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Introduction to the 2017 up-date of the 2002 book called
"BE A BETTER DRIVER", currently available to download on
www.derf.org.uk

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This web page supports and complements the DR DRIVE columns in more than 250 national and local daily and weekly newspapers around the United Kingdom.

Dr DRIVE is Professor Peter Russell, the only professional driver trainer in the United Kingdom to hold both Master of Arts, and Doctorate Degrees in **ADVANCED DRIVER EDUCATION**. Peter Russell has been a professional driver trainer for more than fifty-five years. He has also been a Teacher, a Teacher-Trainer, and an AEB/AQA Chief Examiner since 1984.

Professor Peter Russell is the Founder and Research Director of the **DRIVER EDUCATION RESEARCH FOUNDATION (D.E.R.F.)**, based at the offices of the **DRIVING INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, SAFETY HOUSE, CROYDON, CR0 4XZ**.

D.E.R.F. is supported by the **ADI-NJC**; the **DIA**; by the International Association for Driver Education (**I.I.V.**); **DRIVING** and **DRIVING INSTRUCTOR** Magazines; **Middlesex University**; and various National and International Trade and Road Safety Organisations.

Here is a **SPECIAL** Bank Holiday Message to all Road Users in the United Kingdom, this Bank Holiday Weekend: remember we now begin a series of Bank Holidays – special driving days . . .

The EASTER HOLIDAY BREAK, is the worst time for Car, Bike and Caravan crashes: Which Other Road Users Can You Identify?

One of the regular in-car games that I played with my children and grandchildren was to identify other road users. Perhaps the most prolific are members of that famous institution:

The Dedicated Middle Lane Owners Club.

No matter what other traffic exists, these drivers stick rigidly in the middle lane of every motorway. Long service members are those who also drive at a constant 52 mph, thus deliberately preventing trucks from overtaking.

Then there are those who belong to the **Centre White Line Shufflers**. Regardless of the width of any single carriageway these drivers (and especially riders) insist on keeping their front wheels almost on the centre lines. They do it because they **JUST KNOW** they will never meet another member coming the other way of course! Well, perhaps just once!!

Keen observers will also recognise members of the **Constant Speed Club**.

They drive at a steady 40 mph all the way through the countryside where the national speed limit is 50 or 60 mph. However they can best be spotted when they enter built-up areas where the speed limit drops to 30 mph or less. They continue blithely on at a constant 40 mph.

Dedicated followers of this fashion can be elevated to membership of the **Caravan Syndrome Society**. These are the drivers who know that they can emerge even when they are third or fourth in a queue of traffic joining traffic coming on the main road.

Almost FINALLY, be especially aware of Caravan tow-ers who never seem to bother to check the condition of their caravan wheels and tyres; even after they have not been used since last summer.

Even Sneakier, are members of the **Continuing Caravan Syndrome Society**.

These drivers hang on closely to the vehicle ahead as it emerges left or right into any main road. They live (and die) by the well-known principle that says if there is room for one car to emerge then there is definitely room for a second. After all they drive close enough to be considered to be a caravan attached to their predecessor.

It is understood that all such drivers have to have survived being in the **Tailgater's Gang** for at least five years before they can join any of the above.

Guess what Tailgaters do! . . .

Professor Russell (Dr DRIVE) stated in January 2001: when he first began his TRINITY MIRROR Weekly column on BETTER DRIVING

"It is my mission in life, to help all drivers to improve and establish their Driving Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes. I believe the best way to achieve this goal is to spread the BETTER DRIVING Message in as many areas of Road User publicity as I can.

"Although the United Kingdom has one of the best Road Crash Safety records both, in Europe and the world, an approximation of 3,000 road deaths each year is still too many. Every road crash is unnecessary and every road death is a tragedy for those left behind for the rest of their lives.

*"**BETTER DRIVING**, is not just 'Advanced Driving': **BETTER DRIVING** enables all road users to improve their driving knowledge and attitudes by concentrating on the driving task. Loss of attention to the driving task is the major cause of 97.5% of **all** road crashes. In 85% it is the **only** cause. (Very few vehicle crashes have a single cause!) Most vehicle crashes are caused by one or more road users doing **Stupid** things at the same time as someone does something **Silly**. If you avoid making stupid or silly driving errors you can easily avoid being involved in anyone else's **stupidity**. Safe driving means never having to say: "**Sorry, he won't be coming home again!**" If you change the word **stupid** to mean **Serious**: and the word **silly** to mean **Minor-Driving**, you will better understand Driving Examiner terminology.*

*"**BETTER DRIVING** reminds us all that we all need to improve our vehicle handling, planning and observational skills.*

*"**BETTER DRIVING**" reminds us all that we all need to improve our vehicle handling, road- planning and risk-observational skills.*

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**This MESSAGE, Easter Sunday 2017© Professor Peter RUSSELL 32B Thorold Road
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