

Old Age

Steve Hill Photography



By Andy Blackwell

Lately I've been asking myself a simple question, a question that has echoed down through the centuries. The question Ugg asked as his old mate

Thun was sat on by a mammoth. The question Newton pondered when people asked 'did it matter what type of apple it was?' The question that many of us have asked ourselves over the years, namely: **is it me getting old, or are people getting more stupid?**

Logic tells me that it must just be a sign of age. If people were really getting more stupid over the years, then by now we would all just be sat in a circle banging rocks together. However, I can't help but think that maybe this time it really isn't just me becoming more critical and less tolerant.

A classic example is when I borrow my wife's car. My wife is a driving instructor, and I generally use one of her cars to take my son to school and to his football training in the evenings. Sometimes I just can't be bothered to take the signage off the roof of the car, so we head out of Barrowby cunningly disguised as a learner driver. Does this effect other road users? My God, yes!

The most common one is tailgating, where the other driver sees a learner and says to themselves: "Oh, that must be an inexperienced driver. A driver more likely to make a mistake and possibly have an accident! I know! I'll drive four inches off their back bumper to show them how much faith I have in their driving skills. Plus, if they do have an accident, my car will be sitting on top of their back seat so we can all have a chat about it and share a bit of accident solidarity!"

It makes no sense, yet people do it all the time! Granted, learners often have the temerity to adhere to speed limits, but even then, you see idiots overtaking, just so they can spend the next ten miles sat 100m in front of me behind the lorry they must have been able to see in the first place! The only logical reason for this behaviour is that these experienced drivers are worried about the learners. They're thinking: "That poor kid probably doesn't think he has what it takes to be a good driver. I know! I'll drive like an absolute loon, just so they know that any old fool can get a driving license these days!"



Obviously not all drivers are idiots – me, for starters – but it can be difficult to see this sometimes. Almost every week, the fair folk of Grantham get to witness a driver who's convinced that a 4.5m high lorry is capable of getting under a 4.3m high bridge. I don't know if they read it on Facebook, or saw it proved in a TikTok video, but they seem absolutely convinced it's possible, right up to the moment it isn't.

The biggest problem though is that these people then get out of their cars... and they walk amongst us!

al Perfect Plumbing Ltd

For all your domestic and commercial Plumbing and Heating needs

- Bathrooms and Kitchens, supplied and fitted
- Full CH systems
- Oil and gas boilers fitted and serviced
- Green energy solutions



Email: Sales@alperfectplumbing.co.uk

Neil: 07921 166 059

Andy: 07513 055 087

www.alperfectplumbing.co.uk