

# KENDAL & SOUTH LAKES GROUP



## ADVANCED MOTORISTS

### **KASLAM NEWS No. 6 Easter 2010**

Welcome to the 6th edition of *KASLAM NEWS*.

For those of you who receive this by post please consider letting us have an e-mail contact address, if you have one, as it will be a lot cheaper and quicker to forward information to you.

Please note that all contact details on hand will **only** be used for group matters and will not be passed on to anyone else.

### **WEB SITE:**

The group web site ([www.kaslam.org.uk](http://www.kaslam.org.uk)) has had a recent re-vamp, please take time to visit the site and feed back any comments (good or bad). There is an events calendar for you to keep an eye on what's on and also e-mail facilities on the site to contact group officials. For the full e-mail addresses now in use see our who's who page towards the end of this information bulletin.

[Don't forget to put these sites into your "Favourites" box for easy access.](#)

### **FUTURE DRIVE DATES:**

During these quieter times all drives are being organised to suit associates & observers, Our regular meeting place at Castle Park School, Sedbergh Drive, Kendal LA9 6BJ still remains, but meeting arrangements will be made at the time of booking with the group

Whilst we will be as flexible as possible—remember all our observers give up their time voluntarily; therefore it is essential that all pre-booked drives are attended on time.

# DriveCheck 55

So you've been driving for quite a while now and you'd probably rather forget just how long it's been since you passed your test!

You've done OK, your driving's not bad - but maybe, just maybe, it's time to get a helpful and informed refresher.

With busier, more congested roads, hectic pressured lifestyles and the unfortunate presence of uninsured drivers - it may just pay to hone your driving techniques and improve your confidence and awareness of other road users and that's just what our DriveCheck55 assessment is for.

**No tests** no published results, just a relaxed one-to-one session with a qualified IAM examiner.

The DriveCheck55 assessment has been developed to help remind you of some good driving procedures, identify a few bad habits and give you a reassured feeling of confidence on our increasingly busy roads

DriveCheck55 is a 60-minute drive, costing £35, with an IAM qualified examiner in your own car at a time to suit you. On completion you will be given a comprehensive driving report.

To apply for your Drive Check 55 assessment just visit [www.iam.org.uk](http://www.iam.org.uk)

## **GROUP NEWS**

### **FORTHCOMING VACANCY**

As of the AGM in Nov this year the group will be looking for a new chairman

Dave is standing down from this post but continuing as an observer if anyone fancies this highly paid position please contact the secretary.

## **Thoughts from the Chairman**

Just a short note from the Chairman for your Newsletter.

Not a lot of activity to report we are picking up slowly with new candidates and hopefully the situation will improve along with the weather.

Safe driving to you all.

## **Musings from the Secretary**

### **POT HOLES**

**And there are certainly plenty of them!**

With potholes estimated to cost motorists £320 million every year, and more potholes than ever appearing with the thaw of the recent cold snap, the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has issued advice on how to deal with them.

Neil Greig, IAM Director of Policy and Research, said: “Potholes form and get worse after icy spells as water gets into small cracks in the roads, expanding as it freezes and forcing the tarmac apart.

For this reason, roads will increasingly start to show signs of damage as the weather warms up. As well as worrying about your vehicle, with potholes being a major cause of suspension failure, drivers should be particularly conscious of cyclists and motorcyclists trying to get past a pothole and give them a wide berth. They are entitled to a wobble and would appreciate not having a motorist attempting to overtake just as they avoid a hole in the road,” added Mr Greig.

### **More pothole advice from the IAM:**

Leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front so that you can see the road surface before you drive or ride on it

If you do hit a pothole accidentally, make a point of checking your tyres once you've stopped. Check the inner as well as the outer tyre wall, which may have been damaged as a result

Avoid suddenly pulling out to avoid a hole – you might discover that there is a motorcyclist trying to get past you, or encounter an oncoming vehicle

Bikers and cyclists need to look well ahead and change direction early so they have time to deal with the holes, and so that their movements don't cause surprise to other road users

Potholes tend to reappear in the same place again and again as previous repairs fail - remember where you saw one and expect it to be there again

Be extra vigilant on roads with lots of lorries and also around bus stops. Extra pressure is put on the road surface wherever heavy vehicles stop, start or turn

Always make a point of reporting a pothole to the local authority as an early repair could prevent a future accident.

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*A road which is not potholed but nevertheless has dangerous holes to the side of the tarmac, some of which are deep enough to strand a small car, is on the section of the Scout Scar to Underbarrow road on the left hand side of the road above the hairpin near the turnoff to Thorn's Villa. This was reported some time ago to the Highways authority and paint marks have been painted onto the tarmac to indicate sections in need of remedial action. Ed.*

### **Words from the Membership Secretary**

At the AGM in November I reported that our full membership had declined to 59 renewals. Although an increase to 66 does not seem much it is more than 10% on the original renewals level. We still have another 3 members who are still in their initial period of Group membership that comes as part of the Skill for Life package

Associates now total 6, which have given some of the Observers a bit of work to do. How much the recent economic climate has had an adverse impact on people paying the £139 for a Skill for Life package it is difficult to say. However, I will be attending the Region 5 Spring Conference at the end of April and will get a better idea of how other groups have been affected.

Terry Simpkin

## **DIARY DATES**

**21<sup>st</sup> May** - Car Treasure Hunt - meet at the Underbarrow Village Hall

Start between 6:15pm & 6:45pm

**Limited numbers so please book a slot early**, A pleasant drive whilst taxing your brain.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 6pm** - An evening stroll—This walk is flat and about 6 miles, boots or good walking footwear required some stiles & steps to climb.

**9<sup>th</sup> September** - The group will again have a display tent at the County Show, anyone available to assist promoting IAM would be welcome, and the aim is to do about a 2-hour shift

**For all information and bookings for any of the events, please give Eddie a ring on 01539 724410**

**CONGRATULATIONS** go to the following for successfully passing their IAM test through the Kendal & South Lakes Group: -

**Emma Cafferty**

## **FROM HEADQUARTERS**

**“Keep calm and carry on: how to deal with a stuck accelerator”**

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**3 February 2010**

As Toyota recalls millions of its cars due to accelerator problems, the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) today offers advice to drivers on what to do in event of an engineering malfunction.

Stephen Mead, IAM Assistant Chief Examiner, said: “Keep calm – surprisingly the perception of the average driver with a stuck accelerator is that they can’t brake either, but this is a misconception brought on by panic.

“Press the brake firmly, then the clutch, disengaging the power. In an automatic, drivers should brake, wait for a reaction from the vehicle and then put the car into neutral. You can still steer, too, so a stuck accelerator isn’t actually the disaster it sounds,” added Mr Mead.

Look for somewhere to stop safely, indicate and make the manoeuvre as you would under normal circumstances. There will be loud revving in the background and you will probably be in a state of shock, but if you remain calm you can avoid serious danger.”

Mr Mead offered this advice for owners of car models subject to recall: “Do look into getting a recall as soon as possible. Surprisingly few people actually approach manufacturers

## Don’t try this one!

A man was driving when a traffic camera flashed. He thought his picture was taken for exceeding the speed limit even though he knew he was not speeding. Just to be sure he went around the block and passed the same spot driving even more slowly but again the camera flashed. He thought this was quite funny so he slowed down even further as he drove past the area but the traffic camera flashed yet again. He tried a fourth time with the same result. The fifth time he was laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past at a snail's pace. Two weeks later he got **five** traffic fine letters in the mail for driving without a seat belt. Men! And they say blondes are dumb.



## **Who's Who:**

### Chairman:

Dave Petty - Tel: 015395 64804 [chairman@kaslam.org.uk](mailto:chairman@kaslam.org.uk)

### Secretary:

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### Membership Secretary:

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### Drive Co-ordinator:

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### Information Bulletin Editor:

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### Committee:

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## **Adelaide Insurance Services Ltd -**

Register your insurance renewal date and they will contact you with a quote, 0845 603 1355 or [www.iamsurety.com](http://www.iamsurety.com)

Lots of extras and maybe cheaper insurance. They also sell House Insurance.