

## The Latest News

# The Most Pointless, Stupid Crime Ever



CRIME FEATURED NEWS

By Alexander Baron

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Contrary to what we are often told, most ordinary people are both decent and honest, but there is one crime that is both senseless and stupid, a crime that has no benefit to the perpetrator, yet which can result in injury or death to totally innocent people. Furthermore, this pointless, stupid crime is one that is committed daily by otherwise law-abiding people in all our cities and on many of our roads. This is the crime of using a mobile phone while driving. Recently however, a man went not one but two better when he was filmed using a mobile phone, headphones and a laptop. Footage was uploaded to YouTube and was later published by, among others, the Scottish newspaper the *Daily Record*. A man has now been charged in connection with this offence.

In Wales, last week, a young woman was **cleared by a jury** after a week long trial. Taylor McDonnell killed an elderly couple on a village road two years ago. The prosecution case was that she had been using a mobile phone, but Miss McDonnell said she had been using a hands-free phone, and

although she was talking to her grandfather at the time, she had not been distracted. In spite of her acquittal, this case has led to calls for the law to be changed. The victims, Denis and Joyce Drew, were both 86 years old and had been married for 54 years.

The law certainly does need to be changed because on February 4 **it was reported** that a purge by Thames Valley Police had resulted in a staggering seven hundred drivers being fined for using a phone behind the wheel in one week. Perhaps the fine should be quadrupled, or how about putting an offender in the stocks for a day, and for a second offence, confiscate his car?

If you are in any way skeptical about the risks of using a mobile phone while driving, the accident prevention organisation RoSPA published a free booklet some time ago: *The Risk Of Using A Mobile Phone While Driving*. Don't say you haven't been warned!

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