



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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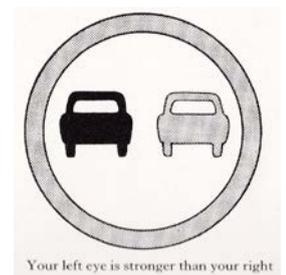
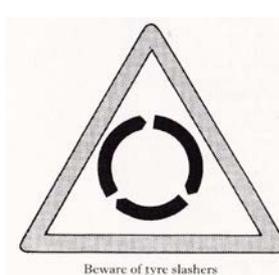
Quiz



I think it is a case of deja vu! A couple of months ago I reported on a statement about the A.47 and upgrading. Now what! A certain Political party has stated that if 'you vote for us we will ensure that the A.47 is upgraded'! A cash amount was mentioned but no definitive directions as to which Sections would be constructed. It is a long road through to Cambridgeshire. There is no guarantee that if that Party does come to power that the promise will be kept, it appears that the Country is still in a mess finance wise and further cut backs are to come. Whether we believe or not what the politicians say we must all keep watching this and keep pushing for the upgrades to be made to our other main artery from the County to the Midlands and North. Write to your current Member of Parliament now, and again, after the Election pushing to ensure that this road (A.47) is included in future planning by the Department of Transport (sooner than later). Watch this space I expect I will have to mention it again.

Christmas and winter is coming and further in this edition is our annual, helpful (we hope), advice on preparing for the bad weather we must expect sometime soon.

This month our meeting evening is our social evening. It is our Christmas get together and a thank you from your Committee to all our Members. It has been decided that we will have a 'table-top rally' this year. This is good fun. Just map reading and picking out special points. It always ends up with a laugh and it does not matter if you get lost, you are still in the dry and warm and have not used any petrol! Come along and enjoy yourself and meet your fellow Members. Bring your partners and friends and have a good evening.



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

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 26th November 2014

Christmas Social Evening – Everybody welcome including partners and friends. This is our relaxed Christmas meeting. We will have a 'table top rally'. This is not onerous, just some fun. This meeting also promises the hugely exciting and extravagant "Xmas" raffle with the hope that everyone wins a prize. That, together with a Christmas buffet to stop the tummies rumbling, should make for a very entertaining evening. If you wish to donate a raffle prize or bring along some buffet food, we would all be extremely grateful. Try and make this one, it is good chance to meet fellow Members in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

DECEMBER

NO MEETING

2015

JANUARY

Wednesday, 28th January 2015

The speaker still not confirmed but will be announced in the next Newsletter.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, 25th February 2015

For all those train buffs – a talk on Norfolk's railways.

DO NOT FORGET THAT AT ALL OUR MEETINGS TEA OR COFFEE IS FREE.

Messages from our Chairman:

Well, here we are again, the run-up to another Christmas and New Year – where does the time go? I know we all have busy lives and pastimes but are you like me, just not seeming to have enough spare time? How did we ever manage to find enough time for jobs and working?

Although I was obliged to miss our October meeting for health reasons, those who did manage to attend were entertained by a talk on the history of Coleman's.

However, regrettably only eight members attended and this placed the group in a rather embarrassing situation. With a Group membership of almost one hundred and such a low attendance level, perhaps we need to reconsider our

meetings programme and the associated costs. I would be pleased to hear any comments or thoughts from any member – should we have a survey in the next Drivelines?



Committee Members Still Needed!



Our Committee's numbers are reducing due to retirement and relocation. We need volunteers – your Group needs you! The committee work is the opposite of onerous and meetings are kept to the minimum but we need some new faces and fresh ideas to help us move ahead. If you are interested, please contact me (Robin Apps -Chairman) to discuss. Contact details are on the website or corner me at the next meeting.

Hi there!

'As you might have noticed, over the weekend someone - mentioning no names! - managed to knock down the web I'd built between the door and the door mirror of your car. Again! Well, just to let you know, I've been working flat out and the good news is - the web is rebuilt! It was a rush job and it's not quite as big as before but don't worry, it's a work in progress and I'm confident I can make it just as large and just as covered in tiny bits of leaf! I'm sure you're probably concerned about some other aspects of the web such as whether or not it will blow away if you drive at high speed on the A11/A47. Well, I have marvellous news for you, it won't! In fact, I'm

pretty confident that no matter how fast you drive, the web will still be there! You'll forget about it when you get out of your car but rest assured, you'll notice it again when you're driving along!

You may also have some worries about what do when washing your car. Well, I'm afraid that under those circumstances, the web will be damaged but don't worry, **I will be safe**. No matter how much water you squirt into the door mirror, the great news is, I'll survive! You see, I received water survival training from my big cousin (the garden spider). I think you might actually know him; he lives in your bath's plughole! By the way, if my new web does not meet with your satisfaction, please do let me know. I can always build another one; and another; and another! In fact, I'm more than happy to keep building them for the rest of the time you own the car! And I probably will!

All the best for Christmas and 2015

Incy Wincy

(The spider inside your door mirror)



Just in case you hadn't noticed, it's November again and we have returned to the same old problem that we encounter twice each year. Yes, it's the low-angled sun shining through your hazy windscreens. I always find it amazing how much vision can be affected by just leaving a month's worth of grime (well haze or whatever it is). Five minutes using a good glass cleaner can make a world of difference to our safety. Go on, be a devil, make some time to clean the inside of all the glass.

NEWS FLASH

The RoADAR Manager has just informed all Groups that the "new" Chief Examiner (Stuart MacMillan) has decided that, after just one year in post and following a recent RoADAR reorganisation, he does not wish to continue in that role after 5th November. The post of Chief Examiner is being re-advertised.

Test Passes:

The following Test Results have been submitted since the last edition of Drivelines:

| | | |
|----------|---------------|------|
| Retests: | Philip Brooks | Gold |
| | Peter Fellows | Gold |

Congratulations to you both

and remember, if you don't tell us, we can't tell you!

Happy Christmas to you all - Robin Apps

Peter, our Membership Secretary, was intrigued by small white boxes at Traffic Lights and contacted Norfolk County Council Highways - The following was their reply. We thought it would be of interest to our Members.

Wireless MESH project:

Background: Norfolk County Council operates an Urban Traffic Control System (UTC) to help it monitor, control and coordinate the traffic signal junctions and pedestrian crossings in the main urban areas of Norwich, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth.

The primary communications network which currently supports the UTC system is based on legacy analogue technology. The UTC system which is operated from County Hall uses 148 dedicated leased lines and other high capacity private data circuits provided by BT to connect traffic signal junctions and crossings throughout these urban areas.

In 2004 BT announced that they would no longer be providing additional lines and would be discontinuing support for this type of line from 2018. Manufacturers were also warning of the imminent obsolescence of existing analogue data transmission unit equipment which supports the traffic light management system.

The latest digital technology is not compatible with the existing circuits which provide connectivity and therefore Norfolk County Council needed to investigate cost effective options to refresh the underlying network and to provide a network service that caters for future innovation in transport network services for the county.

The new solution was required to:

- o Reduce on-going communications revenue costs associated with the UTC Systems.
- o Provide a network compatible with other existing traffic control related systems ie CCTV.
- o Provide a solution compatible with new and emerging technologies to future proof the network.

Project

In January 2014 , following a procurement process and submission of competitive bids, a Traffic Signal Maintenance contract was awarded to Imtech Traffic & Infra Limited which included an associated contract to provide a replacement digital communications network – the contracts commenced 1st April 2014.

Imtechs solution was to replace all BT lines with a county wide digital wireless network.

The project was assessed as meeting the requirements of a spend to save initiative.

The capital cost of the project will be £753,000.00. Removing the existing BT lines and private circuits will result in annual savings of £140,000.00 per year. Further savings will be made on completion of the project when old equipment can be decommissioned.

Traffic signals are being connected via antennae mounted on top of existing traffic signal poles with some to lamp columns.

The network when completed will be capable of hosting other equipment which in turn will support additional travel and transport systems and further reduce communications costs.

Thank you Peter. I hope you are all wiser!!! Big Brother is watching the signals.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

I am a member of the St. Ives and District Road Safety Committee and the members are very concerned at the perceived increase by drivers with the use of hand held mobile phones whilst driving. They wrote to the Department of Transport and I thought it would be of interest to our Members to reproduce the reply received.



Department for Transport

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Department for Transport Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

St Ives and District Area Road
Safety Committee
Cambridgeshire

Driving while using a mobile phone

Thank you for your letter of 24 July, addressed to Patrick Mcloughlin, about the use of mobile phones while driving. I have been asked to reply.

The Government fully appreciate your Committee's concerns about the continuing reckless and illegal use of mobile phones by some individuals while driving and are well aware of the road safety risks caused by the use of mobile phones in these situations.

The penalties for these offences are already significant. For a prosecution, courts have the power to disqualify an offender from driving, for which there is no upper limit, or to impose three penalty points and a fine of up to £1,000 (£2,500 if driving a bus, coach or goods vehicle). Alternatively, the offender may be offered the option of a fixed penalty notice of £100 with three penalty points. If this behaviour is repeated, an individual could quite easily accumulate sufficient points for a court to disqualify them.

Guidance for prosecutors and courts means that the use of a mobile phone should be treated as an aggravating factor when considering charges or sentencing where there has been a collision or other incident. This could lead to prosecution for dangerous driving, for which there are mandatory minimum periods of disqualification.

It is important that the right balance of penalty measures are used to ensure that enforcement is effective and that casualty savings can be achieved. We are currently commissioning a contract which will aim to gather a representative figure for the level of mobile phone use by drivers across the country. Following this we will consider how drivers can be further deterred from committing this offence.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN DOYLE

(I think it is all down to lack of enforcement -less likely hood of being detected due to reduction in Police patrols. Ed)

CHRISTMAS IS COMING – SO IS WINTER!

Are you ready for winter driving – the weather is bound to change soon. Be prepared. Is your vehicle up to date with its due service? Have you had the cooling system checked? Is it capable of withstanding below freezing temperatures? That also goes for your washer bottle. Is the battery up to scratch and not suddenly going to let you down? These are all common sense points but any one can let you down and leave you stranded! If the weather does turn nasty and you are on a journey you could be delayed by hold-ups due to accidents, snow and ice on the roads or just the number of vehicles on that road. We can all remember the 8 hour plus delays on the M.11 a couple of years ago! This is where forethought and forward planning comes into it. Below is a list, not definitive, of suggestions to ensure you keep safe this winter:

- WD40 for defrosting frozen locks
- De-icer – DO NOT use boiling water to thaw a frozen window as it could crack glass
- Scraper
- Cloth for clearing condensation from windows - don't forget to clean the wipers as well as the glass
- Sandbags or another material which you can place under your wheels should you get stuck in snow
- Blankets
- Torch
- Rope
- In-car mobile phone charger so you are not left unable to call for assistance if required
- Tyre pump
- Spare bulbs
- Jump leads
- Shovel
- Hi-vis vest or jacket so any approaching drivers can see you while it is dark or visibility is poor
- Spare clothes including a blanket or duvet.
- Water and some food in case you are stranded for a while.

Another tip. If you stop for some-time and someone remains in the car keep the engine running for the heater. I didn't, left my wife in the car with the blower on for heat but turned the engine off. When I returned some 30 minutes later the car would not start, the battery had gone flat! RAC to the rescue, lucky they were only a few minutes away. I now have a higher amperage battery, but I learnt my own lesson.

Before the icy weather arrives, you are all advised to mug up on 'Roadcraft' on skidding and how to control same. Recognise the road conditions, ensure your tyres are well shod, and know the different types of skid. Is your car front or rear wheel drive? Different drives can cause different types of skids and there are different methods to recover from one. It is a good idea to practice various skids. If you pick a nice frozen car park, ensure that you are far enough away from walls, fences, hedges and other parked cars before you have a go. It could turn out to be expensive!

Mind you if this winter turns out like last winter, we will need Wellies' and floatation bags.

Cause: Driving too fast for the circumstances



Cause: Harsh acceleration



Cause: Excessive or sudden braking



Cause: Coarse steering



A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Now it is fun time – A small Christmas quiz to keep you occupied for a few minutes.
(Results next newsletter)

1. Was Rudolf, Santa's lead reindeer, a boy or girl?
2. Name six of Santa's reindeer?
3. Which novel starts with "Marley was dead"?
4. What are Hedera and Ilex Aquifolium?
5. Who invented Father Christmas with a red coat and white beard?
6. Why would a polar bear not share his Christmas dinner with a penguin?
7. Where did 'Good King Wenceslas' come from?
8. Who brought Christmas Trees to this country from Germany?
9. From where did your Christmas Turkey originate (country of origin)?
10. In the Christmas story, Joseph and Mary travelled from which town?
11. They travelled to which town?
12. Why did Joseph and Mary go to the answer to No.10?
13. Who first sang the song 'White Christmas'?
14. In what film and when did it appear?
15. What were the gifts the three wise men took to the infant Jesus?

Noel Baker
Editor

12 Pine Hill Park, Sawtry Way, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambs., PE28 2DZ
Tel: 01480 431722

E.Mail: noelbaker@live.co.uk

Your President, Chairman and Committee wish all our Members best wishes for a very happy, good and safe Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

