

Driving Skills Revisited with Val and Howard Allen

The first question asked at our monthly meeting- “How many of you have taken any refresher training since you passed your test?” (and speed awareness courses don’t count!) left many of us feeling that we might have a lot to learn during the talk!

Val and Howard, both members of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, run courses and take people out for refresher drives and guide those wishing to take the IAM qualification – the most elderly being 91!

There have been many changes to motoring, cars and the Highway Code since most of us passed our test that we need to be aware of such as the hierarchy of road users.

Val and Howard covered topics such as preparing both yourself and your vehicle for drives and suggested small changes we could make to cope with changes in driving these days.

Suggestions to help with emergencies included

- using either 112 or 999 and pre- registering to use these numbers as a text message to call for help, where signal may be poor and phone calls not possible.
- having your next of kin listed as an ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact.
- installing the app What3words which will pinpoint your location to a 3m square given a unique combination of three words. Very useful if you are in an unfamiliar or remote location.

The website <http://olderdrivers.org.uk/> gives lots of further useful advice.

If you’d like more information about the longer Driving Skills Revisited course running in Pershore, contact our groups coordinator John Wright. It’s never too late to start improving common habits and implementing good practice.

Sally Whyte
Speaker Coordinator