

## Is it me?

I tend to get annoyed very easily these days, especially when I'm driving the TVR and I wondered whether it was just me. So I asked Beloved what annoyed her when driving and the only thing she could think of was people who overtake on the inside.

Then I started to write down my list on a scrap of paper and soon realised I needed both sides of an A4 sheet to do the list justice. It started with drivers who possibly annoy everyone like middle lane huggers, people who don't use their indicators, people who leave their indicators on, undertakers (I mean people who under-take – not funeral directors!) etc.

But then I realised I was adding rather too many others, like slow trucks (because they hold me up), fast trucks (because they worry me), medium paced trucks (because they are neither slow nor fast – which makes them difficult to pass) – in fact ALL trucks (except for those that throw water onto your windscreen in the winter when your washer bottle has run out on a long run and the windscreen is filthy but dry – which seems to happen a lot to me – and annoys me!)

Which leads me to why do car manufacturers link their screen washer to the windscreen wipers? Do they REALLY think we are going to spray the screen and then forget to switch the wipers on so we end up driving blind? Do they think we are that stupid?

The amount of times I go to spray the screen first thing in the morning in the winter and find that the water (or the nozzle) is frozen and nothing comes out. But those dam wipers scrape and scratch on the screen and spread the muck nicely and thickly to leave me with one square inch to see through.

Then, for the next 10 miles I'm torn between trying the washer again and risk losing that one square inch, or hoping there isn't actually anything in front of me! It's so annoying - unless you can find an obliging lorry that can spray you with water.

Is it me? Am I becoming a grumpy old (TVR) driver?

Another group of drivers that annoy me are the smokers who insist of keeping their windows open so that their cigarette smoke doesn't go into their car – it comes into mine instead! Why do they do it? How would they feel if I went over to their car, got in the back, farted and then got out again?! Then they have the cheek to flick their cigarette butt out of the window so I have to swerve to avoid it landing on my lap in the Tiv. Bozo's!

And what about the growing band of red light nose pickers! Why do people (mostly men I have to admit) wait until they stop at a red light, with me in front, and then decide to excavate their nasal cavities just when I am glancing in my rear view mirror? Why can't they wait until there are in a private place?

Have you noticed this growing trend? Does it annoy you – or is it just me?

Just glad that I am usually in front – hate to have giant bogeys flicked out of the car when I'm in the Tiv behind with the roof off!

And although the Red Light Nose Pickers are mostly men, you ladies can be just as bad. Why don't you put your make up on at home, before you leave, rather than whilst driving in traffic?

What about 4 x 4 drivers? Why does anyone need a vehicle the size of an ocean liner just to take the kids to school? And what about the growing number of dick heads who insist on putting their fog lights on when it isn't foggy! Why? And why when I accidentally leave mine on when the fog has gone does everyone flash me and wave their fists? Why? Is it just me?

Then there are the drivers who suddenly slow down for no apparent reason. There you are, happily tootling along at 85 in the outside lane of the motorway overtaking two slower lanes of traffic, when the guy in front slows to 65 without rhyme or reason. Why? Has he seen something you haven't? Have you entered a 50 mph speed area with cameras every ten yards, and you hadn't noticed? Are the Feds in the inside lane doing 69 mph?

If you're anything like me you spend the next 5 miles looking everywhere except ahead and nearly manage to ram the car in front.

I got REALLY annoyed recently driving down the M6 towards Birmingham (and let's face it, just driving on the M6 towards Birmingham is enough to annoy most people of sane mind!). I passed a 12 mile queue of standing traffic, on the opposite side, and thought I would do my bit to call BBC2 Traffic Line.

So I did. And I got the message, "Thank you for calling the BBC2 Traffic Update Line. We will connect you to an operator. This will only take a moment."

Then, about a minute later, the message said, "We're sorry, no-one is available to take your call at the moment. Please call back later..." followed by, "...Our lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week..." NO THEY'RE NOT – they're not open now because I have to ring back later!!! Can't the BBC afford answer phones?

The list goes on!! Is it me?

Why does Doris Datsun have to park next to my TVR when I deliberately park in an area where there are loads of spaces and no cars for miles? I leave it for 5 minutes and when I return there are still only 3 vehicles – my Griff in the middle, Doris on one side and white van man on the other! Why? Are they incapable of parking in a space unless there is already a car in the next one?

Why do (apparently) intelligent road planners put dozens of sets of lights on islands about as big as yer average round dining table so that the traffic cannot handle the lane changes without bashing into each other? The old "free-for-all" was quite good enough and the traffic cleared quicker.

Why is it that some drivers just cannot reverse? And why do some drivers take up two spaces to park – are they incapable of driving between two white lines?

The list goes on and on. I haven't finished but I've run out of space, so for the full list, drop me a line to Dave Morgan c/o the Home for the Mentally Detached and Slightly Neurotic.... Is it just me?

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