

THE RESPONSIBLE MOTORIST



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Group 3081

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

We are already coming to the end of the summer with one event left and if there are any who haven't already come forward the Himley Classic Car Show is very different to all those other events your Group regularly attends. If you can give just a few hours of your time on Sunday 5th September please get in touch with myself or any of the other committee members.

As a Group for the next couple of Meeting nights we are trying something different and are off to the Guest Willenhall Alfa Romeo dealership for September this is followed in October by a visit to our local commercial station '107 the Wolf'. Our thanks are extended to the local presenter and motoring enthusiast, Dick Dodd, who will be our host during the visit to the Radio Station.

Next I, with regret, have to let you know that **Derek Wheeler**, our Publicity Officer, has decided to resign his post on the committee. Derek has been the inspiration in helping to open a number of doors due to his former trade contacts in the local area. I know Derek has, in part, felt frustrated as he hasn't been able to achieve more, but what he has done a lot in his time on your committee. He has achieved, on behalf of the Group, many things including successful visits to both Morgan and Jaguar Cars. He has been a wise and informed colleague on the committee and will be significantly missed.

This brings me to what regular readers might think is an annual appeal for people to come forward and offer some time to assist in the running of our Group. From just a few hours extra a month you can make a significant difference to our Group. If you are not sure how you can or could help please get in touch and there is no obligation you can find out more. Please contact me or again any other committee member.

Safe Motoring and I look forward to seeing you hopefully at one of the forthcoming Group evenings or events.

Paul

YOUR NEWSLETTER SENT BY E-MAIL?

In recent times there have been one or two suggestions as to why our newsletter cannot be also sent out via e-mail. We have broached this matter before but without any real success.

However—as with most things they can change over time! Want your copy in this way? Please e-mail me and depending on the response let's see what can be done!

What other things to do with the Group would you like to receive via e-mail?



EVENTS & MEETINGS

8th September

8pm—"First Responders" - a talk about their work in the community. See page 4 for more detail and this different venue!!

13th October

8pm—"A visit to 107 The Wolf Radio Station" - Meet Dickie Dodd—go behind the scenes. Venue—2nd Floor Mander House, Mander Centre WV1 3NB. Contact Carol Woodhead (see page 7) - for all information to do with this visit!. Car parking is by turning from Bell Street left down into the service area of the Mander Centre and taking the lift up to 2nd Floor Mander House.

10th November

8pm - "West Midlands Fire Service" - a talk by Paul Guyver—Most of their work is now road traffic incidents—Come and find out why!!

• Associate Evenings

16th September (7.30pm)

21st October (7.30pm)

• Observer Evenings

18th November (7.30pm)

Note: These applicable meetings must be attended.

Please note

All dates are 'the 2nd

Wednesday in the month' - unless otherwise stated. There are no meetings in December.

Do read the dates carefully.

Our normal venue — see the map on the last page.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER—NIGEL

Nigel is our latest addition to the Group Committee and is settling down well. He will be taking on specific role(s) to assist in the running of our Group and we will list these in due course in the newsletter on page 7.

He has recently retired after some 35 years as a Trading Standards Officer, so we can look forward to his using the skills and experience he has amassed being used within the group to mutual benefit.

Nigel has been a Group Observer for circa 10 years with associates from 18 to 75 years young!

Outside of the group his other interests are a passion for classical music, attending some 40+ concerts per year at the Birmingham Symphony Hall. In addition he plays badminton and table tennis.

"Skill for Life?"

ASSOCIATE OBSERVED & PRE-TEST

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

Attendance at 'Associate Evenings' by Associate Members—is expected.

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



FROM YOUR CHIEF OBSERVER

Lights – another visit 2010

If your vehicle has a defective light for instance, you may be stopped by the Police and be given 7 days to rectify the fault(s). You would need to visit an MoT Testing Station to either correct the defects, or to check that the defects have been corrected – and for a fee, I suppose, they would give you the necessary documentation to present to the designated Police station that the fault(s) had been corrected.

That would be the end of the matter if the necessary jobs had been completed during the 7 day period. However it would be a different story if you were unable to have the jobs attended to during this 7 day window.

Whilst visiting business premises recently, the owner of the car was told there was a defective headlight. 'Ok' was the answer – 'How much will that cost, please?' 'About £100 plus the cost of the bulb!' 'How much did you say?', the driver asked. 'About £100 plus the cost of the bulb: On this type of vehicle, it's necessary to remove the bumper to replace the headlight bulb'. The owner was staggered – understandably.

The garage was not a dealership premises whose prices are usually somewhat higher—this was a garage you may choose to use for servicing if your car is a little older.

I'd like to suggest this car, from a major manufacturer, is not the only one to attract exceptional costs when replacing low value items.

If, as a driver you made periodic checks to ensure lights were working, you could avoid the additional expense of the MoT garage and the necessary certificate for the Police.

Recently, driving along in a line of traffic, I noticed the van ahead of me wasn't showing any brake lights when traffic ahead began slowing down. The situation didn't take me by surprise as I had been viewing the traffic ahead wondering why everyone was travelling so slowly in a 40mph area. I had seen the vehicles ahead showing their brake lights, but not the van directly ahead of me. I followed the van for a short distance: at a T junction, he turned right, I needed to turn left. We were both held up by red traffic lights. It was at this point that I attracted his attention and mentioned that he didn't have any brake lights. The driver was unaware of the situation. 'Oh! Thanks mate', was his reply. (Yes, really)

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

Attendance at Associate Evenings—is expected.

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.



Group Trips and Publicity Events

GROUP MEETING Wednesday September 8th (8pm).

- Will be held at - Guest Motors, Fiat and Alfa-Romeo Showroom, Armstrong Way Willenhall WV13 2 QU.

This evening will focus on the role of a FIRST RESPONDER. The presentation will explain how the role was devised, and how it operates with the emergency services in both urban and rural areas, taking into consideration how vital time is with emergencies in both accident, and illness such as heart attacks and strokes. This presentation will be made by Mark Lines who is a First Responder Mark. He is also the Sales Manager at Willenhall, he is a member of the IAM. We will also learn more about how the IAM has helped the Responder Program.

Alfa-Romeo are one of the sponsors of the First Responder program.

The evening will be an OPEN HOUSE event so everyone will have the opportunity to look around the dealership and the cars on display. Guest Motors is a family owned Motor Group which has been established over 100 years it has large commercial vehicle dealerships, in addition to the car dealership in Willenhall.

The IAM is going through some changes at the present, it is trying to keep abreast of changing times, we as members have what can be very personal reasons for being members, the main ones being a safe competent driver giving consideration to other road users.

We need to be positive about the IAM it is a very credible organisation, Head Office is trying to make membership more interesting and more cost effective in getting more organisations giving IAM members discounts on goods and services, the Insurance programme is excellent as many members know.

A Skills Day has been arranged by the IAM for Saturday 6th November at Mallory Park, - the cost will be £135 per person. It will be very much a skills day not a race day - a very memorable experience and worth the cost. Anyone interested should contact IAM London. You can take a guest at the same price.

We have been looking at a number of events that could be of interest to members here are a few ideas:-

- **Visit to Westfield Sports Cars**—at Kingswinford—this visit would be limited to a maximum of 10 no cost is involved.
- **Visit to Land Rover**—production facility at Solihull. The cost would be £30. per person.
- **Re visit Morgan Sports Cars at Malvern** cost £10 per person
- **Bentley Cars at Crewe**—We are continuing to request a visit to this prestige car manufacturer but visits are very restricted. We will keep trying and advise you as and when.

We are keen to arrange visits to places of interest to members we are open to suggestions.

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.

IAM News Release

16 June 2010

New limit must not dilute police enforcement of drink driving, says IAM

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists), the UK's largest independent road safety charity, has today welcomed the proposal of a new lower drink drive limit, but stresses that enforcement will be the key factor that determines its success.

Commenting on the findings of the North Report, released today, IAM Director of Policy and Research Neil Greig said: "Authorities should be aware that, should it pass into law, a new limit will make little difference to casualty figures without proper enforcement. Already stretched front line police may end up pursuing lower risk drivers, leaving less time to catch those who blatantly ignore any limit."

Mr Greig continued: "A lower limit will hopefully make many more drivers think twice about taking any drink at all before getting behind the wheel. Drivers will also be more likely to get caught the morning after, but only if sufficient police are out there enforcing the law.

"Many repeat offenders think they're invincible, and ultimately it is fear of being caught that will eradicate drink driving rather than stronger penalties."

"...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? Me? Yes, you!!**

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: - 30th Oct. 2010

Tony Robson - Editor.

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derek.wheeler@virgin.net
- **Committee Member**
Nigel Packer
01902.897203
- **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
£139 ('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.

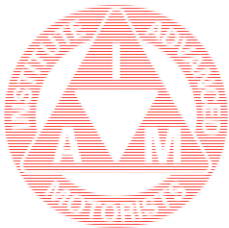


Group 3081

GROUP MAIN CONTACT:

Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists
Group Secretary
Phone: 07966.131778
Email: secretary@wolvesiam.org

'Skill for Life.'



Institute of Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity: 249002

Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

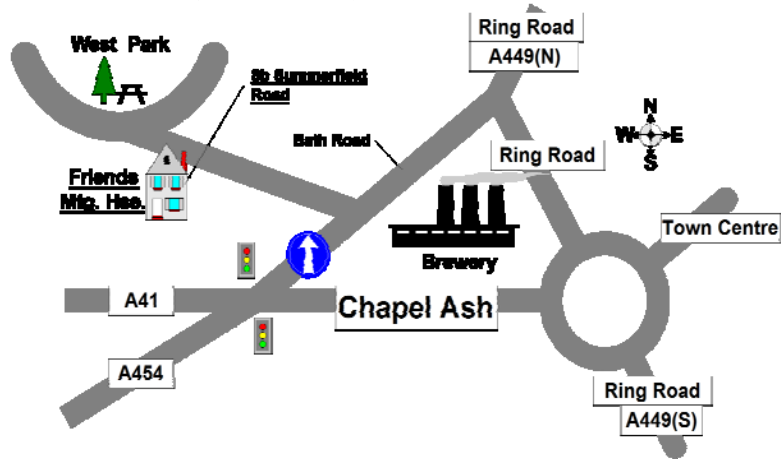
Group: 3081

Registered Charity: 1053330

Group Website:

www.wolvesiam.org

*"...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:

- (Dudley) Patricia Lloyd
- (Willenhall) Colin Hunt
- (Ettingshall) Carl Smethurst
- (Coven) Rebecca Folkes
- (Stourbridge) Ian Bryan

- (Codsall) George Williamson

TEST PASSES

- Colin Hunt (Obs. Carol Woodhead)
- Pat Lloyd (Obs. Rod Matthews)
- Carl Smethurst (Obs. Rod Matthews)
- Scott Rathbone (Obs. Nigel Packer)

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.