



Mid Wales Matters



The Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists

Web site: mwam.powys.org.uk

I AM a better road user ...

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Chairman's Comment

IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

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What do these two photos have in common? Well, the fact is that the first one led on to the second, and this is how it all started.

In September 1922 William Lyons, then just 21 years old, formed a company with William Walmsley who had for some time been building attractive sidecars and attaching them to reconditioned motorbikes. The company, Swallow Sidecars, was financed by a £1000 overdraft and employed 8 workers.

In 1927 the Lyons decided that the popular Austin Seven would appeal to a lot more people if it had a more luxurious and attractive bodywork. The result was the Austin Seven Swallow. It proved so popular that it was followed in 1928 by the Austin Seven Swallow Saloon, a car which looked much more expensive than it actually was. It copied the style of more luxurious cars and allowed its owners to keep up appearances at a time of economic hardship. It was followed by other derivatives such as the Morris Cowley Swallow.

In 1931 the S.S.1 coupe was unveiled, a sleek Lyons body on a specially designed Standard Ensign chassis. The S.S. went through several stages of development until in 1935 the Jaguar name was added. The rest will have to wait – I've run out of space. However, I can't help imagining the bone-shaking thrill of riding in that old sidecar and comparing it with the smooth turbo powered luxury of the XF! Frank Torrens.

****Don't forget AGM on Saturday 5th March**

Annual General Meeting

You are cordially invited by the group committee to the 7th Annual General Meeting of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists which this year is being held at 2:00pm on Saturday 5th March 2011 at the Bracken Trust, Cefnlllys Lane, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LJ. This is to enable the trustees of the group to present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010 for approval by the members and also to conduct an election.

This is your opportunity to find out how we have spent your money and to question the committee on its activities. We are nothing without our members and we need support and guidance on what we should be doing for the group's and your benefit. If you don't like what we are doing, come along and say so; if you do, please come and let us know. Your continued support is appreciated and we would encourage as many members as possible to become involved in the running of the group. We would welcome new committee members who are able to give their time and energies to the future success of the group. We also need additional observers who will be trained to assist new associates. If you feel that you cannot play an active role, please continue your financial support by renewing your membership of MWAM. A formal notice for the AGM and nomination forms has been sent to members who do not have computer access and copies are available for download from our website for those who have this facility. If you have not received these or you would like a printed copy, please contact the secretary.

Geoff Smith

Membership Renewal 2011

We thank the 75% of members who have already renewed their membership for 2011 and for their continued support. Annual subscription for group membership is due on 1st January each year and renewal notices were sent out at the end of last year requesting payment of the £10 fee. Over half our membership pays their subscription by banker's standing order and this is the preferred method to ensure that membership does not lapse. If you have not received your membership renewal notice and MWAM membership card for 2011 please let the membership secretary know and these will be sent to you again. Members are also asked to return the 'Renewal of MWAM Membership' form in the addressed envelope provided. This contains the details held on each member and affords the opportunity to amend any of these. This form should be returned to the membership secretary even if all details are correct as its primary purpose is for each member to declare that they are current members of the IAM. They are asked to enter the expiry date of their **IAM membership** on this form. Unfortunately unless you hold a current IAM membership you are not allowed to join a local group and we are not permitted to accept your renewal. If you have not yet returned your renewal form and/or payment please do so as soon as possible. Equally if for some reason you have decided not to renew please return your membership card with your resignation confirmation.

Geoff Smith - Membership Secretary

Let the buyer beware!

Many manufacturers "slipped in" higher new car prices in January under cover of VAT going up to 20 per cent, a report has claimed.

Basic list prices were raised by two out of three car firms over and above the 2.5 per cent increase from the "old" 17.5 per cent rate according to car price analysts CAP. It meant that those two-thirds of makers raised average prices by £142.74.

"Historically, tax-driven changes to car manufacturer price lists have often been used as an opportunity by manufacturers to realign their prices and push through additional price increases," said David Saville, CAP new vehicle data manager. "The latest change to 20 per cent VAT in January was no exception. In summary two-thirds of the manufacturers appear to have slipped in basic list price increases of an average of £142.74 alongside the VAT rise. One third of manufacturers have decreased their basic list prices by an average of £108.73. Therefore the net effect across a sample of 4,966 model variants was an average increase in January of £66.31.

"When the additional 2.5 per cent of VAT is applied," added Mr Saville, "this represents an average new price increase of £79.57. Drilling down into the detail, European manufacturers have applied the heaviest increases, whereas Japanese and Korean manufacturers have made minimal adjustments averaging around £10, meaning the main change their customers will see is the 2.5 per cent VAT increase."

China loves Ferraris

They wouldn't do this in Britain - the 999th Ferrari customer in China has been celebrated with a dazzling "multimedia show" centring on the main river running through its most populous city, Shanghai. At the very heart of the festivities was the Oriental Pearl Tower, the Chinese city's famous symbol, illuminated in Ferrari Red for the evening.

In China 999 is an important number; the number nine - "jiu" - is a symbol for longevity and excellence. An alliance between Ferrari and China, which officially started five years ago, has seen the market become increasingly important for the sports car firm, with 300 cars sold in 2010 and with the expectation of strong growth.

"For Ferrari, China represents the present and the future," said Ferrari CEO Amedeo Felisa. "It is a great country where we continue to invest. I'm convinced that in a couple of years, we'll reach sales of 500 cars per year, a number equal to established European markets."

Celebrations started with a show of more than 15 Ferraris in front of the Oriental Pearl Tower, accompanied by dramatic illuminations, a giant TV screen showing great Ferrari sporting moments and a firework display. It ended with a gala dinner attended by 999th customer Johnson Zhang, who bought a 458 Italia.

Editor's Spot

One of the more lasting legacies of our now legendary super-cold winter has been the large number of new potholes. I was reminded of a neighbour of my parents who, a long time ago, repeatedly reported one to his local council. It was just outside his house.

Nothing was done and eventually he wrote that if they hadn't filled it in by a certain date, he would do the job himself. They didn't, so he did – with cement! The resulting repair was neither a pretty sight nor a lasting solution; it was barely dry before cracks and signs of fragmentation appeared. Soon afterwards, however, the experts arrived to do a proper job, and the DIY man was never called to account.

You shouldn't do as he did, though. If you do spot a bad pothole, note its location and inform the local council. Once it knows about a pothole, it is duty bound to deal with it. If you come a cropper, note the exact location and photograph both the hole and any damage to your car. Get your wheels and tyres checked after any such incident.



You might like to check out these websites:

www.potholes.co.uk - an independent campaigning site with advice on making a claim.

www.fixmystreet.com – a community site that reports problems to councils.

New Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following associates who were successful in their IAM Advanced

Driving  or Riding Test 

Name	Location	Observer	Date
Nigel Morries 	Machynlleth	Roger Wingfield	Nov 10
Damian Richmond 	Newtown	Geoff Smith	Nov 10
Penry Thomas 	Newtown	Angela Davies-Jones	Nov 10
Patricia Shaw 	Aberystwyth	Rees Thomas	Dec 10
Medwyn Parry 	Aberystwyth	Rees Thomas	Dec 10



Denotes Car Course



Denotes Motorcycle Course

Associate Course Dates

Course	Start Date	Day	Times		Location
11/1	19/01/2011	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	C A N C E L L E D
11/2	23/03/2011	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
11/3	25/05/2011	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
11/4	20/07/2011	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
11/5	28/09/2011	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:30 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

Static Observer Training Dates

Date	Day	Times		Location
19/03/2011	Saturday	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
06/07/2011	Wednesday	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
29/11/2011	Saturday	2:00PM	4:00PM	The Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

Please note that all the above-published dates and venues may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond the committee's control. For the latest information, visit our web site: mwam.powys.org.uk or contact the group secretary.

Please contact our Chief Observer Paul Wilson if you require any further details.

Note that all driving observer training sessions are now organised by Area Observer Co-ordinators who should be contacted for the dates and venues of each area session.

Your Committee

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Mid Wales Advanced Motorists (MWAM) publish this Newsletter to provide a means of communication within the group to Members and Associates. The opinions are those of the Editor and individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the view of MWAM or the Institute of Advanced Motorists to which it is affiliated.