not see/hear it you are unable to deal with or react to it. Our sixth sense (that uneasy feeling) also plays a big part in our driving and should not be overlooked!

Collisions do not 'just happen' as 90% are caused by human error. A third of all collisions involve employees at work because of their higher exposure to road use. Consequently Employers are required by law to properly assess an employee's driving ability and courses are available for driver improvement and ECO safe driving whereby wear tear and fuel costs can be reduced by 15%. Additionally, Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007 makes employers responsible where serious failures including fatalities occur within their business.

Our values and beliefs originate with our families friends and peers but it is events that change attitudes so we should all think 'WHAT IF' before an event rather than 'IF ONLY' afterwards!

*Denise Dilworth*

# News From IAM House

## **Action needed to protect road safety in face of cuts**

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) says that spending cuts to transport and police budgets could have a disproportionate effect on road safety, and urges all public bodies involved in reducing deaths on our roads to continue to make road safety their top priority.

Neil Greig, the IAM's Policy and Research Director, said: "It was great to see a downward trend in road deaths in recent DfT figures, and therefore it's hard to accept anything that might threaten progress achieved so far. Budget cuts may be necessary but their cumulative effect on some of the main partners in road safety, such as the emergency services and local highway authorities, may make it more difficult to sustain past successes.

"It would be an awful legacy if budget cuts slowed or reversed the trend to less death and injury on the road. The important task now is to compensate for these cuts. Public bodies have more freedom than ever on where to spend their resources and I urge them not to forget the long-term benefits from investing in better education, as well as training programmes and safer infrastructure.

"As the UK's largest independent road safety charity we believe that the third sector has much to offer and we will be seeking new partnerships to maintain the momentum for safer roads in the UK."

## Coming Events

**January 12th** — Speaker Mr Paul Shaddick Devon Air Ambulance

**February 9th** — Speaker Mr Jim Ricketts, St John's Ambulance

**March 9th** — Speaker Sgt Bob Lee Devon & Cornwall Police

If you have any suggestions for further ideas please speak to any of the Committee, they will all be wearing ID Badges making them easier to spot.

**Dead line for the next issue  
11th February 2011**

## In Our Group.

Currently we have :-

90 Members

If any Full Member or Associate have family or friends they would like to bring along to the monthly meetings, they are more than welcome.

Any Full Members interested in becoming Observers, please talk to one of the Committee Members. This can be arranged.

## Group T Shirts



Would any Member be interested in publicising our Group?

We have a limited number of T Shirts printed with the Group logo.

Size large.

All at one price

**£10-00**



Please contact any of the Committee listed at the front of this newsletter

# Technology

## **1. Infotainment, navigation and personalisation getting to your destination in comfort and in the know.**

### 1.1 The car key of the future.

A weekend trip with just your BMW key with you? Not a problem, as you can use it to book tickets, make cashless payments and access your hotel room.

### 1.2 My BMW Remote.

A Smartphone app leads you back to your parking space and sets the desired interior vehicle temperature in advance.

### 1.3 Seamless Media Access.

Just brought home the latest album by your favourite band and only have time to listen to the first three tracks? No worries: track 4 will be ready to play in the car.

### 1.4 Mood-based playlist.

Chill out music on country roads, karaoke in a traffic jam, prog-rock after work – the Mood-based playlist delivers the appropriate music for every situation.

### 1.5 iPod Out.

Select tracks, compile playlists and use Genius – anything your iPod can do, your car can too.

### 1.6 Micro pause apps.

Hate the wait at red lights? Why not fill the time by reading the news or playing a game? Your car will let you know in good time when the lights are ready to turn green.

### 1.7 Outlook functionality in the car.

Can't survive without mail? The car's Outlook facility flags up the "You have mail" message directly from the exchange mail server.

### 1.8 Message Dictation.

If you want to reply right away, there's no need to stop the car. Simply dictate your emails and text messages without taking your hands off the wheel or your eyes off the road.

### 1.9 iDrive Controller with integrated touch control.

A touch-sensitive surface on the iDrive Controller makes writing even easier.

### 1.10 Micro Navigation.

Which entrance at the zoo will get you straight to the elephant enclosure? Micro Navigation takes route guidance beyond the road.

### 1.11 Urban navigation.

Heading for a major event in town? With its insider knowledge, the urban navigation function works out the best detour.

### 1.12 Mobility Assistant.

Sometimes it's quicker to go by public transport. The Mobility Assistant tells you when, guides you to a free parking space, and briefs you in advance on the return journey.

## **2. Driver assistance systems of the future – a guardian angel on board.**

### 2.1 Active PDC.

You're reversing out of a tight parking spot with your attention focused on the rear, while at the front things are getting too close for comfort – Active PDC helps prevent parking bumps and scrapes.

### 2.2 Remote Controlled Parking.

In future all you will need to do is park your car in front of the garage. The vehicle then manoeuvres itself into the garage – and out again – by remote control.

### 2.3 Proactive pedestrian protection systems.

You just glance right for a second and a pedestrian steps out from the left. In such situations, proactive pedestrian protection systems can save lives through warnings and emergency braking.

#### 2.3.1 Camera-based pedestrian protection.

### 2.4 Active Hazard Braking.

If the brake lights of the car ahead are approaching too fast, Active Hazard Braking automatically intervenes to prevent a collision – even at high speeds.

### 2.5 Lateral Collision Avoidance.

Multiple lanes, heavy traffic, the adjacent vehicle is trying to avoid a cyclist – Lateral Collision Avoidance swiftly points you to the best lane.

### 2.6 Traffic Jam and Queuing Assistant.

Active Cruise Control can be extended by the Traffic Jam and Queuing Assistant to keep the car in its lane even when cornering.

### 2.7 Emergency Stop Assistant.

A heart attack on the motorway – the car takes over, moves safely across to the hard shoulder without impeding other road users, and summons help.

## **Connected Drive for Efficient Dynamics – improved efficiency and dynamics through networking.**

### 3.1 Green Driving Assistant.

What's an extra ten minutes' journey time when you can save three litres of fuel? The Green Driving Assistant allows you to select your route based on these options before you set out.

3.2 ECO mode – more efficient driving at the touch of a button.

How efficient is my driving? Is there room for improvement? Switch to ECO mode at the press of a button and simply sail towards the next motorway exit.

3.2.1 Display concept.

3.2.2 Active coasting and the proactive driving assistant.

3.3 Intelligent learning navigation.

Tailbacks on the way home: the intelligent learning navigation system alerts you even if you haven't entered a destination. And it even knows your favourite "rat run".

*Anthony Darling*

## More Amusement

X is a clever man he has a Masters degree in IT from a top university.

He wished to purchase a new car, and after considering the wishes of his wife and children as to which type of vehicle it would be, made the deciding factor the technology package provided and how user friendly it was.

His choice had satellite navigation, CD, radio, iPod, MP3 and Bluetooth phone connectivity. His choice was not influenced by power, reliability or comfort of the vehicle. These were taken for granted in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In the coming week X will attend the local court to face a charge of 'driving without due care and attention'. The police have informed him that further more serious charges may follow.

His Sat Nav never told him to stop at the cross roads, and X was so engrossed in playing with his new toys to react in time.

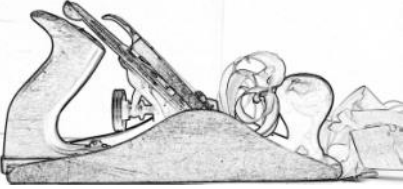
The mobile phone has proven to be a dangerous distraction for drivers, but some still insist in using them whilst driving.

How many more in car devices will be installed to distract the driver leading to more crashes?

No Government will commit to political suicide by banning them, so what next?

H G Wells and Jules Verne among others have made their predations, for amusement only of course so there's nothing to worry about then??

Puff puff!



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## For Your Information

Going on holiday, not sure of what to do with the pet cat?

### *Devondale Boarding Cattery*



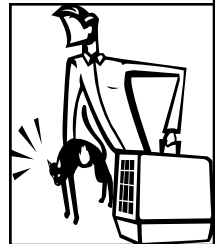
*48 Nelson Road*



*Westward Ho!*

*01237 424109*

*Ask for Suzanne*



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products and services we provide.

# Thanks

The Chairman and Committee of Barnstaple & North Devon Advanced Motorists would like to thank the following people and organisations for the help they give

**Slee Blackwell Solicitors.**

For the use of conference rooms.

**Truscotts {Barnstaple}**

For providing cars for various displays

**Michael Newcombe, Devon County  
Council Road Safety Officer.**

For printing "In Gear" and mailing  
copies to all our Members.

**Silver Street Motors**

For providing cars for various displays

**Barrie Styles. One 2 One Driver  
Training**

For providing Driving Talks

# DEVON ROAD SAFETY GROUP

For information, advice and guidance on all road safety issues including:

- Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity
- Company Driver Training
- Minibus Driver Training
- Pre-Licence (16+ years) Driver Training
- Speed Reduction in your community
- Safer Journeys for Devon's School children including:
  - Child Pedestrian Training
  - Virtual "Walking Buses"
  - Cycle Safety



**Contact:**

**Michael Newcombe,**  
Road Safety Officer,  
Northern Devon

**Telephone:** 01271 388496

**Fax:** 01271 388490

E-mail: [michael.newcombe@devon.gov.uk](mailto:michael.newcombe@devon.gov.uk)

**or visit us at:**

[www.devon.gov.uk/envIRON/roadsafe](http://www.devon.gov.uk/envIRON/roadsafe)



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

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