



News

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TV veteran takes the wheel for road safety

Veteran broadcaster Andy Kluz is using his talents to help North Yorkshire County Council and the 95 Alive Road Safety Partnership to keep older drivers safe behind the wheel.

Andy has made a DVD with road safety officers from the County Council which will be used to demonstrate how drivers over 50 can carry on driving safely and with confidence.

Andy is well known as a former presenter and reporter for Tyne Tees Television where he often worked as presenter of the nightly news programme North East Tonight. He has also made several documentaries, including The Way We Were and The Railway Story.

The DVD will be given to older drivers at special roadshows across the county.

People who have been driving for thirty, forty, fifty or even sixty years often find that there is considerably more traffic on the road, with more complex road networks, which can make driving more challenging and demanding than it used to be.

While older drivers have far fewer crashes than younger drivers, people aged over 50 are more likely to die or be seriously injured if they are involved in a car crash.

In the DVD Andy gets the top ten tips on how to stay driving safely from Road Safety Officer Andrew Santon - a qualified driving instructor.

Andy, who passed his test over 35 years ago, said: "It was a very interesting experience. I was surprised at how much I had forgotten and how the Highway Code has changed. It really served to stop me in my tracks and made me think about my driving. I believe all us vintage drivers can gain a huge amount from it.

"We all think we're not getting old and we can drive in just the same way as we always have. It's only when you stop and talk to the experts that you realise maybe your reactions are slower and you're more wary of the road and other road users. I think this DVD and the roadshows will be invaluable in helping older drivers stay safe."

County Councillor John Fort , North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Road Safety, said: "Older drivers have many years experience on the roads which contributes to making the age group safer than any other. But sight, hearing and judgement of speed may not be as sharp as they are in younger people. So drivers need to adjust driving habits to compensate for all these things.

"We're hoping Andy's high profile in North Yorkshire will help us get the message across that safe driving can help people stay on the road longer."

Andy will be launching the DVD at the Wensleydale Show at Leyburn on Saturday August 29th at the 95 Alive Stand at 12:00 noon.