Welcome to the newsletter for July 2014

YOU CAN’T DO TWO THINGS AT ONCE

Using a handheld mobile phone while driving became illegal in December 2003, and the Bedfordshire and Luton Casualty Reduction Partnership is running another campaign during July reminding drivers of the law.

A radio advert is playing on Heart FM throughout the month, highlighting the dangers of using social media such as Facebook and Twitter while driving.

Educational events are also being held in Central Bedfordshire and Luton. Bedfordshire Police are stopping drivers found using handheld devices and offering them a chance to take part in one, or receive a penalty notice.

You must not use a handheld mobile phone or similar device while driving even if you have stopped at traffic lights or are stuck in a traffic jam or are in a car park.

You should park safely and switch your engine off (taking the keys out of the ignition) before using your mobile phone. Do not park on the hard shoulder of a motorway.

For using a mobile phone while driving you could receive a fixed penalty notice, three points on your licence and a fine of £100. This could also escalate into the case going to court, where you could be disqualified from driving and have to pay a maximum fine of £1,000, or £2,500 for those driving buses or heavy goods vehicles.

If you are a new driver and you acquire six or more penalty points within two years of passing your test, you will lose your licence.

Although it is specifically illegal to use a handheld device, it is also recommended not to make or receive any calls while driving since all phone usage distracts drivers’ attention from the road.

If you know someone is driving, do not call them. If you call someone and they tell you they are driving, ask them to call you back when they have parked up safely.

DON’T PAY THE PENALTY

As we approach the final stages of the 2014 World Cup, most people are still enjoying the matches even though the England team has not. We all know what great enjoyment can be gained from watching matches in the sociable and exciting setting of the local club, pub or bar, where you can also enjoy your favorite tipple. However, think how much more relaxed you would be if you left your car at home. That way you would be best assured of the evening ending in a pleasant way, rather than risk ending up in the local A&E or police station.

Alcohol takes time to pass through your system and you could still be over the limit the next morning. For more information go to www.drivesafely.org/dont-pay-the-penalty-dont-drink-and-drive-554/
The Bedfordshire and Luton Casualty Reduction Partnership is hosting a Ride Free motorcycle skills course on Sunday 10 August at Dunstable Fire Station.

Workshops have been designed to give motorcyclists the opportunity to take part in observed and slow riding exercises, and learn more about first-on-scene first aid, riding in all weathers and the law.

For more information and to register online go to www.motorcyclingmatters.org/ridefreeskills

SCHOOLS OUT!

There are just two weeks left now before schools break up for the summer holidays. So with the long days ahead, now is the perfect time to remind yourself and your children about the:

Green Cross Code

Crossing the road safely every single time involves using many different skills, starting with finding the safest possible place to cross.

STOP
Stand at the kerb, but not near the edge. If there isn’t a pavement, stand on the side of the road.

LOOK
Give yourself plenty of time to have a good look around. Make sure you can see what’s coming and that drivers can also see you.

LISTEN
Listen carefully, as you can sometimes hear traffic coming along the road before you can see it.

CROSS
Walk straight across, not diagonally, and concentrate on what you are doing. Make sure you are not distracted so don’t use your mobile phone to text or speak with to anyone while you are crossing the road, or listen to music. Once you have crossed the road you can continue with what you were doing.

The Department for Transport (DFT) has lots of guidance on crossing the road. The Highway Code can be accessed at www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code and the Children’s Highway Code, called ‘The Tales Of The Road’ at the http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk/

MOTORCYCLE SKILLS COURSE

Have you reserved your place yet?
Bookings are now being taken for the More 16 and More Drive young driver training courses taking place on 27 July at Millbrook Proving Ground.

For more information go to www.luton.gov.uk/Transport_and_streets/Road_safety/Driving/Young%20Drivers/Pages/MORE-young-driver-training.aspx

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Editorial information
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