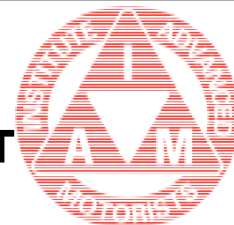


THE RESPONSIBLE MOTORIST



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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Hi everyone

Welcome to our Groups Summer Newsletter. First of all I am disappointed at the lack of response to my request for people to assist with the forthcoming events. If help doesn't come forward we will be left with having to withdraw and miss vital opportunities to share what we do with members of the public. We desperately need more new and ideally younger Group members. If you are able to help please get in touch with me or any other Committee member.

At a recent Committee meeting we heard feedback on why people start the Advanced Driving Course. Which has prompted me to ask any of you to share with the Group the motivation as to why you started to undertake your Advanced Training.

As I am asking you to share your motivation I'd better share my motivation. I was involved in a road traffic incident many years ago. At the time I was a Company Car driver doing 30,000 or more miles a year. This incident left me questioning myself did I in anyway cause it? At the time I was questioning my conscience could I be to blame in anyway. Had I done everything right?

It was a number of years since I took my DOT driving test and I had to say I had thought and half believed I didn't do anything wrong, but.... Wasn't confident enough to say with confidence "no" I hadn't.

So that is why during the following days I was on the look-out for a course. Initially I got in touch with ROSPA but they didn't have a local group neither was I inspired to take things further by their contact who I rang. I was passing a driving school shop window in Willenhall, which had an IAM leaflet in it and.... that started me to where I am today.

So that is mine, but what is your story? Why not share yours too? Please e-mail or post yours to our new Newsletter Editor, **Eddie Reade**. His contact details can be found on page 7 of this issue!

Have a great Summer of safe and skilful Driving and we look forward to seeing you hopefully at / on of the forthcoming Group evenings or events.

Paul

A NEW GROUP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

From the group contacts list, etc. on page 7 you will see that a new Editor is listed. This current issue is the last one that I will be producing for the group having done so since the autumn of 2000—some 40+ newsletters at 3-4 per year!!

Can I take this opportunity to thank all contributors over the years. Overall I have enjoyed doing your newsletters even though on occasion I had to burn the midnight oil!

As I hand you over to **Eddie Reade** please give him as much support as you can.

Tony Robson



Group 3081



EVENTS & MEETINGS

11th July

8pm—CAMRA—a talk by Jim Laws on CAMRA and the listed pubs local to Wolverhampton.

8th August

8pm—Bantock Park Museum—a talk by Sue Randall on its many activities—you may well be surprised!

12th September

8pm—T.B.A.—(this evenings event will come to you via your e-mail from Carol Woodhead).

10th October

8pm—A talk by Nick Payne from the Road Haulage Association—on its work in today's economic climate.

14th November

8pm—Wolverhampton Trading Standards—a return visit by request of William Humphries and its work in helping with consumer problems.

• Observer Evenings (Thursdays)

16th August (7.30pm)

Note: Your attendance is expected on these evenings!

• Associate Evenings (Thursdays)

19th July (7.30pm)

20th September (7.30pm)

Note: Your attendance is expected on these evenings!

****Please note****

All dates now vary in any 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.

MEMBERSHIP & TALKS/MEETINGS

• **Group Membership Detail**

Members are reminded that **any** change in their detail previously supplied to the Group via a Group Application Form on joining or renewal of membership needs to be passed to your Group Secretary as soon as they happen. We cannot effectively contact you if your detail on our database is out of date.

• **Talks/Meetings**

In order to try and attract members that find that our standard meeting night each month clashes with other things in their social life we have now varied our meeting nights in September and October 2011. **What did you think of this?** Any other suggestions that would allow you to attend group nights?

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

“Skill for Life?”



FROM YOUR CHIEF OBSERVER

Country Lanes

Can you stop in the distance you can see to be clear? Even if you're travelling at a 'reasonable' speed, someone approaching round the next bend will probably be travelling faster than you are – because they know the area – but do they know what is round the next corner? There could be a broken down car, pedestrians, or in stormy conditions, fallen trees or flood water.

Whilst driving along narrow country lanes recently, I was looking for passing places in case I needed one. Before long, someone appeared from round the bend ahead. You're doing your best by not driving too quickly in case someone appears. When someone appears, it could be that there's nowhere to go. I was on a single track road and there were few passing places. It's at this point that you realise just how long it takes for both vehicles to stop. At 30mph, according to the Highway Code, the typical overall stopping distance is 23 metres / 75 feet which includes the thinking distance, or 6 car lengths. If, for instance, the approaching vehicle is also travelling at 30mph, it also needs 75 feet to stop. Even at 20mph each vehicle needs 3 car lengths to stop (40 feet). So firm braking is usually necessary. When you're driving along narrow country lanes with blind bends, 30mph is probably too fast in certain conditions.

Sometime the road is too narrow to squeeze past the oncoming vehicle. This is where you'll need to consider reversing to a wider part of the road. If necessary, reverse until you reach a passing place. This could be an entrance to a field - check the mirrors carefully, you may be reversing towards ruts either side of the field entrance where heavy vehicles have travelled over a period of time. The ruts may be filled with water, or there may be large stones partly buried to avoid further damage to the soft soil on the edge of the road. On occasions, the other motorist may choose to reverse, but it's better to be prepared by noting areas where you could reverse into if the need arises.

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 are expected 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.



Driving in France? Get the right Kit!

Half of motorists are unaware that the breathalysers they will soon need to carry in France must be certified to the French NF standard, according to the IAM's (Institute of Advanced Motorists) latest web poll of 2,300 respondents. Compulsory from 1st July, the easiest way to tell if the breathalyser complies with the French legislation is to make sure it has the blue circular NF logo, the French equivalent of the BSI kite mark in the UK.

Other findings show that 82 per cent of people think that the new regulations will have no effect on reducing drink driving, as intended by the French authorities. Only 13 per cent said that the new regulations will reduce people driving over the limit, and 70 per cent said that drivers will only carry them to comply with the law, and will not change their behaviour.

Despite a general scepticism about the impact these new regulations will have, compliance is set to be high. Seventy-five per cent of respondents plan to take the breathalyser kit with them. Only seven per cent said they didn't plan to. Eighteen per cent didn't know or hadn't thought about it.

The legal limit in France is 50 mg per 100 ml of blood, lower than in the UK (the UK limit is 80mg).

IAM chief executive Simon Best said: "Agree with the changes or not, from July 1st you will face a fine if you don't carry an NF approved breathalyser while travelling in France. These are a good way of being sure you are safe to drive."

"We will be looking forward to seeing the evaluation of what impact this new legislation is having. Support is likely to be higher if people can see that carrying a breathalyser actually reduces drink driving."

AlcoSense Breathalyser managing director Hunter Abbott said: "There are a lot of products being sold as "French Breathalysers" which will not satisfy the Gendarmerie. If the product you buy has the French NF logo on it you'll be OK, otherwise the Gendarmerie will not accept it and may treat you the same way as if you do not have one at all. AlcoSense NF Breathalysers (Redline R1) are one of only two single use products on the market which are on the Official Securite Routier approved list. If you purchase a product not on the list or without the NF logo, it puts you at risk of breaking the new law."

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



SO WHY DID I JOIN THE IAM?

Well—way back in 1985 I was driving up a slip road to turn right over a bridge and rejoin the A38 north-bound for Derby when I stopped at the give way lines, looked right then left—but—not right again! In the moment I moved out and a car had come over the rise on the bridge and wiped my front bumper

somewhat!! No injuries but a very dented pride!

Some months later my wife shoved a copy of the Express & Star under my nose pointing to a meeting of the Wolverhampton & District Advanced Motorists & Motorcyclists Group. So began my life with our Group. I managed to pass

after six runs and went on to be an observer and committee member, both of which I am still today. One of my best decisions to date! Driving whenever and wherever still 'floats my boat'! I even like driving in London (how sad is that?).

Tony Robson

Which of these proposed trips interest you???

I would like to suggest some possible events to members of the Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists group. I want to see if there is any interest and then I can make a booking.

1. **Birmingham Symphony Hall tour.** They take place approximately every 2/3 months, the cost is £5 for over 60, otherwise £6. It takes you around the hall, onto the stage, dressing rooms and in front of the organ and if anyone can play they usually ask if they would like to 'have a go.'

The tour is popular, I did it a year ago and it is well worth the time and money. I believe that it is on a Monday. It does not require any minimum number of group members.

2. **Banks's Brewery.** This tour costs £6.50 and includes 2 pints of ale. It starts and finishes with sampling and usually takes about 2 hours.

They do their tours on Monday/Wednesday and Friday at 11a.m, 2p.m. and 6.30 pm. They also do a tour on Saturday at 12a.m.

3. **Assay Office in Birmingham.** The tour to the Matthew Boulton silver collection includes the history of hallmarking at the Assay Office, explanation of processes used in hallmarking and identification of hallmarks and a tour of the library which has rare 1st editions and manuscripts. You end up at the gift shop. The cost is £10 and they require a minimum of 15 people, maximum of 25. A deposit of £75 is required with the booking and the balance 2 weeks before the visit.

Visits are still available in 2012—1st November (p.m. only), 8th November (p.m. only) and 29th November (a.m. and p.m.).

4. **Birmingham Jewellery Quarter Tour.** The cost is £3.50 and requires booking if more than 10 people. They go round in groups of 15. If there are less than 10 people then you can just turn up and go with the next tour.

*I would be grateful if members could **contact me, Nigel Packer, on 01902 897203** if you are interested in any of the events. If there is sufficient interest in any event then I will arrange it for you.*

"...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: -29th September

Eddie Reade - Editor.

Committee & Trustees

- **President**
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- **Vice Presidents**
Joe Brooks
Judith Rowley
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angehome.co.uk
07966 185843
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Nigel Packer
nigelpacker@hotmail.co.uk
01902.897203
- **Committee Member**
(Vacant)
- **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.

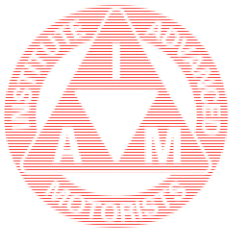
• **If your are a Group Observer** - you must be a fully paid up member of both.



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

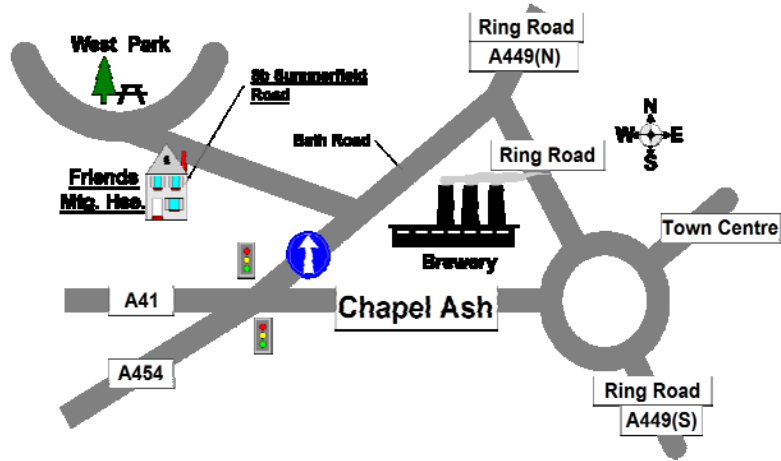
Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

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 / IAM MEMBERS

Welcome to Associates:

- Vicki Fowkes (Wolverhampton)
- Kevin Wright (Wombourne)
- Des O'Neill (Pattingham)
- Angela Handy (Shareshill)

Welcome to IAM Member:

-

TEST PASSES

- Shanette Jones (Obs. Tony Robson)
- Don Gwinnett (Obs. Nigel Packer)
- Brian Kerrigan (Obs.—)
- Philippa Belam (Obs. Graham Trusselle)
- Alan Bates (Obs. Graham Trusselle)
- Cliff Cope (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.

Passed your test just recently??

Have you shared your success by telling your Observer? If not please contact any Committee Member.

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.