

THE RESPONSIBLE MOTORIST



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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Welcome everyone to the Summer edition of your Newsletter.

So much has happened since the last one. My apologies that it has been such a long time since our last issue. We do desperately need more people willing to help to make sure that things like this not happen, so I am asking you please offer some of your time to help our Group.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM supporting our Group and voting, well, the same old faces back into their existing roles. First, many thanks to all of my fellow committee members for their support and also our Groups Observers who have been doing a sterling job in guiding people to and through taking their Advanced driving test successfully. Thank You!

Although it was earlier this year, I must pass on the sad news, in case any of you missed it, of the passing of our founder member, **Bill Goodreds**. Please read page 4 in this newsletter about Bill and his significant contribution to our Group.

It's that time of year when all the local shows and events are on which we attend to publicise what we do and to recruit new members. These are:

“**The Wolverhampton City Show**” at West Park, Wolverhampton which is now to be known as “The Wolverhampton & Black Country Show” on the weekend of 12th & 13th July.

“**The Classic Car and Transport Show**” at Himley - held on Sunday 7th September.

Please get in touch with me or **Tony Robson** our contact details are on page 7, if you don't already have them.

We are trying to keep Group's costs down so will email this Newsletter to you, if we hold an email for you. Do ensure that you always update us whenever you change your email address!! If you would like a paper copy of this Newsletter and not an email one, please get in touch. Similarly if you know anywhere which would happily take a few or publicity leaflets of the IAM please get in touch. Contact me or **Tony Robson** see page 7 for details.

If you know anyone interested in purchasing the “Skill for Life package” please encourage them to do so before October when its cost is going up to £147.

Enjoy safe driving this summer and we will be back in touch soon with the next issue.

Paul

GROUP MEMBERSHIP 2014

You will have had a group membership form by now and most of you have completed and returned it to your Group Membership Secretary. Apart from just renewing membership it also updates our contact information meaning that we are better able to keep in touch with you. However as life changes within the group year our contact detail can change in the interim, so please do remember to tell us when your e-mail address, telephone, etc. are modified. It is important to all that we only contact you appropriately.

Please help us to help you!





EVENTS & MEETINGS

9th July

8pm—Talk by the Midland Freewheelers who are the Midland Emergency Rider Service.

13th August

8pm—Tentatively - viewing and discussion of some top quality driving DVDs including Roadcraft. A 'must attend' evening for real nitty-gritty driving. Enjoy!!

10th September

8pm— Talk plus pictures, etc. of a journey by train to Vienna, Prague and Berlin by Nigel Packer of our group. You might say that he has done some 'training' for this evening!

8th October

8pm—TBA..

- **Observer Evenings** (Thursdays)

21st July (7.30pm)

Note: Attendance is 'required' on these evenings!!

- **Associate Evenings** (Thursdays)

17th July (7.30pm)

18th September (7.30pm)

Note: Attendance is 'required' on these evenings!!

****Please note****

All dates can 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 and the IAM in London as soon as they happen. We cannot effectively contact you if your detail on our database is out of date.

- **Talks/Meetings**

Rather than just waiting for things to be arranged, have you got any details of talks, visits, etc. that you may have experienced or from other interests in your lives that could be transferred to your WAM Group? Yes / No? If you have, please contact our Group Events / Talks officer, Nigel Packer (see page 7 of this newsletter) or any other listed committee member. All contributions will be welcomed!

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 shall not take place

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

Do remember - *When you have taken a 'pre-test' drive* - and have been recommended to apply for your actual IAM Test. 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. Test application will via your test form and/or via the IAM DTE database and the group's database user. *Within 2-3 weeks* - an Examiner will contact you to arrange 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

Keeping an eye on the road

Recently, we were travelling from Alcester to Ledbury on the A4104. In places the winding road has a 60mph speed limit – we were travelling between 50 and 55 where possible.

As we drove towards a crest in the road, we could see the top of a farm tractor approaching from a dip in the road ahead. When we got to the top of the crest, several cars were overtaking the slow-moving tractor as they made their way up and out of the dip. They were overtaking by crossing solid white lines. The cars continued to overtake the tractor even though the road was no longer clear - we were travelling along that particular stretch on the correct side of the road and within the speed limit. The second car followed the first then the third then the fourth car overtook the tractor, as if they were tethered together on rails.

At about 50mph we were covering some ground so the clear stretch of road ahead was quickly diminishing. What was alarming was that the ribbon of cars continued to overtake in the face of an oncoming vehicle.

It quickly appeared to me that they didn't appreciate that overtaking is a dangerous procedure, especially if the road ahead isn't clear and crossing solid white lines is involved.

They hadn't any idea of not overtaking until there was a gap ahead into which they could drive; they just followed through.

I was considering an escape route – along the left hand side of the road there was a continuous kerb line with a grass verge several inches above the height of the kerbs – together measuring perhaps 8 or 9 inches above the road surface. This wasn't a very good option due to the height of the grass verge. There were no dropped kerbs along that stretch.

Everything happened so quickly. Within a matter of seconds it was all over – the fourth car had passed the tractor and had swept back onto his own side of the road. As there wasn't much room to spare I was braking to increase the available space and steered slightly to the left. It was so close, I could see the driver was wearing a ring on his right hand and this was at a closing speed of say 75mph.

The situation had passed. The other cars following the tractor had held back from overtaking at least for the time being.

We continued our journey to Ledbury speaking for a little while about what happened back along the road.

Keeping an eye on the road is most important.

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 required to attend.

ASSOCIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance at Associate Evenings—is required.

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.

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



Bill Goodreds

Bill Goodreds – the passing of our Group President.

Well where do I start first?

I first met Bill a number of years ago and he made an instant impact on me. He straightaway came across as a true “gentleman”. Interested in what I had to say and sharing his views and opinions on almost every aspect of life including driving.

Bill was the original founding member of our Group with membership number 001.

Bill occupied many roles within our Group but in was role as Chairman and Observer was where he has added so much to our Group. As Observer he gave guidance to many of our Groups subsequent Senior and Chief Observers who always respected the skills Bill shared with them.

We as a group were originally a sub group of the Walsall Group, some 34 years ago.

Bill attended and represented our Group on so many occasions over the years promoting Road Safety. He was always there at events like West Park, Himley and Wombourne talking to the public and encouraging them to come and join the IAM and our group. This year will be so strange like part of a jigsaw missing as we have always been so used to him being sat in his chair at such events and group meetings no doubt we will continue to feel his presence.

Although he had a hearing impairment he wasn't a shy or shrinking violet. He always was to be found on the front row at Group nights contributing to the evening invariably being one of the first, if a guest speaker wanted a volunteer or an opinion from the audience. This wasn't to say he would always agree with the guest speaker's views but would offer his in a clear and succinct way which often enhanced the evening.

His significant contribution recognised by the IAM some years ago with a well-deserved Certificate of Appreciation.

During his time with us we equally made our gratitude known to him. Bill wasn't only just a group member he was also a successful county cricketer for Worcestershire and would relate tales of his involvement in particularly notable matches.

There will only ever be one Bill Goodreds and, yes, they did break the mould after him although we all wish they hadn't. He will forever be missed at time when we get together in Group activities so will never be forgotten.

Our thoughts are with Phyllis and his family.

Paul Williamson

Group Chairman (on behalf of the Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists Group 3081)

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



LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!!

We tried this some time ago in an effort to get a response from the membership but from a different angle

- Why did you join the IAM?
- What did you get from passing your test?
- What do you now want

from the IAM / Group?

- What ideas do you have to improve your group?
- Do you have any details on potential events / talks / publicity opportunities, etc,?
- Indeed any input that would benefit your

Group!!

About Engineers and Managers

A man is flying in a hot air balloon and realises that he is lost. He reduces height and spots a man below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised my friend I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don't know where I am".

The man below says, "Yes. You are in a hot air balloon, hovering approximately 30 feet above this field. You are between 40 and 42 degrees North latitude and between 58 and 60 degrees West latitude".

"You must be an Engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am" replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, in fact I am still lost".

The man below says, "You must be a manager."

"I am" replies the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," says the man, "you don't know where you are, or where you are going. You have made a promise, which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are in the exact same position you were in before we met, but it somehow my fault",

"...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: -1st September

Tony Robson - Editor.

Committee & Trustees

- **President**
(TBA)
- **Vice Presidents**
Joe Brooks
Judith Rowley
- **Chairman**
Paul Williamson
chairman@wolvesiam.org
07475552258
- **Secretary**
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133 Elston Hall Lane
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(see Group Secretary)
- **Chief Observer**
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(see Group Secretary)
- **Minutes Secretary**
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- **Test Administrator**
(see - Associate Ctrlr.)
- **Events Coordinator**
(see Publicity Officer)
- **Publicity Officer**
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
£147 ('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.

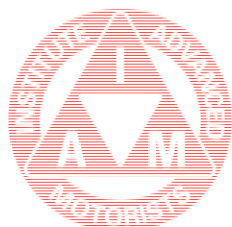
• **If your are a Group Observer** - you must be a fully paid up member of both.



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

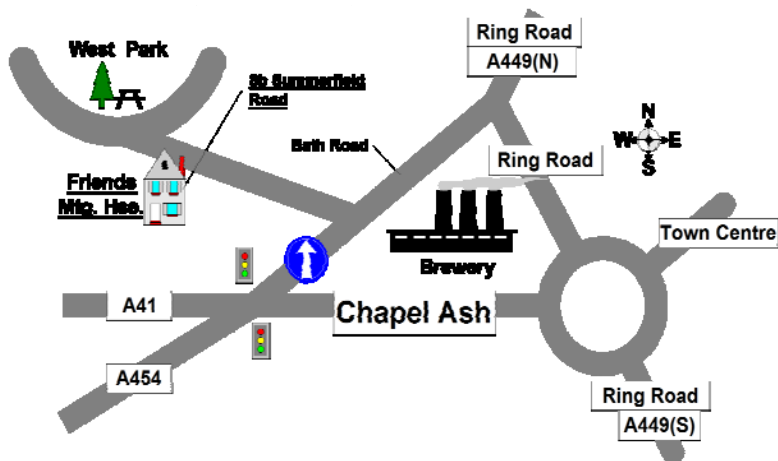
Group: 3081

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:

- Mike Leadbeater
- Kevin Conn
- Charlotte Euston
- Steve Fradgely
- Sarah Ridgeway
- Roland Sellors

• Ben Chapman

- Tim Harper
- Adam Kanwar
- Sean Mullin
- Karl Williams
- Mohammed Ilya

Welcome to IAM Member:

- Phil Spillan.

TEST PASSES

- Mike Leadbeater (Observer: Graham Trusselle)
- Phil Parker (Observer: Nigel Packer)
- Katherine Roberts (Observer: Alan Bates/Rod Matthews)
- Katie Thexton (Observer: Brian Kerrigan)
- Roland Sellors (Observer:

- Graham Trusselle)
- Tim Harper (Observer: Graham Trusselle)
- Steve Fradgely (Observer: Geoff Davis)

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.