

THE RESPONSIBLE MOTORIST



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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Welcome everyone to the Summer edition of your Newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM and supported the Group and voted well the same old faces back into their existing roles and, I am pleased to say, welcome on board to our Committee, **Jonathan Hughes**. As I stated on the evening my thanks for all of fellow committee members for their support and similarly to the Groups Observers who have been doing a sterling job in guiding people out to and through successfully taking their advanced driving test. To all of you thank you!

I am so very pleased to report that **Graham Foulkes** has agreed to become our Groups President filling the vacancy left with the passing of **Bill Goodreds** now over a year ago. Graham has not only been our Treasurer for in his words for too many years now. He has been an active Observer until recently getting many Associates through their Advanced Test as well as attending most of the Groups Events over every year and many more before I joined our Group.

Roy Richards has kindly agreed to be our Groups first "Observer Assessor" and this allows us to start the qualification of the Groups Observers in attaining the nationally recognised standard to be introduced of "Local Observer". Many thanks Roy and for all the other work you do for our Group.

The next Group Night isn't a Wednesday evening but a Saturday Morning at the Wolverhampton Traffic Control Centre. We need to know ASAP if you will be attending please get in touch with **Nigel Packer** as we have to confirm numbers. Please see the events page for more details of not only this but the other events coming up in the next weeks and months.

It's that time of year when all the local shows and events are on which we attend and try and publicise what we do and to recruit new members. These are "The Wolverhampton City Show" which is now to be known as "**The Wolverhampton & Black Country Show**" **on the weekend of 11th & 12th July** but this year is at the Wolverhampton Racecourse and the Classic car and Transport Show at Himley held on Sunday 6th September.

Finally please be aware that Wolverhampton Bus Lanes will be enforced as of the 1st June and those who flout the law face a £70 fine if caught by the enforcement cameras. So be aware of people who may suddenly want to dive in front of you as you approach them.

Please get in touch with me or **Tony Robson** our details are towards the end of this Newsletter if you don't already have them to hand. Enjoy safe driving this summer and we will be back in touch soon with the next issue. **Paul**

GROUP MEMBERSHIP 2015

- 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 WAM/IAM contact information meaning that we are better able to keep in touch with you.
- However as your life 'changes' within the group year your contact detail can change in the interim too, so please do remember to tell us when 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

13th June (Saturday)

'Bus lane enforcement' - A visit & talk—Heanton House, School Street, Wolverhampton meeting at 10a.m. outside. Please tell our Events Officer (see page 7) if you are going.

8th July

8pm—A talk by Ken Knowles—'Town Crier' - on his experiences countrywide (in full regalia too!!).

12th August

8pm—Talk by David Higginbottom from 'Driver First Assist' - on how you can be trained to help if you are first at an accident or shortly after.

9th September

8pm— Talk by IAM

Trustee, Mike Lyne, on the IAM and his work as a trustee. We are also hoping to get neighbouring IAM Groups to attend also.

8th October

8pm—Talk on a Trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg by Nigel Packer. You may recall some of his earlier talks (Vienna, Berlin, etc.). A very good evening!

11th November

8pm—'A Brief Illustrated Tour of Wolverhampton Railways' - local photos, memories, etc. by Simon Dewey. Know your local history, folks!!

- Observer Evenings (Tuesday)

18th August (7.30pm)

Note: Attendance is

'required' on these evenings!!

- Associate Evenings (Tuesday)

23rd June (7.30pm)

21st July (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. Your actual Test application will be done via the IAM DTE database and the group's database user. *Within 2-3 weeks* - an Examiner will contact you to arrange a date, time and location 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

SPEED

Whilst out working, I need to stop my van to visit many addresses each working day. Before getting out, I look a reasonable distance in the rear-view mirrors, to see if anyone is approaching along the road and to look forward for any vehicles – especially if the road is narrow. On several occasions recently, cars, vans and motorcycles were being driven at incredible speeds as they weaved in and out of parked cars in residential streets. Given that at 30mph, you're covering about 44 feet per second or nearly 15 yards. Many cars I have seen recently were travelling well above 30mph so would probably be nearer to 45mph or so, along narrow estate roads. They would be travelling far too fast to even see 'feet under a vehicle' as the faster you travel the more you develop 'tunnel vision' meaning that you are predominately focussing on distance objects and being somewhat oblivious to nearer instances of concern being either side of your vehicle as you're passing through. The speeding driver carries on regardless of anyone else.

As I was driving along a narrow estate road a couple of weeks ago, a speeding car joined the road I was leaving. The driver was unaware of a car parked on the left hand side a few yards in from the T junction, so he needed to alter the anticipated driving line to pass the car. Everything happened so quickly – I needed to move sharply to my left to avoid an incident. Fortunately, I was near to a T junction to my left, which I was able to partly use. The car continued very quickly and went out of sight along narrow roads where children were playing.

It is these kinds of drivers who have no concern for anyone else, encourages people to campaign to local councils to install humps, chicanes or operate community speed enforcers to calm traffic speeds. Meaning that everyone travelling on those roads need to negotiate road humps or other types of traffic calming: everyone therefore pays the price of speeders racing through areas. Once road humps or chicanes are put in on roads where speeding is a problem, they usually stay to the annoyance of the majority of drivers.

So you're driving up to the speed limit – on many occasions I've noticed drivers following very close. This can be intimidating. On the occasions when this happens, I take a check of various conditions: Can I see the registration plate? Sometimes, I cannot even see the make of the vehicle - usually in the centre of the grille! Course of action: to leave a greater distance to the vehicle ahead.

As I was approaching an address I was looking for and intending to stop at the side of the road, I gave an appropriate left signal then applied the brakes. Some following drivers, albeit rare, have slowed down to an almost standstill before overtaking, even though there were no approaching vehicles. It would appear they had not been concentrating on the unfolding situation.

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

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?’”*



Poem—'Consideration' (Ken Gilks 2000)

Be kind in your car,
It's better by far,
Than to be rude, have a fit, shout and yell.
Inside our tin shells,
We think of ourselves,
And let the rest of the world go to hell! -
You'll find if you try,
There's sound reasons why,
You should be kind instead of the other.
This part of life,
Is laden with strife,
But can be better, if you take the bother. -
You'll see cars turning right,
And try as they might,
They've caused a jam, thus stopping the flow.
Of traffic behind,
Now it's your turn to be kind,
Just slow and let everyone go. -
It won't slow you down,
On your passage through town,
You'll get there and loose little time.
Not only that,
But this considerate act,
Will make yourself and others feel fine! -
If this you have,
You may get a wave,
Or a smile and make people feel good.
If you get no response,
Be patient this once,
'Cause some people can't help being rude! -
Give cyclists a wide birth,
You'll find it is worth,
Being patient, don't sound your horn or be horrid.
They've got no protection,
If you make connection,
With your car which is big, heavy and solid. -
Give people room,
It's bad to assume,
A position up someone's exhaust.
'Cause people get flurried,
When angry or worried,
They make mistakes through being forced. -
Don't forget, drivers are people,
Kind, rude or feeble,
Whose moods change with the state of their day.
So give them some space,
You're not in a race,
Consideration should be the theme of the day!

*"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!!

A good contribution—on page 4 in this issue!

Could you do as well or better?

Well what's stopping you then??

Why did I do it?

When I took early retirement I also formed an idea about the things that I wanted to accomplish now with time on my hands.

Item one. Learn to ride a horse. I longed to emulate the great John Wayne and straddle a steed and so I ventured out not to Wyoming but to the Sandwell Valley Riding school and spent many glorious days learning how to control man's four legged friend. I tell you there is nothing quite like having the movement of a very large animal under your supposed control. Quite incredible was the sensation of setting out on an hour's ride on a summer's afternoon bestride faithful William. (William=horse).

Item two. Gain a Black Belt in karate. I was approached on a miserable wet and cold January evening by a congenial Australian, who asked if I would be interested in keep fit and self-defence. It sounded a good idea and so I joined his club, After a year I had my own class and the pinnacle of achievement was my black belt six years later. All good things must come to an end and after ten years I retired.

Item three. What to do? My wife said "why not play golf?" I had never given it a thought but with my brother-in-law, and son-in-law both keen players it seemed a good idea and so I joined Wrottesley Golf Club and got immersed in bogies and greens and chipping and putting with the friendliest group of like-minded souls you could hope to meet. And so it continues and will do for years to come.

Item four. What next? Well like all of us highly charged males I fancied myself as a good driver but never had the breaks to get into Formula One. So, last August I enrolled in the IAM hoping to have a crack at the Test. I was so very fortunate that having made the necessary noises and I was awarded Graham T. (full name omitted for anonymity) as my observer. Having passed my Driving Test in 1958, what myriad of faults would he find in my self-professed skills? I need not have feared. He was quite the professional and though he appeared somewhat paler after our driving sessions he recommended a drive with the chief observer. The night before was not a good one for sleep as was the one before The Test. As one would expect the day dawned frosty and icy and after a mile or so the test went through the ford at Trescott. Did I mention frost and ice? Torville and Dean would have loved the road surface and I swear my examiner smiled to himself as we ploughed through the metre deep (slight exaggeration) torrent. However all's well that ends well and the certificate is on my wall. Why did I do it? I guess it was mainly self-gratification. In all seriousness I do believe that I came through it all a better driver with a greater appreciation of what constitutes a good driver. The ultimate goal? A day's high speed course at Silverstone with Vicki Butler-Henderson.....Wow!!!

Cecil Billing

Group Observer

"...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

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- **Vice Presidents**
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Judith Rowley
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(see - Group Secretary)
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(see Publicity Officer)
- **Publicity Officer**
Nigel Packer
nigelpacker@hotmail.co.uk
01902.897203
- **Committee Member**
Jonathan Hughes
- **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
£149 ('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 'How to Pass your Advanced Driving' Book.

Guidance - will be from the Group Local Observer assigned to you up to the day of your advanced test. This also requires a successful pre-test run with a Group National Observer before the Group can apply for the IAM Advanced Test via the Group IAM DTE database access on the Associate's behalf.

New Members - are required to complete the Group Membership Form which will be sent to you upon when contact is first made by our Group.

Full Members - please note

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

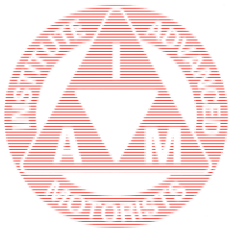
• **If your are a Group Observer** - you must be a fully paid up member of both.



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

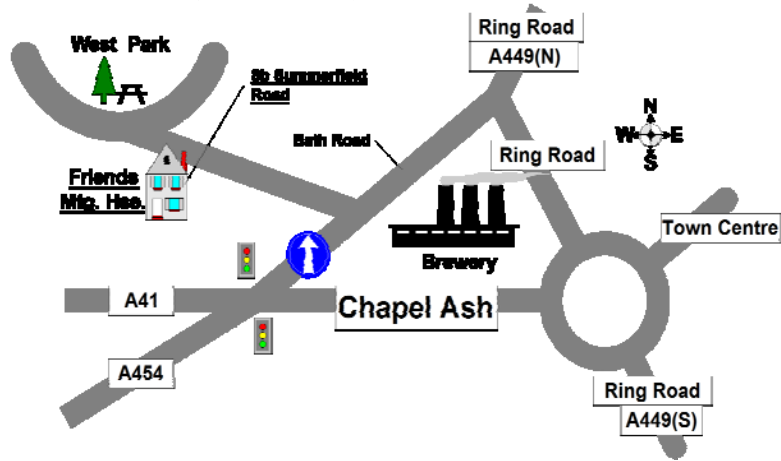
Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

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:

- David Gallagher.
- Anne Skinlo.
- David Stansbie.
- Colin Morgan.
- Ben West.
- Emma Dart.

Welcome to IAM Member:

- None.

TEST PASSES

- Dave Prior (Observer: Mike Leadbeater)
- Jonathan Parkes (Observer: Alan Bates)
- Simon Cartwright (Observer: Rod Matthews)
- Bridget Pugh (Observer: Graham Trusselle)
- Christine Westwood (Observer: Kevin Conn)

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.