



**Wilmslow**  
**Advanced Motorists**  
**Registered Charity No 1113682**



**Associates on course 28**

**NEWSLETTER**

**February 2007**



Wilmslow Advanced Motorists

# Newsletter

## February 2007

Dear all,

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter produced in 2007. Especially welcome are the following new 'associates' attending fixed length course number 28:- Nick Bennett, Colin Benson, Ron Cohen, Yolanda Conniff, Robin Grimwood, Robert Moore, Mike Pickering, Chris Roberts, Steve Shaughnessy, Sven Shore, Chris Thompson and Jon Sudards. **Congratulations** to the following who, since the last newsletter, have been recommended for membership of the IAM following test:- Neville Phillips, Simon Atkins Maria Cooke and Steve Bradley.

### Diary Dates:-

#### Sunday runs

Sun Feb 4th - Run 3  
Sun Feb 18th - Run 4  
Sun Mar 4th - Run 5  
Sun Mar 18th - Run 6  
Sun Apr 1st - Run 7  
Sun Apr 22nd - Run 8  
Sun May 13th - Run 1

Tues Apr 10th **Obs Meeting.**

All Sunday runs start from the car park behind Sainsburys in Wilmslow. Registration is at 10.00 hours, please make yourself known by checking in with Jose, Ivy or Gavin. Runs start at 10.30 hours. Please do let us know if you can not make the run as this assists in organising observers. Contact numbers are on the back cover.

### Classrooms:-

Classroom & meetings are currently at the **Drum & Monkey, Moss Rose, Alderley Edge.**

These are at 7.45 for 8.00 pm

Tues Feb 27th Classroom 2

Tues Apr 17th - Classroom 3

Tues May 8th Classroom 1

### Committee meetings

Mon Mar 5th

Mon Apr 23rd

**This venue may change so please do check before coming along.**

Now that you have experienced advanced driving at first hand this is a good time to try and influence your friends and colleagues to come and enrol for the next course.

## Chairman's chat

Maybe a little late, but Happy New Year to everyone and especially all the newcomers who enrolled on the latest course possibly as a result of new year 'resolutions'? We've had a brief spell of gales and freezing temperatures which should act as a reminder of what we can reasonably expect to come in the next couple of months and it is particularly important at this time of year to check over your car thoroughly at least once a week in addition to those 'pre-drive' checks.

As 'Advanced' or potential advanced motorists I think it is fair to say that we are more aware than most of the hazards on the roads and trying to minimise the risks involved but it seems that extra regulation (especially more & more speed restrictions) is the Government's answer to reducing accidents and as car drivers it is easy to feel 'picked on'. Whilst as drivers of potential lethal instruments we should always adopt the highest standards possible do 'others' take responsibility for their own actions too? There seems to be a desire to have pedestrian crossings every 30 ft or so in town centres (to 'calm' traffic?) and yet how often do you see people cross just a few feet from the safety of the crossing? Parents often campaign for 30 mph or lower speed limits on the roads they live and yet are these the same people seen speeding along residential roads?

On that note especially for those preparing for tests the main reason people fail to pass the advanced driving test is breaking the law, such as speeding, crossing solid white lines etc. So practise & concentrate so that you see everything and don't get caught out. Additionally I don't expect that the new penalties for the illegal use of hand held mobile phones will have any impact on any of us, however it is worth taking note of the greatly increased risk of accidents whilst legally using hands free equipment and whenever possible avoiding using mobile phones altogether whilst driving.

Finally, although I'm absent throughout February please do take the opportunity after the Sunday runs to join the Observers for a relaxed chat & refreshments, it is one of the best ways we can get feedback and make the courses more effective and enjoyable and shouldn't make you late for your Sunday lunches!!

*Jerry Chairman.*

## Recent Events

### **AGM November 14th 2006**

The above event was held at The Drum and Monkey and although sparsely attended, some lively debate ensued.

The Chairman reported that during the past year, the 50th anniversary of the National organisation, some of the planned events had been ruined by bad weather. On a more local basis he thanked Alan Brown for his hard work in achieving Charity status for the group. Reported in an earlier Issue)

Alan Brown, our treasurer, presented the accounts which showed a surplus for the year despite spending on a gazebo, table banner and other small items.

The number of associates was up on the previous year and there is a healthy interest being shown for the next course. (See page 5)

A report from the chief observer stated that despite a quiet start to the year, interest picked up and by mid June we were doubling up again, associates with observers. The National Observer Training Scheme has been reviewed and our local scheme covers most of the items.

The election of officers went very much the same as before except that David, our efficient secretary, is unable to stand, due to work commitments (see separate article) and Mark Sherwood was voted into office.

### **Christmas Meal December 1st 2006**

In previous years we have tried to find a venue catering for 40 people and organise a private function, but due to poor response and difficulty in finding the "right" venue, it was decided to change the format for 2006.

This time around we booked a smaller number of places at a larger venue. The Bridge at Prestbury was the chosen hostelry and all those who attended enjoyed good food, well served, in good company and a festive atmosphere.

## **Garden Party**

On a blustery “Summer” evening Jose and Ivy organised social get together which was attended by members and friends.

As usual at these kind of events most people finished up in the kitchen—putting the world to rights.

Thanks to Jose and Den for the use of their house and garden.

## **Recruitment**

As you will see from the list of new associates on page 2 we are starting full length course number 28 with 13 new members.

This is tremendous, when taking into account the relatively small numbers we were starting courses with this time last year.

Classroom session number 1 and enrolment on Tuesday Jan 9th was a great success thanks to David’s very professional presentation which will be a very hard act to follow when he moves on.

With the residue of course number 27, not yet tested, we will require observers to do as many extra runs as possible, in the near future, to get us over this “hump”.

Both observers and associates please let Gavin or Jose know if you CANNOT attend a Sunday run as this makes for simpler administration on the morning.

If any new or existing members would like to offer their services as observers please make yourself known to any committee member so that Gavin can fix up a training programme and get you out on the road as soon as possible.

## **Forum**

Have a look at the new addition to our web site and put your views / opinions on there for others to comment on.

## You read it here first

In our August issue under the heading "Know your colours" we explained the difference between Police vehicles and Traffic Officers. Page 54 of the latest IAM magazine answers the same question.

In our November issue we ran an article on tinted windows as you will note from the article below, taken from a national newspaper, we were right to be cynical.

Speeding motorists could find they are identified by sophisticated facial recognition software if they try to deny evidence that they were behind the wheel.

Police forces around the country are following an initiative taken by the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership, which has turned to computer technology to boost the speed cameras and video footage they already use to enforce speed limits.

The initiative started in Banbury, Oxon, where officers have enlisted the help of a company specializing in image enhancement when motorists try to challenge a conviction on the grounds that they were not driving at the time.

Once the image is taken, the picture is compared with that on the motorists driving licence and if there is any doubt the pictures are brought before a court. The software has already led to one motorist being jailed for perjury.

## Curiosity

A man entered the bus with both of his front pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a beautiful blonde. The puzzled blonde kept looking at him and his bulging pockets. Finally, after many such glances from her, he said, "It's golf balls."

Nevertheless, the blonde continued to look at him thoughtfully and finally, not being able to contain her curiosity any longer, asked, "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"

## **New Year Honour for IAM Chief Executive**

Christopher Bullock, Chief Executive of the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list for services to road safety.

Christopher Bullock became IAM Chief Executive in 1995. Since then the IAM has grown in size and influence. It is now the largest organisation dedicated to road safety and is by far the largest provider of advanced driving tests. Mr Bullock is also Managing Director of IAM Fleet, Drive & Survive and IAM Fleet Ireland which together make the IAM the largest provider of risk management and company driver training services.

Before joining the IAM Mr Bullock had a career in Shell which included work with the charity sector. During the 1980s he was responsible for Shell's charitable giving - at that time the largest corporate donor in the UK - and for sponsorship of environmental, arts and other community organisations. This included founding Age Resource, which aimed to harness the benefits of an ageing society and is now the "younger arm" of Age Concern.

"I am delighted to receive this award as recognition of the valuable and growing work of the IAM. In particular it acknowledges all those who through the IAM dedicate their time and expertise to helping people improve their driving and motorcycling, and to saving lives on the road," said Mr Bullock.

Mr Bullock lives in Fulham, West London. He is married with two grown up sons.

Just see what you can get you if you work at it long enough. Ed

## **Forget me not**

The best way to remember your spouse's birthday is to forget it once.

## AGM - Group Secretary – All change

By now most people should have noticed that at the Annual General meeting in November David Adderson retired as Group Secretary and handed over to Mark Sherwood.



David has been around as group secretary for almost as long as I can remember and has done much to take the group forwards in terms of organisation and professionalism over and above his role as secretary. I think it would be fair to say that he brought the theory (classroom) sessions out of the dark ages of flipchart & pen and into the age of technology & PowerPoint. He also developed the Observer and Associate Handbooks to their current state as well as keeping up to date with everything going on and trying to organise me, which is a job in itself!

Prior to the Christmas meal on behalf of the group there was a private presentation to David of a pair of crystal goblet wine glasses as a token of appreciation for his hard work. The practicalities were that at least they wouldn't be prone to David's glass smashing ways whilst we were out having a few drinks!! We wish him all the best in his new job and hope that it won't keep him away from observer duties too often! Thank you David, Mark has a tough act to follow.

*Jerry Chairman.*

*E-mail: [chairman@w-a-m.info](mailto:chairman@w-a-m.info)*

## Whispering Key Fobs

Drivers baffled by the failure of their cars to start may be victims of a new phenomenon “disco whisper syndrome”.

Motoring organisations are reporting an increasing number of call-outs from drivers whose cars have “died” on them after they activated electronic key fobs.

The problem is arising through the growing use of radio technology for communications and data transfer across Britain.

Powerful rogue radio waves interfere with the fob’s instruction to turn off immobilisers, now fitted as standard on many production cars.

Tim Shallcross a technical expert with the AA Motoring Trust, said “It’s like standing in a disco whispering to your friend. The fob’s low-powered transmitter is swamped by the deafening radio noise around it. The car just doesn’t hear it”.

“It’s a very common occurrence and a growing problem as we all want more mobile telephone coverage, data transmissions and wireless communications”.

The AA, RAC and Green Flag rescue services have all noticed a number of “black holes” across the country where cars often fail to start.

One way to overcome the problem is simply to wait, because transmissions often come in bursts of only one or two minutes. Another is to push the car a short distance –even as little as 10 yards.

## Be(ep) careful

A driver was issued with a £45 on-the-spot fine for repeatedly beeping at a pedestrian who walked in front of him while talking on a mobile.

The driver, from Merseyside, said: “If I had run the guy over I would have got off lighter”. Police said: “the horn is a courtesy rather than an insult”.

## Treasure Island

A typical English 30 something, Ronnie, having split from his latest girl friend, decided to take a vacation. He booked himself on a Caribbean cruise and proceeded to have the time of his life, that is, until the ship sank.

Ronnie found himself on an island with no other people, no supplies, nothing, only bananas and coconuts.

After about four months, he is lying on the beach one day when the most gorgeous woman he has ever seen rows up to the shore. In disbelief, Ronnie asks, "Where did you come from? How did you get here?" She replies "I rowed from the other side of the island. I landed here when my cruise ship sank"

"Amazing," he notes. "You were really lucky to have a row boat wash up with you."

"Oh this thing?" explains the woman. "I made the boat out of raw material I found on the island. The oars were whittled from gum tree branches. I wove the bottom from palm branches, and the sides and stern came from a Eucalyptus tree" But, where did you get the tools?"

"Oh, that was no problem," replied the woman. "On the south side of the island, a very unusual stratum of alluvial rock is exposed. I found if I fired it to a certain temperature in my kiln, it melted into ductile iron. I used that for tools and used the tools to make the hardware."

Ronnie is stunned. "Let's row over to my place," she says. After a few minutes of rowing, she docks the boat at a small wharf. As Ronnie looks to shore, he nearly falls off the boat. Before him is a stone walkway leading to an exquisite bungalow painted in blue and white.

While the woman ties up the rowboat with an expertly woven hemp rope, Ronnie can only stare ahead, dumb struck. As they walk into the house, she says casually, "It's not much but I call it home."

Sit down, please. Would you like a drink?" "No! No thank you," Ronnie blurts out, still dazed. "I can't take another drop of coconut juice." "It's not coconut juice," winks the woman. "I have a still. How would you like a Pina Colada?" "Trying to hide his continued

amazement, Ronnie accepts, and they sit down on her couch to talk. After they have exchanged their stories, the woman announces, "I'm going to slip into something more comfortable. Would you like to take a shower and shave? There is a razor upstairs in the bathroom cabinet."

No longer questioning anything, Ronnie goes into the bathroom and there, in the cabinet, is a razor made from a piece of tortoise bone. Two shells honed to a hollow ground edge are fastened on to its end inside a swivel mechanism. This woman is amazing, he muses. "What next?"

When he returns, she greets him wearing nothing but vines, strategically positioned, and smelling faintly of gardenias. She beckons for him to sit down next to her. "Tell me," she begins suggestively, slithering closer to him, "We've been out here for many months. You've been lonely. There's something I'm sure you really feel like doing right now, something you've been longing for?" She stares into his eyes .

Ronnie can't believe what he's hearing. "You mean . . ." he swallows excitedly and tears start to form in his eyes.)

"Don't tell me you've got Sky Sports as well".

## It's called progress

Reported recently in a motoring column that on the approach to a roundabout on the A303 in Wiltshire a driver was looking for priority traffic from the right but couldn't see any because some genius had masked the view by erecting tall fencing within the central reservation.

The reason given for the obstruction was that the local authority thought it was a good idea to force people to stop at roundabouts.

## Danger in the Midlands

Drivers in the Midlands had most road accidents last year according to a survey released recently. Six per cent of drivers in the area have been involved in shunts, according to figures released by Sainsbury's Bank.

Wales and the West country was next with five per cent, then the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, Greater London and the North

## Does the train really take the strain?

A regular traveller to London over the past 15 years had deserted Virgin due to escalating prices, poor reliability and delays.

However, after using Midland mainline from Sheffield as an alternative, he decided to give Virgin another try, but found nothing much changes.

Take the announcements. "Will passengers leaving the train at (insert station name) please take all their personal belongings with them?" But I didn't bring them all, only some of them. And when the train was stopped in Cheshire: "I'm very sorry for the delay, ladies and gentlemen, but if you look out of the right hand window you can see Jodrell Bank." The best has to be: "For the benefit of all passengers, the buffet will be closing at Stoke. One of the most hated points of train travel is the on-board purser saying: "For the benefit of customers in standard class the shop is now open selling lingaran geofhotandcoldsnexteaandcoffeealkolicandnonalkolicdrinks" without pausing for breath.

At Euston, the Manchester train is never ready for boarding until just before departure. Then the gates open for the Platform Dash Handicap Chase. The early leaders hit the platform, reach their chosen carriage and stake their claim to as much space as possible by piling bags, coats and other personal items on to surrounding seats. They then open their picnic and cover the table with drinks, crisps and chocolate bars.

When the tail enders arrive, me among them, I have to explain that the reserved sign over them means that the seat is, well, reserved for me. With tutting and filthy looks, they grudgingly give me just enough space to squeeze into my seat.

Five minutes after leaving Euston, a rucksack whacks me in the head and a vision of loveliness, with green hair, piercing in ears, eyebrows, nose lip and tongue, asks if the seat next to me is

taken. And you know what is coming when the Tesco bags are unloaded. Drinks, crisps and chocolate bars—the picnic.

Then the mobiles start ringing. Why is it necessary to shout on phones? don't they know how to turn down the singing frog? Perhaps they need to shout to overcome the sounds of crisp packets being opened, ring-pulls being pulled and chocolate wrappers being scrunched.

Just an average journey, really.

## How to get your money back

A dad walks into a market with his young son. The kid is holding a 50 pence piece. Suddenly, the boy starts choking, going blue in the face. The dad realizes the boy has swallowed the coin and starts panicking and shouting for help.

A well dressed, attractive, but serious looking woman in a blue business suit is sitting at a coffee bar in the market, reading her newspaper and sipping a cup of coffee. At the sound of the commotion, she looks up, puts her coffee cup down on the saucer, neatly folds the newspaper and places it on the counter, gets up from her seat and makes her way unhurried across the market.

Reaching the boy, the woman carefully takes hold of the boy's privates and starts to squeeze, gently at first and then ever more firmly. After a few seconds the boy convulses violently and coughs up the coin, which the woman deftly catches in her free hand.

Releasing the boy, the woman hands the money to the father and walks back to her seat in the coffee bar without saying a word.

As soon as he is sure that his son has suffered no lasting ill effects, the father rushes over to the woman and starts thanking her saying, "I've never seen anybody do anything like that before, it was fantastic. Are you a doctor?" No," the woman replies,

"I work for the Inland Revenue".

## Rites of Passage

'The Teenage Taxi Company' was launched in September 2006 by Sue Morrison, who recently passed her Advanced Driving Test. It is not just a service for young people, but also their families. 'Executive Rites' and 'Your Rites' are arms of the company.



For children, Teenagers and Grown-ups too  
"Rites of passage" is especially for you.  
Pre bookings only so give us a ring  
Choice of music or your own CD bring.  
Six friends or three couples can travel with us,  
In a Chrysler Grand Voyager, not a bus!  
Arrive in comfort and style every time,  
I hope you've enjoyed this little rhyme.

For more information, please take a look at the website:  
[www.ritesofpassage.co.uk](http://www.ritesofpassage.co.uk) or [www.theteenagetaxicompany.com](http://www.theteenagetaxicompany.com)  
Tel: 01625 250586 / 079 2222 7557

## Men are

- 1 Like Lava—lamps nice to look at but not very bright.
- 2 Like parking spaces—all the best ones have been taken and the remainder are handicapped.

## Steer clear of the law

Saab's AlcoKey, is a breathalyser that works as an immobiliser. It only allows the driver to start the car if his or her alcohol levels are below the limit. The device is undergoing tests by 100 drivers in Sweden.

The AlcoKey runs off a battery and fits in a pocket or handbag. It will go on sale in Sweden for about £220 and should come to Britain soon.

## Being British

Is driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese television set.

And most British of all?-suspicion of anything foreign. Oh and—only in Britain—can a pizza get to your home faster than an ambulance!!

## Holy Fuel

Sister Mary is a nurse and doing her patient rounds runs out of petrol. Luckily a garage is nearby, but it's only petrol can is out on loan. The nun goes to find something in her car to use instead. Always resourceful she spots a bedpan, carries it to the station, fills it up and returns to her car.

As she is pouring the petrol into her tank, two men see her from across the road. One turns to his pal and, amazed, says:-

“If that car starts, I'm turning Catholic!”

*The Institute of Advanced Motorists*  
**Wilmslow Advanced Motorists**

(IAM No. 5141)

**www.w-a-m.info**

Registered Charity No 1113682

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**Data Protection Acts:** The group intends to hold names and addresses on computer record for ease of administration, but if anyone objects to this then please notify the membership secretary.

*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily those of the Committee or the Institute of Advanced Motorists*

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