

THE RESPONSIBLE MOTORIST



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Events and Meetings</i>	2
<i>M/Ship & Talks / Events detail.</i>	2
<i>From the Chief Observer</i>	3
<i>Actual statements by drivers</i>	4
<i>Let's hear from you!</i>	5
<i>Your new Website</i>	5
<i>The Advanced Driving Test</i>	6
<i>From the Editor</i>	7
<i>Membership</i>	7
<i>Committee Listings</i>	7
<i>Venue for Group Meetings</i>	8
<i>New Members and Test Passes.</i>	8
Special points of interest:	
<i>Observed / Pre-test Runs.</i>	
<i>Events & Meetings for you to attend.</i>	
<i>Associate responsibilities.</i>	
<i>Membership requirements.</i>	

It's shocking to be almost at the end of 2015. We as a Group need to look forward to 2016 which will be another year of change for both our Group and the IAM.

If you've not found out yet about the new IAM standards, 2016 is the year when they are going to be rolled out. As a consequence, potentially, some of the ways we have always believed as the correct way may have to be recognised as outdated and needing to be changed for different techniques.

Our Group Observers are updating their skills to come into line with some of these new consistent standards and ways of giving guidance to get Associates through their advanced test.

We are also in the process of updating the Group's Website. Many thanks to **Jonathan Hughes** for his time and commitment on this. There will be more in the next Newsletter on this totally revamped resource as it will evolve and grow during 2016.

It's that time of year when we all often take time to reflect on the year past and our personal plans for the coming year. So if you have the interest in developing your present Advanced test success to driving to that of an even higher level why not think of taking on the challenge of the IAM Masters qualification. As a group we can assist and support you if this is something that is of personal interest to you. We have one member that has taken and passed his IAM Masters.

Similarly I must also recommend the thought of giving the IAM 'Skill for Life' as a present for Christmas or Birthday or other special occasion for someone that you really care about as a very different gift for those who have almost everything in life. This can be in whole or in part through IAM gift vouchers.

I don't know if you are aware we as a Group also do free 'Taster' sessions for anyone who might wish to try before they buy the whole IAM 'Skill for Life' package. Have a wonderful 2016 and may it bring you all you wish for and thanking you for your continuing support.

Paul

WANT TO HELP YOUR GROUP?

- YOUR GROUP—needs you to help run WAM by contributing in any way you can. The Group will function better if:
 - You could join the Committee either in a committee position, or as just a committee member.
 - You could become a Local Observer (LO) putting something back in that you had out as an Associate, continuing to contribute to Road Safety.
 - You have details of Speakers, local Motoring Events, places to visit, etc.
- IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY—contact any Committee Member— see Page 7.





EVENTS & MEETINGS

December

****No meeting****

13th January

9am—Visit to Jaguar Land Rover Engine Plant at WV9 5GB—Tour lasts 3 hours £25 per person party numbers are limited (Contact NigelPacker –see page 7)

10th February

8pm—Community 'Save a Life' visit -giving a free life support course on this evening.

9th March

6pm—Visit to Highways England Centre—an insight into the workings located at J3/M5. Visit is free for 15 people.

13th April

8pm—'Examiners Evening' - our annual visit from Mark Wakelam. A chance to examine the examiner—you ask the questions!!

11th May

8pm—Group AGM—a presentation of your group—together with updates from the IAM (Ian Firth(ROM) + Peter Docherty(IAM)).

- Observer Evenings (Thursday)

18th February (7.30pm)

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

- Associate Evenings (Thursday)

21st January (7.30pm)

17th March (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—and-check for emails on any coming Group dates.

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

MEMBERSHIP & TALKS/MEETINGS

- **Your IAM and 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 memberships 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

I have noticed how fast drivers travel especially along narrow estate roads, where on occasions children were playing, people were walking to and from vehicles – lots of activity, but this doesn't slow motorists down, they still forge ahead regardless of anyone else.

The widths of the roads are further reduced by inconsiderate parking – sometimes vehicles are parked opposite ones which had already stopped and the driver had left the vehicle, making the available road width even narrower. Their thought process may be 'I'm parking here because I live here or I always park here'.

On occasions I have left my van and began calling at nearby addresses. When I returned someone had parked within an inch or two of the bumper: obviously I had parked in 'their' spot on the Queen's highway where there were no restrictions. Sometimes, I am approached and asked to move the van a few feet, as 'I park there'. I usually move the van.

The congestion of parked vehicles doesn't appear to alter some motorists' speed as they go through such areas: they still appear to travel too fast round bends not knowing what is round the corner. On occasions, I have needed to walk quicker than normal to avoid a speeding motorist, which when listening to the sound of the engine as they approached – hadn't altered as they hadn't reduced the pressure the accelerator.

Occasionally, a series of traffic speed surveys are carried out on roads where speeding is an issue, then after a consultation period and a few months later, road humps may appear.

Reading an edition of a local evening newspaper recently, dated 1st October 2015, I noticed an article, which was towards the back of the paper – a Public Notice had been published by the local council.

In a local area, some 25 roads will have a new speed limit of 20mph instead of 30mph and a restriction on vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes except vehicle loading/unloading at adjacent premises or to access off street parking. This would be to prevent such vehicles using those roads as a through route.

On 5 of those roads, a total of 28 sets of speed cushions 75mm high and 14 road humps 55mm high will be installed unless sufficient objections are received by the council.

These new traffic Orders drawn up by the council are probably due to lots of instances of drivers travelling too fast on roads which have restricted widths and still continue to maintain speeds inappropriate for the area.

As and when the road humps are installed, every motorist travelling along the roads identified in the Public Notice will have to reduce speed and negotiate speed humps or other traffic calming measures. 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.

All these measures have probably been brought about by inconsiderate drivers, over a long period of time, exceeding the speed limit to a greater extent.

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?’”*



Actual statements made by drivers

Coming home I drove into the wrong drive and collided with a tree I don't have.

The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.

I thought my window was down, but I found it was up when I put my head through it.

I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.

The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother in law's face and headed over the embankment.

In an attempt to kill a fly I drove into a telegraph pole.

I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up, obscuring my vision and I did not see the car.

I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident.

As I approached the intersection a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no 'Stop' sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.

To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian.

My car was legally parked as I backed into the other vehicle.

An invisible car came from nowhere, struck my car and vanished.

I told the police that I was not injured, but on removing my hat I found that I had a fractured skull.

I pulled into the lay-by with smoke coming from under the bonnet. I realised the car was on fire so I took my dog and smothered it with a blanket.

I had one eye on a parked car, another on approaching lorries and another on the woman behind.

We were enjoying a quiet drive along a country lane. There were high hedges on both sides, suddenly a large horse landed on the roof of the car. Please find enclosed repairs estimate for damage.

The insured failed to observe the end of the pier and careered off into the Irish Sea.

The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.

I was going down the car park ramp when I hit a giant plastic mouse.

The car had to turn more sharply than was necessary, owing to an invisible lorry.

*"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??

Your New Group Website

Over the coming few weeks you should see a new Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists Group website devoted to your Motoring Group, Group Activities and Events and information useful to you as a driver.

The web site will not only be presenting up to date Group Event Information and News but also with direct feeds from the local Police Forces, Emergency Services and West Midland Highways Agency so in one place you can see all the breaking traffic information for the area in which you are driving. This information is updated every two minutes and is calling in information direct from the traffic officers as it is fed back onto their own systems so is even more current than radio news or gantry panels over the motorway.

We want our new website to be a regular source of useful and important detail to you so please use the feedback and comment function to make suggestions and give us your thoughts about anything you would like to have included on the site. Your new Website address in its prototype evolving stage is: <http://www.wolvesiam.org>

- **Do be aware this will not replace your Group Newsletter.**

"...and those of the general public



WOLVES IAM
wolverhampton advanced motorists



Slic

Wolverh
Twitter p
Group.





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: 12th March 2016

Tony Robson - Editor.

Committee & Trustees

- **President**
Graham Foulkes
- **Vice Presidents**
Joe Brooks
Judith Rowley
- **Chairman**
Paul Williamson
chairman@wolvesiam.org
07475552258
- **Secretary**
Tony Robson
133 Elston Hall Lane
Wolverhampton
WV10 9HD
secretary@wolvesiam.org
07966.131778
- **Treasurer**
Graham Foulkes
01902.896492
- **Membership Sec.**
(see Group Secretary)
- **Chief Observer**
Geoff Davis
gd.1@hotmail.co.uk
01902.763478
- **Newsletter Editor**
(see Group Secretary)
- **Minutes Secretary**
Roy Richards
roy.richards8@btinternet.com
01902.670753
- **Associate Controller**
(see Chief Observer)
- **Test Administrator**
(see - Group Secretary)
- **Events Coordinator**
(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.

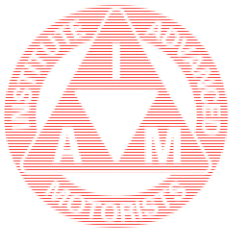
• **If your are a Group Observer** - you must be a fully paid up member of both.



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

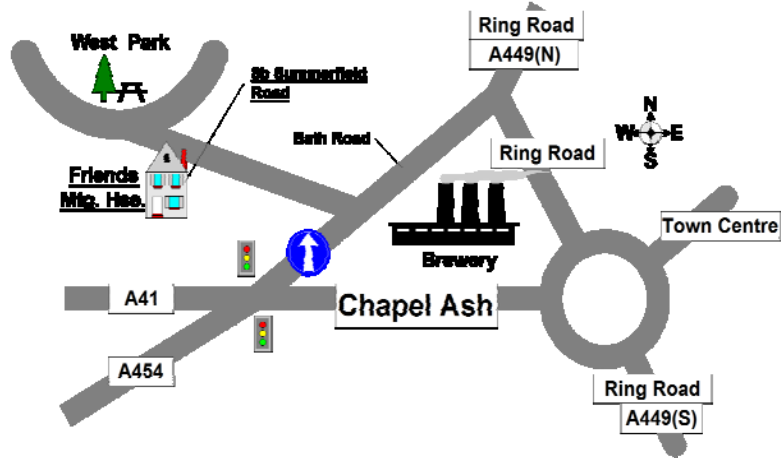
Wolverhampton Advanced Motorists

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:

- Tony Piggott
- Sohaib Razaq
- Karl Gallear
- Roger Denley
- Stewart Roper
- Adrian Gallagher

- Lee Evans
- Akaash Singh
- Maurice Tarbutt

Welcome to IAM Member:

- None.

Passed your test just recently??

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

TEST PASSES

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Emma Dart (Observer: Kevin Conn) | • Christine Westwood (Observer: Kevin Conn) |
| • Anne Gregory (Observer: Mike Leadbeater) | • Arjun Kandola (Observer: Brian Kerrigan) |
| • Sarah Ridgway (Observer: Nigel Packer) | • David Gallagher—F1rst (Observer: Mike Leadbeater) |
| • Ben West (Observer: Rod Matthews) | • Ross Anderson (Observer: Graham Trusselle) |
| • Bridget Pugh (Observer: Graham Trusselle) | |

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.