

The Road Safety Wales Low Down

" What's happening in the world of road safety?"

October 2008 — Issue 10

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Road Safety Wales Awards



The winners of the 2008 Road Safety Wales Awards, supported by Chevron, Pembroke Plant were presented with their awards by Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, at a presentation ceremony held at the Road Safety Wales Conference Dinner on 29 September.

As part of a Road Traffic Collision Reduction Initiative recently organised by Penarth Fire Station, Emily Gronow a pupil at St Cyres School in the town, entered a competition to create a message targeting young drivers and passengers. Based on the anti drink drive poem 'Went To A Party, Mum', Emily created an impactful DVD which is to be used in future initiatives. Nominated for a Road Safety Wales Award by the Penarth Fire Station Crew, Emily was chosen as the 2008 Individual Award winner.

Denise Cummings, a School Crossing Patrol at Herbert Thompson Primary School, Ely, Cardiff, has been dedicated to the role for twenty years. She is regarded as a highly valued member of staff by the school and the Cardiff Road Safety Team. In recognition of her tireless devotion, Denise received the School Crossing Patrol Award.

In the Education category, two schools were selected for their involvement in an innovative pilot scheme, which gives every pupil in every age group a targeted road safety lesson. Both schools, Queen Elizabeth High School, Johnstown and Ysgol Gyfun Strade, Llanelli, have developed sophisticated Road Safety Development Plans to ensure the effective delivery of road safety education throughout a pupil's school life.

The Apollo Cinema, Port Talbot, has supported the work of the Neath Port Talbot Road Safety Unit for several years. They host a series of quizzes through the year and fully support the 'Footprint To The Stars' initiative, whereby school children are recognised for their walk to school efforts with free entry to the Sunday Lunchtime Film Club. Evaluation of the scheme has seen a 50% increase in the number of pupils walking to school. In acknowledgment of their commitment to road safety, Tim Morgan, Apollo Cinema Manager collected the 2008 Community Award.

In the Commercial category, Hutchings Garage, were selected for their invaluable support of a new bilingual Theatre In Education Tour visiting schools throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf. A launch was held at their Treforest Industrial Estate Showroom and the company provided a transit van, which advertised the tour and transported equipment.

Extra time granted for new motorcycle test

The Driving Standards Agency has announced a delay of six months to the introduction of the new practical motorcycle test, originally scheduled for 29 September.

The move comes after the Agency considered representations from the Motorcycle Industry Association, the Motorcycle Rider Training Association, LARSOA and other motorcycle interest groups. The new implementation date is 30 March 2009.

www.dsa.gov.uk



Pass Plus Cymru Continues to Grow



22-year-old Jessica Wright is the second recipient of the Pass Plus Cymru quarterly prize. Jessica's name was drawn from a list of all participants who returned their evaluation form on completion of the course. Her Pass Plus Cymru ADI was Mr Ron Ingall of Ron Ingall School of Motoring, Whitchurch. GEM Motoring Assist's Chief Executive Officer, David Williams said 'We are delighted to sponsor the prizes for this exciting Welsh initiative. I feel sure that Pass Plus Cymru will help to contribute in making Welsh drivers of tomorrow more aware, considerate and safer.

The Pass Plus Cymru (PPC) Scheme continues to be a nationally recognised badge of excellence amongst post test young driver training programmes in Wales and continues to grow as it enters its 3rd year. During the period December 2007 to May 2008, 1,424 drivers undertook the course. Since the launch of the scheme itself in June 2006 over 4,000 novice drivers have participated.

The scheme continues to be advertised in a number of different ways with direct marketing at the Royal Welsh, the Urdd Eisteddfod and various other county shows, the Wales GB rally, bus shelters, via local youth groups and through radio and websites, although the support of ADIs remains critical. Measurement of participant's feedback will ensure that scheme continues to develop and improve.

Although PPC funding is available as a result of a special grant from the Welsh Assembly Government, individual local authorities are responsible for allocating funding to the scheme as finance allows. This differs from County to County

as needs of other road user groups are taken into account.

Road Casualties: Quarter 1, 2008

The latest National Statistics on 'Road Casualties in Wales: Quarterly Provisional Estimates March Quarter 2008,' produced by the Welsh Assembly Government, were published on 7 August 2008, according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

[View Here](#)

This is the first time the Welsh Assembly Government has published quarterly road casualties data.

The key points from this release are:



- 22 road casualties were reported as killed
- 295 were reported as seriously injured, and
- 2,286 as slightly injured
- The number of total KSI casualties over this period, at 1,412 people, was 2 per cent higher than the previous 12 month period and 30 per cent lower than the average for 1994-98.
- The number of child KSI casualties over this period, at 142 children, was 4 per cent lower than the previous 12 month period and 51 per cent lower than the average for 1994-98.

E-Petition on Single/Double Summer Time



The most recent research estimates that adopting Single/Double Summer Time in the UK would result in around 450 fewer road deaths and serious injuries, including between 104 and 138 fewer deaths. This confirms earlier research, which showed that the 1968/71 experiment, when British Standard Time (GMT + 1) was employed all year round (the clocks were advanced in March 1968 and not put back until October 1971) saved around 2,500 deaths and serious injuries each year of the trial period.

RoSPA is supporting an e-petition on the 10 Downing Street Website for Single/Double Summer Time at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/betteruseofsun>
The deadline for signatures is 3 January 2009.

Independent studies show that 10-20 percent of all single-vehicle accidents are caused by driver fatigue. In response, Volvo have become the first manufacturer in Europe to develop a system that uses a camera to monitor the vehicle's course in relation to the road markings.



Using '**Driver Alert Support**', if a driving pattern is perceived as irregular, the driver is alerted by an audible signal and a text message in the driver information display. If the irregular pattern continues, the driver is cautioned to stop and take a break.

Another common cause of truck accidents is reduced visibility where blind spots, bends, darkness and poor visibility reduce the driver's control. Volvo's new '**Lane Changing Support**' provides this extra 'eye' with a radar sensor that helps the driver detect other vehicles in the blind spot on the passenger side. The driver is alerted by a light signal in the A-pillar and an intensified indicator noise.

"Driving round bends in the dark is also a risky manoeuvre, because road edges are usually poorly lit," explains Stefan Svensson. "To improve safety in these situations, we're launching Cornering lights that illuminate the edge of the road. They are automatically activated with the indicators on either side of the vehicle at speeds below 30kph (20mph)."

www.volvotrucks.co.uk

Campaign for Safe Road Design



According to the Campaign for Safe Road Design, a consortium of the UK's leading road user, road safety and road design bodies, a third of Britain's serious injuries or fatalities on the roads are preventable over the next 10 years with just a modest investment – primarily in signs,

lines, kerbing and barriers.

In the last 10 years 375,000 people have been killed or seriously injured in road safe crashes in this country, bleeding away 1.5% of GDP annually: more than the UK's spend on primary schools and double its spend on GPs.

The Campaign for Safe Road Design says that the toll of 10,000 deaths and serious injuries a year will continue if government does not take action on safe road design, particularly on roads outside major towns where two-thirds of road deaths occur. These are concentrated on A-roads, which can be easily targeted.

Chairman of the campaign, John Dawson says: "A safe road system means road users who obey traffic law, manufacturers who provide safe vehicles and authorities who provide safe roads. The government has been tightening traffic law, not least in the enforcement of speed limits. The safety standard of new vehicles has soared from a typical 2-star to a 4-star car crash NCAP rating after the introduction of the programme in the 1990s. As the government prepares its road safety strategy beyond 2010, we must now, as other leading countries have done, turn our attention to the safety features built into our roads."

www.saferoaddesign.com

Intelligent Speed Adaptation Research

The Department for Transport has published the research reports outlining the benefits to road safety arising from the implementation of Intelligent Speed Adaptation.

Department for
Transport

Intelligent Speed Adaptation (ISA) is a system that provides, within the vehicle, information on the speed limit for the road currently being travelled on. That information can be used to display the current speed limit inside the vehicle and warn the driver when he or she is speeding (i.e. Advisory ISA); it can be linked to the vehicle engine and perhaps brakes to curtail speed to the speed limit for the road while allowing the driver to override the system (i.e. Voluntary ISA); or it can be linked to engine and brakes without the possibility of an override (i.e. Mandatory or Non-Overridable ISA).

The reports can be viewed at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/road..edadaptation/>



When Euro NCAP was established in 1997 the achievement of five stars in adult occupant protection did not even seem possible. Ten years later, out of the 34 car models tested and assessed by Euro NCAP in one year, 97% achieve either a four or a five star result. Yet there are still areas of safety that Euro NCAP believes need to be prioritised by manufacturers and where lives could be saved.

In comparison to these good adult occupant protection results, no manufacturer achieves a four star result in pedestrian protection. In tests last year, 67% of models were awarded just two stars in this rating, despite approaching legislation. Euro NCAP is concerned that many manufacturers set out to achieve high scores for adult occupant protection to attract consumers, whilst compromising safety investment in other areas. Euro NCAP believes that consumers are interested in the safety offered to all occupants and also to other road users when they are choosing a new car. For this reason, Euro NCAP is developing a new rating system that will reward the overall safety of a vehicle. The new overall rating will reflect the protection offered to adult and child occupants as well as pedestrians and will, for the first time, consider the safety potential of advanced driver assistance technologies such as electronic stability control. The assessment of adult occupant protection will be expanded to include whiplash testing. The first results for vehicles tested under this new rating system will be released in February 2009.

www.euroncap.com

Major Study Into Safety Of Young Drivers At Work

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has launched a major research study aimed at helping young drivers to stay safe when they are on the road as part of their job.

RoSPA's Young Drivers at Work project is seeking the views of managers who employ 17-24-year-old drivers. It will lead to a better understanding of the safety issues involved in these employees getting behind the wheel for tasks such as making deliveries, going to meetings or travelling between sites.



A questionnaire for employers can be accessed at:
www.rosipa.com/roadsafety/youngdriversatwork/ until December.

Young drivers and work-related driving are two of today's biggest road safety challenges. Figures show that young motorists are more at risk of being killed or injured on the roads than more experienced drivers. It is also estimated that one in three crashes involves a vehicle being driven for work. This means that every week about 200 deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads involve someone at work.

As part of RoSPA's project, employers are being asked to compare the driving styles of young and more experienced drivers, including how they assess risks, route planning, fuel-efficiency and awareness of the danger of fatigue.

They are also being questioned about: any policies they have in place, such as a minimum age limit for drivers; how well the present system of learner driver training and testing prepares people to drive for work; and whether post-test driver training would be useful in the workplace.

The views of young drivers themselves will be sought in focus groups taking place during the project, which is being funded by the Department for Transport.

New Secretary of State for Transport



The Rt. Hon. Geoff Hoon MP has been appointed as the new Secretary of State for Transport.

MP for Ashfield since 1992, he was previously Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury. He has held a number of Cabinet positions, including Secretary of State for Defence and Leader of the House of Commons. Mr Hoon has also worked as Minister for Europe, Parliamentary Secretary and Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department and had a spell at the Foreign Office as Minister of State for Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa.

Fall In Child Injuries Following New Child Car Seat Laws

The number of children under 12 injured in car accidents in Great Britain fell by more than 1,000 in the first full year since the introduction of the new car seat law, according to official statistics.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents welcomed the news as proof that the legislation was working and helping to reduce pain and suffering for children and their families.

New legislation was introduced in September 2006 making it compulsory for children under 12 and below 4ft 5in (1.35m) tall to use child car seats or booster seats.

In 2005, the last year before the law came was introduced, 7,033 children under 12 were injured while passengers in cars, and 326 of them were killed or seriously injured. Last year the number hurt had fallen to 5,927, with 271 killed or seriously injured.



Traffic signs in Britain - biggest review in 40 years is launched



Transport Minister Rosie Winterton has called on motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, highway authorities and road organisations who are keen to have a say in how our streets will look in the future, to take part in the biggest review of British road signs for 40 years.

The review will ensure that traffic signs keep pace with the latest technology, help to cut congestion and emissions and keep traffic moving safely and efficiently without cluttering our streets.

The review's aims include:

- To consider new powers to reduce street clutter - and ensure out of date signs are removed;
- Look at using new traffic sign technologies that can provide new ways of managing traffic flow;
- Provide better road information - such as up-to-date travel news - to give motorists informed choices about their journeys;
- Demonstrate how effective signing can provide safer roads and reduce accidents;
- Improve road users' understanding of traffic signs and signals.

Rosie Winterton said:

"Road conditions have changed dramatically over the years - and road signs need to keep pace with that change to provide the best information possible to all road users.

"It is vital we help motorists, cyclists and pedestrians understand how to use our roads - improving road safety and helping reduce congestion and CO2 - without cluttering our streets with unnecessary signs."

Road users, highway authorities and organisations interested in streetscape will play a key role in the steering group leading the review.

www.pacts.org.uk

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