

Driving Licence Fiasco - Is Your licence out of date?

Unwitting motorists face £1,000 fines as thousands of photo card driving licences expire

Thousands of motorists are at risk of being fined up to £1,000 because they are unwittingly driving without a valid licence.

They risk prosecution after failing to spot the extremely small print on their photo card licence which says it automatically expires after 10 years and has to be renewed - even though drivers are licensed to drive until the age of 70.

The fiasco has come to light a decade after the first batch of photo licences was issued in July 1998, just as they start to expire. Motoring organisations blamed the Government for the fiasco and said 'most' drivers believed their licences were for life. To rub salt into wounds, drivers will have to pay £17.50 to renew their card - a charge which critics have condemned as a 'stealth tax' and which will earn the Treasury an estimated £437million over 25 years.

Official DVLA figures reveal that while 16,136 expired this summer, so far only 11,566 drivers have renewed, leaving

4,570 outstanding. With another 300,000 photo card licences due to expire over the coming year, experts fear the number of invalid licences will soar, putting thousands more drivers in breach of the law and at risk of a fine.

At the heart of the confusion is the small print on the tiny credit-card-size photo licence, which is used in conjunction with the paper version. Just below the driver name on the front of the photo card licence is a series of dates and details - each one numbered. Number 4b features a date in tiny writing, but no explicit explanation as to what it means.

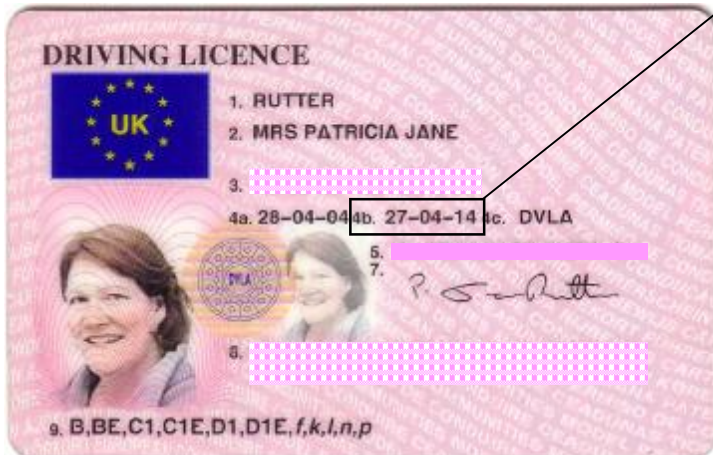
The date's significance is only explained if the driver turns over the card and reads the key on the back which states that '4b' means 'licence valid to'.

The DVLA said the date of expiry was carried on the new-style licences, even though the AA says this is 'not clear'.

It said it was issuing postal reminders to drivers whose photo card was due to expire, to get the renewal message across. The DVLA said no one had so far been charged with failing to surrender a licence.

From the Daily Mail, October 2008.

Section 4b - the date at which this licence expires.



All the members of the Headbourne Worthy Parish Council would like to wish residents a Happy Christmas and a Joyous and Peaceful New Year.



Headbourne Worthy Village News

Winter 2008

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Flood Prevention ACTION!

Thanks to the sterling efforts of Jackie Porter, our local County Councillor, there has been considerable work done by Hampshire County Council and their contractor Amey on the culverts crossing Springvale Road and Bedfield Lane. Jackie has liaised with the many organisations who appear to have



responsibility for different areas. These include Hampshire CC (ditches), Winchester City Council (verges) and the Dept of the environment (streams). The work is continuing, with clearing of the ditches and stream at the bottom of Down Farm Lane and the culverts under Bedfield Lane (more information on this and other flood prevention measures on the parish's website). *David Spurling*

Parish Clerk Needed

After 5 years the parish clerk, Mrs Sheila Pearcey is leaving the post and therefore a vacancy has arisen for this position. Currently the remuneration is for 1½ hours per week and duties include dealing with correspondence, minute taking at meetings and responsibility for all financial matters. If you are interested in this position please contact Sheila Pearcey before 20th December for further details.

Sheila Pearcey took this photo of a deer on the Nun's Walk. Have YOU taken a photo recently we could print?



Conservation Volunteers Improve the Nun's Walk

In late September a total of 19 volunteers helped the Worthys Conservation Volunteers to significantly improve the stretch of the Nun's Walk from under the tunnels of the A34 to along the river. They worked very hard to:

- clear litter
- clear leaves and mud from tunnels
- cut down nettles and brambles
- fill numerous potholes

Want to join the Worthys Conservation Volunteers? Contact Nick on 884870 or visit www.worthysconservationvolunteers.org.uk.



- prune hedges and remove small trees (and fallen trees)
- improve drainage around tunnels, and
- improve drainage near the river.

Thanks to the loan of essential equipment from HPP, and the donation of two bags of aggregate, all the work was completed in the day and the Worthys end of the path is once again a pleasant and enjoyable walk.



The Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail Project now has a new website!

Check out: www.itchennavigation.org.uk There are pages about wildlife, history and project updates, plus a gallery of pictures. We've put on a map and the project timetable too.

The Itchen Navigation webpages are a 'mini-site' within the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's new website, which now has a searchable events diary and online shop to name just a couple of new features (buy your Christmas cards from us!). We hope you find the new website interesting and informative. *Picture shows the Itchen just south of the M3.*



Lest We Forget...

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in the churchyard of St Swithun's Church on the 90th anniversary of Armistice Day, which marked the end of the First World War in 1918.



Christmas Services at St Swithun's Church

Sunday 30th November at 5.00pm
Carols for Advent Sunday with the Choir of St Mary's, Kings Worthy.

Sunday 21st December 11.15am
Carol Service

Monday 22nd December 3pm
Dower House Carol Service

Christmas Day 11.15am
Holy Communion



Parish Council Report

Rosemary Stephens, Chairman of the Parish Council, writes:

"It's Your Village..."

Potholes, overgrown paths, missing / obscured signs, broken benches, notice boards obscured, vandalism - all happen from time to time. Have you spotted something you think the Parish Council could help with? Where would you like to see money used or what would you like to see improved? If you have a query or suggestion then please contact us."

Rosemary Stephens
Carle End, School Lane, Headbourne Worthy, SO23 7JZ
01962 882001
rosegeoff@hotmail.co.uk
Or contact Parish Clerk Sheila Pearcey.

The Parish Council will be meeting in the Church Hall, Springvale, from 7.15pm on the following dates:

13/01/09
14/04/09
14/07/09
13/10/09
12/01/10

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

A new parish notice board has been placed at the bottom of Nations Hill. It is available for residents to place notices of general interest. Please look after it.



Jackie's County Corner

Delivering 'Personalised Care'

As I write this my father-in-law has just had a hip replacement operation. At 84 the odds used to be against him surviving but in Hampshire the number of active adults over 85 is rising - and thank goodness! Adult Social Care is therefore a big priority for Hampshire and so an Adult Care Commission has been carried out by the County, taking evidence and advice from experts across the Country to deliver the best 'personalised care' to all who need it.

So what is Personalised care? It means deciding how you want to spend your care package, and not just choosing from a limited range on offer. So, in theory, you might prefer to go out dancing every day, rather than attending physiotherapy, or visiting the library and saving the money you would have spent on a day centre to have a lunch out with friends. But it's not quite that simple is it? As the years advance we become more limited in our options. One of the principal concerns is how to elderly proof our towns with wider pavements, better surfaces, more seats and public toilets and even public charging points for electric wheelchairs.

We need to think about our personal care needs with more drop-in bathing facilities, day care, lunch clubs and more public transport. If you have an idea - please let me know. It might just be something that no-one else has thought of. There will be a prize for the most imaginative suggestion -and it might be just what we will all need when we are 85!

Merry Christmas!

Jackie Porter,
County Councillor, Itchen Valley Division
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