



NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Robin Apps - 01953 488003

DriveLines

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The monthly newsletter for the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association.

www.roadanorfolk.org.uk

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A festive graphic with the text 'HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!' in large, colorful, multi-colored letters. The background features a burst of purple and white fireworks.

Your President, Chairman and Committee wish all our Members and Families a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Another season has passed! A big build up and it is soon over. I hope you all had a wonderful time and able to spend time with your loved ones. Did you get that present you desired?

There has been a lot of hype in the press recently over the price of petrol/diesel. It has been much vaunted that the price is now below £1 a litre. Have you found any yet? I have, but only just. In my area lowest price has been 99.9p at a supermarket. That was for diesel which for the first time is cheaper than petrol! It is also said that Saudi is awash with oil and they refusing to cut back on production (much to chagrin of the big oil companies), but the price has not come down that much. The Government are still taking their large chunk of the cost in tax, with the oil company creaming another large amount which does not leave very much for the owners/leaseholders of the Service Stations. We are now informed that Iran has

been a good boy and sanctions are being lifted and that they are awash with oil to sell. It said on the news that two executives from two oil companies were already on the way to Iran about sales. If this means that there will even be more oil than ever in the market place, does it mean that the price of fuel will really come down to acceptable levels! Watch this space, but I will not be holding my breath! If any of our Members know of a petrol station with favourable pricing of fuel, please pass it on to us so we can all partake. I did actually see a Station the other day which has broken the mould, they were charging 99.8 – it could come down a point one at a time!!!

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Membership is now due. All of you who pay by Standing Order should have received a membership card dated 2016 and those who joined after September 2015 will have a card dated 2016. If you do not have a 2016 card the membership fee of £12 needs to be sent to the membership secretary (61 Stylman Road, Cloverhill, Norwich, NR5 9ET) immediately along with your renewal form. Membership fee for those paying by SO is £10. If you would like to set up a standing order please contact the membership secretary by e-mail (peter.matchett@sky.com) and he will e-mail a SO form. As soon as he has received confirmation of payment a new card will be sent.

What's On

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED
7.30PM AT THE PAVILION, OAKFIELD ROAD, CRINGLEFORD

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE MEETINGS ARE HELD ON
THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.
THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE LAST WEDNESDAY**

MEETINGS

JANUARY - 2016

Wednesday, 27th January 2016

Malcolm Cooper - Norfolk Seaside Holidays.

Malcolm will be giving us a talk all about Norfolk Seaside Holidays. This will give an insight into the history of how and why Norfolk developed into a holiday destination and where it stands to-day in relation to the rest of the country. Anybody who is interested in how and why Norfolk developed is advised to come along as is all our Members to support our evenings.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 24th February 2016

This evening's speaker has not yet been finalised. It is hoped to have a driving allied talk and possibly one of the staff from Eastern Daily Press giving us an interesting insight into one aspect of driving. A lot depends on the weather and if the Speaker cannot make it we will be open so that those local Members can enjoy an evening of in house entertainment.

MARCH

Wednesday, 23rd March 2016

The local Group's Annual General Meeting followed by an in house DVD presentation. This is your chance to have your say about how your Group is run, your ideas to help or even to volunteer to come on the Committee to assist. Please make a note in your diaries and we hope to see as many Members attending as possible.

APRIL Wednesday, 27th April 2016 - The Wherry Trust

MAY Wednesday, 25th April 2016 - Mileposts

Chairman's Chunterings!

Happy New Year to all our members; I hope that 2016 keeps you all in good health, good spirits and safe on the road. By the time you read this, you should have received our survey seeking your views. I hope you can find a few free minutes to respond so that we can get some guidance for the future.

A few "useful" phrases to remember as your 2016 New-Year resolution:

Planning to stop looking to go - slowing it down until you know.

Brakes to slow -Gears to go.

One reason - One braking.

Speed for the hazard – Gear for the speed.

Brake on the straight bits - Steer on the bendy bits.

Slow in, fast out - Fast in, sh*t out!

If you've got your foot on the foot brake, you really ought to have two hands on the steering wheel.

Gears - Don't choose it until you can use it.

Think before you blink (indicators)

Do you use a car with one of the "new-fangled" keyless ignition/starting systems? If so, is it secure? I have no idea how accurate this is, but please see the following:

"Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to make you aware of 2 theft of motor vehicles in the ----- area,

Vehicle 1 was left insecure with keys in ignition; this has simply been opened and driven off.

Vehicle 2 was parked in a garage and thought to be secure, however this vehicle uses a push start ignition and so, even if the vehicle is locked but the keys are still in range you would be able to use the push start ignition and drive off from the address. Please also be aware that if it is push start ignition, the vehicle will drive even once it is out of range of the keys and will only become an issue should they stop the vehicle once away from the address.

If your vehicle is a push start ignition, please make sure the keys are as far away from the vehicle as possible. Do not leave car or house keys near to front doors or letterboxes as offenders often use wire or poles to steal them through the letterbox.

Please also be aware that should your car be stolen with keys or was left insecure at the time, that your insurance company is unlikely to pay out!"

Food for Thought?

Update on "A cautionary tale" (November Drive lines. The story of one man's fight with the DVLA):

Peter sent to D.V.L.A. an opticians report on his eye test which was deemed acceptable. In mid-November Peter received a letter informing him that due to the delay in processing his application it was now out of date. On phoning the D.V.L.A. was told "sorry but a valid certificate is a must". Peter requested to speak to the manager and was told of "of course you can, but it will do no good rules are rules and there are no discretionary powers available to break them." Peter attended his optician and sent the now up to date certificate away. Some-one must have taken pity on Peter as his Driving licence was reinstated and he duly received it on the December the 29th. It had only taken seven and a half months from his first application!

J Bean.

Thank you John a very interesting tale and a warning to all about Governments Departments.

About those others who are supposed to help the motorist? I have a cautionary tale of my own concerning those that call themselves the fourth emergency service! The Automobile Association. Only last Friday evening having been to the chip shop and with supplies on board I approached a major junction in St. Ives in the outside lane to turn right at traffic lights. My clutch failed completely. There was I stuck in the middle of the road. My electronic handbrake came on and without a clutch I could not get it off (I now know how!) I could not move the car. Contacted the AA, explained my predicament and they stated it would be treated as a priority. They then telephoned me back and said they were busy but I was a priority and it would be about 1 HOUR. 1 ½ hours later I telephoned back to the AA and they said a local garage was dealing and would be there in 20 minutes. Nothing happened. In the meantime a nice young gentleman came along and knew how to release the handbrake and he single handed pushed my car 100yards to a petrol station forecourt. I was glad the Station was open as that night was the coldest we had endured this year! The Police arrived after a couple hours as they had had a report about me. Assured I was safe and well they went on their way. Another telephone call to the AA only received the response they were busy and they apologised. At 9.45pm the garage arrived, some 3 ½ hours after my first call to the AA. I do not think I need to say anything else other than a letter of complaint is winging its way to the Chief Executive. I shudder to think how long it would have been if I had not been a 'priority'! The fish and chips were ruined.

NOVEMBER DRIVING QUIZ - Answers:

1. Anti-lock Braking System
2. Green Card
3. D.V.L.A.
4. Doctor
5. Toucan crossings are light controlled crossings which allow cyclists and pedestrians to share crossing space and cross at the same time. They are push button controlled. Pedestrians and cyclist will see the green light together. Cyclists are permitted to ride across. (Para.25 Highway Code 2015).
6. True
7. Your Vehicle Insurance
8. 1.6mm

9. Advisory

10. No.

**DO NOT FORGET THE VERY IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE YEAR
YOUR**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 23rd MARCH 2016 CRINGLEFORD PAVILION 7.30PM

Please come along the meeting is for and about your Club -

Your chance to tell us what you think and want from the club.

Volunteers required please to join us on the Committee

YOUR IDEAS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

Can we please have as many members as possible at this one.

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