

THE RESPONSIBLE MOTORIST



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Events and Meetings</i>	2
<i>IAM Surety Car Insurance</i>	2
<i>From the Chief Observer</i>	3
<i>Publicity and your Group</i>	4
<i>Group Videos</i>	5
<i>Do you fancy a day out?</i>	5
<i>The Advanced Driving Test</i>	6
<i>From the Editor</i>	7
<i>Membership</i>	7
<i>Committee Listings</i>	7
<i>Venue for Group Meetings</i>	8
<i>New Associates and Test Passes.</i>	8
Special points of interest:	
<i>Observed Runs / Rides & Pre-tests.</i>	
<i>Events & Meetings for you to attend.</i>	
<i>Associate responsibilities.</i>	
<i>Membership requirements.</i>	



Group 3081

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Seasons greetings!

First I must thank on behalf of the Group all Committee Members, Observers Members and Friends of our Group who have helped in many different roles by their attendance at a number of Group events during this last year. A year ago I was commenting that the "next year" would be a very significant one for our Group and I wasn't wrong. I did suggest may be that without new people coming forward to help we may at some point have to call it a day.

In one way I am very grateful to Derek Wheeler for coming forward and Roy Richards who has also recently volunteered. However with a resignation which we did receive it leaves the Group in a very similar position to last year.

A number of Group roles are performed by just a single person and our Group owes an immense debt of gratitude to a number of people. I cannot let this occasion pass without mentioning the sterling job(s) yes 3 of them that Tony Robson does on our Groups behalf. These additional roles have come about because we been unable to find new people. I am flagging this up now so that it will not come as a total surprise at the AGM in May 2009.

At a time when people may make New Year changes in their lives I will appeal please done think this is about others as a Group participant from Associate to Member this means you. So hopefully this may inspire you to offer just a few extra hours of your time and see that our good and worthy cause can not only continue, but possibly thrive should enough new help come forward. If you want to know more please contact me or come to any of the group nights / committee meetings. This assistance can be in many ways we need people to help and volunteer in every area the Group has involvement so no offer of help will be declined so don't be put off by the unknown.

Secondly I am full aware of the pending membership fee rises and what they can mean to you and me particularly in these current times of everything going up. I wouldn't what them to be the catalyst in you no longer being a Group member. However if these are a problem to you them please let me know, give me a call, or drop me a line in one form or another.

Finally if you are an Associate member of our Group please make sure you do come to both our forthcoming Group nights and our Associate evenings when I am sure you will find their attendance beneficial.

So until next time the best of the Seasons greetings have a wonderful 2009 and safe driving!.

Paul

"HAPPY DAYS OUT!"

Our Publicity Officer, **Derek Wheeler**, has been working hard on other things outside of his remit arranging exciting days out for the membership as you can see on page five of this issue.

It is a long time since the Group has managed to do ventures of this nature. We are hopeful that some of you will respond to these events, but others might not. What events, visits, talks, demos, etc. would you like the Group to realistically arrange? Do you have any good ideas with as much supporting detail as you can find for us to look at?

As you should be aware your committee is having to multi-task to run the Group on your behalf. Could you help in some way?



EVENTS & MEETINGS

14th January 2009

8pm - "Talk by Bob Jackson" - Bob has been chairman of the Blue light conference, an Instructor for West Midlands Fire Service

22nd January 2009

8pm - "Observers Night" - All Observers please attend this essential training night

11th February 2009

8pm - "IAM Examiners Night" - A night with the local examiner Mark Wakelam.

19th February 2009

8pm - "Associate Night 1 of 2" - All new associates should attend both this and 19th March evenings This is the first where the essential theories which

underpin advanced driving are explained.

11th March 2009

8pm - "Talk by Steve Tew" - who has taken every advanced test that there is within a two day period!

19th March 2009

8pm - "Associate Night 2 of 2" - All new associates should attend both of these evenings

18th April 2009

8pm - "Talk by Peter Carroll" - who is the Motoring Editor of our regional newspaper the "Express and Star" and a group member.

16th April 2009

8pm - "Observers Night" -

All Observers please attend this essential training night

13th May - Wednesday

8pm - "A.G.M."

All full & associate members - are requested to attend this meeting. Your commitment to Road safety and your Group is required!

Please note

All dates are 'the 2nd Wednesday in the month' - unless otherwise stated. There are no meetings in August and December. Do read the dates carefully.

Our venue — see the map on the last page.

'IAM SURETY CAR INSURANCE'

93% of IAM Advanced Drivers find this car insurance costs less - plus -

- Free - cover for IAM approved Observers conducting a demo in their own vehicle.
- Free - cover for IAM members using their vehicle in connection with voluntary or charity work.
- Free - Protected No Claims Bonus after 4 years of no claims.#
- Free - unlimited foreign travel in Europe.
- Free - additional Personal Accident, Personal Effects and Medical Expenses cover on a Comprehensive Policy.
- No Excess to be paid if other party confirmed fully at fault,.

For more detail on IAM Surety - see your current copy of 'Advanced Driving'.

OBSERVED AND PRE-TEST RUNS

Full and Associate Members—please note - that a valid Group Membership card must be produced upon request. Failure to do so or that the card is invalid, that particular activity will not take place

Do remember - When you have taken a 'pre-test' drive - and have been recommended to apply for the advanced test, please send your completed test application form to me as soon as possible. This recommendation will come from you having demonstrated the standard that we expect of you to pass - however - it will still depend on your driving on the actual day of your IAM test with an IAM Examiner. *Within 2-3 weeks* - an Examiner will contact you with a date and time for your actual test.

After taking your test - please let your Observer and Chief Observer know of the result as soon as possible. This allows us to say well done — and to free your Observer for any waiting Associate.

Observers— tell your Chief Observer when your Associate passes—as I would much rather be told twice than not at all!

Geoff Davis—Chief Observer

"Skill for Life?"



FROM YOUR CHIEF OBSERVER

Road signs: Misreading / ignoring / speed humps

I would suggest from time to time some motorists ignore road signs. I was recently at a country park. The road which two young motorists drove along had a 'no entry' sign at the entry point. Without hesitation the first driver drove past the no-entry signs, closely followed by the second car - he had probably noticed the signs, but chose to continue because his 'mate' had drove past the signs, not wishing to use the correct exit. Fortunately, no one was about to use the one-way street in the usual way in order to drive to more remote car-parks, as most vehicles were approaching the exit, as closing time was nearing.

On another occasion, at a point where a busy road was closed in one direction, several motorists approaching the 'road closed', 'no entry' and 'diversion' signs along with a copious number of cones, still attempted to drive past the closure signs. Incidentally, these motorists were encouraged to choose another route, although with some, it was an uphill task to explain alternative routes to their destination. It may be that motorists are creatures of habit - they have driven along stretches of road hundreds of times, so they may become oblivious to road signs or changes. Reported instances where road crews working on road works have experienced close calls from speeding motorists driving through restricted areas, for example, on motorways where the speed limit had been reduced to 40mph. Over the years, it has become necessary to install safety cameras to slow motorists down to protect road crews. Imagine for a moment working close to the edge of a line of cones, with motorists travelling through the hazardous area maintaining their normal road speed without any thought for anyone. It must be an awful experience. As for speed limits, I would suggest most motorists, at some time or other, will break a speed limit – not intentionally, but will drift slightly above the signed limit. It's the ones that have total disregard for speed limits which can cause problems for themselves and other road users. In some areas, councils attempt to control the problem of speeding motorists by installing road humps – in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some are speed cushions, others spread across the road in the form of a speed table and chicanes, where it is necessary to drive a course through kerbs and bollards. So, the majority of law abiding motorists have to negotiate the newly added features, which also provides an uncomfortable journey, because a few have chosen to travel at excessive speed over an extended period of time, perhaps past schools, or through villages where pedestrians are put at risk.

Till next time -

Be vigilant-take care-drive safely!

Geoff Davis, Chief Observer

OBSERVERS AND ASSOCIATES - PLEASE NOTE: Do read the Events and Meetings sections as there are evenings that you need to attend.

*“Skill for Life
Could that also be for
‘Skills are for a life?’”*

ASSOCIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Keep in touch with your Observer—it is your responsibility to do so.

If you cannot keep an appointment—tell your observer. Observers work on a voluntary basis and have lives of their own to fit around their observing. It is only courteous to let them know.

If you do not keep in touch with your observer—it will be assumed that you no longer wish to continue and your observer will be assigned to another associate. Our observers and their time are a scarce commodity so we have to make best use of them.

Successful pre-test runs—still means that you

continue your observed runs right up to the actual test. Do not go off the boil!

• **When you pass your test**—let us know via your observer so that all the group can celebrate your success.



Publicity and your Group

Publicity is the life blood of any organisation, we need to build on what we have to as a group and get as much publicity as is possible, as you are aware Peter Carol the motoring correspondent of the Express and Star became an associate earlier this year, through that we managed to get a comprehensive article published in the Express and Star and this article is reprinted in this newsletter, since the article was published Peter Carroll has completed a number of observed to with Paul Williamson it is now time for him to take the IAM test we hope that over the next few weeks we will get another article published in the Express and Star

Peter is an extremely busy regional newspaper motoring correspondent, he therefore has found it a little difficult to fit in a number of observed runs necessary to bring his driving skills up to that required to take the IAM test, Peter is a very interesting person to talk to, about his role as a motoring correspondent, we hope he will be a guest speaker at one of our meetings, he attends many of the vehicle manufacturer new vehicle launch presentations which must be interesting in itself.

It is very difficult to evaluate the benefit of this activity from our point of view but we certainly need to keep the name of the Institute of Advanced Motorists in front of the general public, a few months ago the BBC Midlands ran a road safety campaign called Drive to Survive, this was a comprehensive campaign promoted primarily through the radio, we managed to get Les Ross who presents an afternoon show to take a IAM mock test, I sat in the back of Les Ross's Mini Cooper (original model) while staff examiner Mike Lovelock took Les through the test procedure, we all felt it was a very worthwhile exercise and Les himself did extremely well. During that week the test was featured on air and people phoned in to discuss driving technique, and road safety in general, towards the end of that week Peter Plisner, the motoring correspondent for BBC Midlands took a similar test which was shown on Midlands today, we feel therefore that we did gain good publicity through the BBC Midlands campaign Drive to Survive for the IAM.

We feel this type of activity is essential we certainly need to keep the name of the Institute of Advanced Motorists in the front of the general public.

We had a stand at the Wolverhampton show unfortunately it didn't seem to create the interest that we would have liked but at the same time we were there, we also had a stand booked at the Classic Car and Transport show at Himley for 7th of September, unfortunately the weather before the event was so bad, that the organisers decided to cancel the event, we did feel that particular show would have created an interest in the IAM, on the basis that it would be car minded people attending, we hope to attend that event next year and possibly similar events in our area, the committee feel that we need to create as much interest for members as is possible, we will be looking at a number of events that hopefully will be of interest to everyone

Derek Wheeler – Group Publicity Officer

*“Skills are for a Life
.... Yours, your
families and*



GROUP VIDEOS

Are available on loan for all associates, members and observers to use.

These are good reminders and an introduction to advanced driving / riding for all.

They can be got from your Group Secretary on any Meeting night and returned by the next meeting.

- System of car control.
- Old Highway Code.
- New Highway Code.
- Positive driving.
- Chris Johnson Fund.
- Safe Motorway Driving.
- Roadcraft.
- Horse sense for Motorists.
- Aggressive & bad driving.
- Sharing the road with Emergency Vehicles.
- You only live once.
- Driveability.
- Drive without fear.
- 3 Simple life savers.
- Skid Pan.
- Top Rider.

Do you fancy a day out?

The Morgan Car Company

A factory visit has been arranged to MORGAN Sports Cars at Malvern to see how these traditional sports cars are made, many of the assembly is done by hand in a traditional way.

The visit is arranged for **Wednesday 18th March 2009** the factory tour will start at 2.30 pm and will last 1½ hours the cost per person is £5.00.

This should be an interesting afternoon, we will need confirmation and your payment as soon as possible - cheques made payable to "W.A.M."

Interested in attending please contact me, **Derek Wheeler**, a.s.a.p. at 7 Elvion Drive, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8SZ. Tel: 01902 758833 Mobile: 07914640127

To those attending I will send conformation plus a map.

Jaguar Cars Ltd.

We are also looking at the possibility of visiting this factory. This will also depend on how the proposed Morgan visit goes.

Skid Pan Tuition

A day has been booked with HM Motorsport to hold Skid Control sessions for us at Donnington. The day will include Classroom Theory Briefing, Instructor Skid Demo, Hands on Skid Practice, and Instructor Braking Technique Demo (ABS and non ABS), plus Hands on braking technique practice, and a Timed Slalom Event Fun of putting new found skills into practice!

The date is Saturday 13th June 2009. The normal price for this event is £125 but we have arranged this event for £100. per person

Interested in attending please contact me, **Derek Wheeler**, at - 7 Elvion Drive Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8SZ 01902 758833 Mobile 0714640127

At this stage we will need a deposit of at least £25 to confirm your place. Cheques made payable to "WAM".

Derek Wheeler – Group Publicity Officer

"...and those of the general public



IAM NEWS RELEASES / FACT SHEETS

THE ADVANCED DRIVING TEST

What the Examiner expects

The Test takes about 90 minutes, over all types of roads and using your own car. The four essential qualities are **Concentration, Observation, Anticipation** and **Planning**. The Examiner is the holder of a Police Advanced Driving Certificate. A full understanding of what is expected can be found in the IAM publication "Pass Your Advanced Driving Test" or "Pass Your Advanced Motorcycling Test" as appropriate. A number of important points are mentioned here:

THE PRINCIPLES OF ADVANCED DRIVING

- Do you concentrate properly and avoid distractions?
- Can you read the road and anticipate potential hazards in good time?
- Are hazards dealt with in a planned and systematic way?
- Do you use your mirrors before changing your speed or position and do you always give a signal to other road users if they will benefit or appreciate one?
- Can you drive with reasonable restraint, but not indecision?
- Is your judgement of speed and distance accurate?
- Do you drive with courtesy and consideration for other road users, including pedestrians?
- Are you always in the right place on the road, travelling at the right speed with the right gear engaged and able to stop safely in the distance you can see to be clear?

HANDLING SKILLS

- Are steering actions safe, smooth and accurate, and do you pass the wheel through your hands?
- Are gears smoothly and correctly selected?
- Do you make full use of automatic transmission, if your car is fitted with it?
- Is your braking smooth and progressive?
- Do you use "acceleration sense"?

ADVANCED DRIVING SKILLS ON THE ROAD

- Do you keep up a reasonable pace and maintain good progress if conditions permit?
- Do you anticipate and react correctly to the situations developing ahead?
- Are the correct road position chosen and signals given in good time for the next manoeuvre?
- Are all signals, signs and road markings observed, obeyed and approached correctly?
- Are overtaking manoeuvres carried out smoothly, decisively and safely?
- Do you drive with proper restraint and proper sensitivity of control when the roads are slippery or visibility is reduced?
- Are manoeuvres such as parking, reversing, carried out smoothly and competently with effective all-round observations?

Advanced Drivers are expected to control the risks, despite the incorrect actions of others. Every journey can have its unexpected moments.

However, even successful candidates have made minor mistakes, which did not prevent them from passing the Advanced Driving Test.

*"Skills are for a Life
.... through your
driving ... so*



FROM THE EDITOR

Help required!

Please search your diaries for blank spaces and for things that are of low priority that can be deleted or put back. Your group needs help in order to keep going. Why not give something back against all that you have gained from becoming an advanced driver? How? Easy, become a committee member or an observer. **Well? Well - why not? Eh?**

Requirements for current Group and IAM membership.

Please keep a close eye on the status of both of these! Do ensure that you complete the Group form with each Group annual renewal - and/or - change in detail and send them together with the correct monies in a timely fashion to our Membership Secretary. Also the IAM form from London HQ which you send back to

them.

Group renewal date is **April 1st** each year!

Current memberships are a mandatory requirement for all observers.

Timely renewals—are a must. Those not renewing will cease to be a group member, associate, observer, etc.

Please complete your membership renewal forms—with all relevant detail so that we can maintain our group files.

What is missing from your Newsletter?

To a great degree — contributions from you! We get little or nothing from you. Your newsletter does not appear like magic! (Doesn't this fellow ever shut up? No!). Do send your letters, articles, etc. to me preferably on a disc or as an attached file on an e-mail in an MS Office pro-

gram format but hard copy will do if you do not have a computer. My contact details are in the column to the right..

Should your input not be part of the next issue rest assured that it does go on file and will be used.

CLOSING DATE FOR YOUR NEXT ISSUE: -14th February

Tony Robson - Editor.

Committee & Trustees

- **President**
Bill Goodreds
- **Vice Presidents**
Joe Brooks
Judith Rowley
- **Chairman**
Paul Williamson
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07969.487549
- **Secretary**
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07966.131778
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(see Group Secretary)
- **Chief Observer**
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(see Group Secretary)
- **Minutes Secretary**
Roy Richards
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- **Associate Controller**
(see Chief Observer)
- **Test Administrator**
(see - Associate Ctrlr.)
- **Events Coordinator**
(Vacant)
- **Publicity Officer**
Derek Wheeler
01902.758833
- **Additional Trustees**
(Vacant)

MEMBERSHIP

Data Protection

(Data Protection Act 1984) Details are kept on file for all of our Members, Associates, Region and IAM HQ contacts in order that we may print address labels and perform other necessary administration tasks. If you object to any of this information being kept on file please inform the Group Membership Secretary in writing. Such information held will only be used by the Group and will not be passed on to other bodies or organisations.

Group Membership Fees

Associate Membership
£99 ('Skill for Life')

Associate Membership Renewal - £12

Full Membership (effective each 1st April) - £12

Family / Joint Membership (2 Full members at the same address—effective

each 1st April) - £18

Cheques - please forward them (payable to 'W.A.M.' with your Group Membership number on the back) together with your completed form to:

Tony Robson
133 Elston Hall Lane
Bushbury
Wolverhampton
WV10 9HD

Associate Membership

Upon joining usually as part of the IAM 'Skill for Life' program. Within this program you get the cost of your Advanced Test and your 1st years IAM and group memberships (the latter being refunded should you not pass the test).

Literature - is part of this package and comprises 'Passing your Advanced Driving / Motorcycle Test'

and 'The Highway Code'

Guidance - from the group Observer assigned to you up to the day of your advanced test. This also requires a successful pre-test run/ride with a Senior Observer before a recommendation to apply for the IAM Advanced Test can be given.

New Members - are required to complete the Group Membership Form which will be sent to you upon contacting our Group.

Full Members - please note

London Membership - is required in addition to that of your Group.

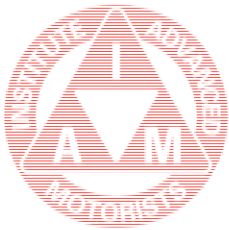
• *If your are a Group Observer* - you must be a fully paid up member of both.



Group 3081

GROUP MAIN CONTACT:
Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists
Group Secretary
Phone: 07966.131778
Email: tony.robson@mypostoffice.co.uk

'Skill for Life.'



Institute of Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity: 249002

Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

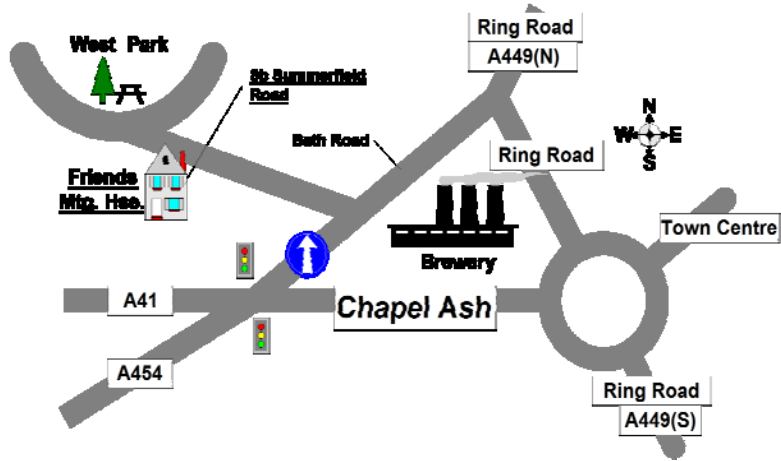
Group: 3081

Registered Charity: 1053330

Group WebSite:

www.geocities.com/wolvesiam

*"...Are you a
'responsible motorist'?
Skill for life, Skills for a
life are our
responsibilities - so use
them 24/7"*



VENUE FOR OUR GROUP MEETINGS

- The Friends Meeting House
8b Summerfield Road
Wolverhampton WV1 4PR

As you get to the gate—follow down the drive towards the back of this property and its car park. The Meeting House is at the very back—a single story building with glass entrance doors. The map shows that Bath Road is a 'one way road' - albeit briefly—when approached from Chapel Ash. You cannot turn right into Bath Road when coming out of town. Taking the Ring Road (northbound) from the Chapel Ash roundabout you need to turn first left into Bath Road then second right into Summerfield Road. For other approaches see your 'A-Z'.

NEW ASSOCIATES

Welcome to:

- (Wheaton Aston) Kyle & Alison Fulton.
- (Penn) Janet Breeze.
- (Perton) Phil Taylor
- (Albrighton) Ruth Harvey-Regan.
- (Oxley) Jim Thomas.
- (Coseley) Andy Rhodes.
- (Wombourne) Mick Esser
- (Codsall) Mick Page.
- (Willenhall) Mike Lines

TEST PASSES

- Ann Peters (Obs. Rod Matthews)
- Chris Peters (Obs. Rod Matthews)
- Dave Fellows (Obs. Carol Woodhead)
- Scott Nicholls (Obs. Carol Woodhead)
- Michelle Stanley (Obs. Roy Richards)

Well done and congratulations!

Hopefully your next move might be to become an observer yourself to put back in some of what you have received. Added to this you will continue to hone your 'skill for life' by this passing on and guidance.

Disclaimer

Please note: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Group, or that of the IAM-London, but are those of the contributors.