

JANUARY 2015

ISSUE 1 /15



CHALLENGE
CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP NEWSLETTER



Christmas Social 18.12.14

facebook



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DATA PROTECTION ACT : PLEASE NOTE - Details that members have supplied to the group are held a database for Groups use. If you object to your details being held this way, please inform the Secretary in writing.



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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS –

PLEASE attend the forthcoming Sunday &/or Saturday guidance sessions at the **SAINSBURYS CAR PARK** as listed in 'What's On'.

If this causes any difficulty, please contact **Bob Stone** on **01246 568894** so that other arrangements can be made. New joiners are welcome to come along at anytime during the morning for a free assessment drive, or you can phone Ray to arrange a drive at any suitable time.

It is a fundamental part of your on-going training that you attend at least one, if not both of the guidance sessions each month. So please try to attend.

WE THANK THE MANAGEMENT OF SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET FOR ALLOWING US TO USE THEIR CAR PARK FOR OUR GUIDANCE SESSIONS

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Some of the older members of our group may remember Frank Goldthorpe, a member some years ago. Sadly he died this month, and myself and Brian Millard attended his funeral. Although it was some time since Frank was a member, his membership to Chesterfield IAM was mentioned in his eulogy and his wife also remembered both of us. Frank made it to 96 years of age. RIP. Mike.

Drink Driving, Private parking, and more.... From the President

The main news this month surely has to be the new drink/drive regulation that came into force recently in Scotland. The present legal limit in England is 80mg per 100 ml (the highest in Europe, by the way), but now in Scotland the limit has been slashed to 50mg in 100ml of blood. This reduces the allowed legal intake by nearly 50%, meaning that you could be legal in England, cross the border and ONE glass of wine, or ONE pint of beer might put you foul of the law! Some may say the new limit is harsh, but it only puts it on a par with most of the rest of Europe.

I am indebted to Barrie Segal of “Appeal /Now.com” for the following information. “Motorists facing private parking penalties should appeal to POPLA (Parking on Private Land Appeals). The lead adjudicator of POPLA has published a key case in which it was decided that the parking company must demonstrate that the amounts it is demanding are genuine pre-estimates of its loss. In other words, the amount demanded must only be for costs or expenses incurred as a result of the motorist’s alleged breach of contract. They cannot charge for the salaries and other overheads of running or maintaining the car parks”. Interesting.

The most expensive number plate sold by the DVLA was last month - £518,000 for 25 O, bought by a Ferrari trader to adorn a 250 SWB. (Not a world record by any means, but a record for a Government Agency). In the last 25 years, DVL has raised over £2BILLION in private registration sales!!

By the way, F.1. plate is up for sale again, offers around £10,000,000 !!!

Stay safe and have a happy 2015,

Mike

Dear Mr Lake,

As 2014 draws to a close I'd like to wish you all the warmest Season's Greetings and thank you for your support and commitment as an IAM member. 2014 has been a very encouraging year for the IAM. You should feel proud of the part you have played in making a real difference on our roads through your support of our advanced driving and riding skills development work. We remain the largest UK road safety charity and rely on our membership fees for funding. Together with our amazing volunteer network we have delivered the following results this year.

- Over 5,000 drivers and riders passed our advanced test in 2014
- 6,600 drivers and riders are currently in preparation on a Skill for Life course with their local IAM group
- We have provided help to over 500 older drivers through our recently launched Mature Driver's Assessment
- We have a presence on more than twenty influential road safety and transport committees.
- Our partnerships with around one hundred local councils have resulted in the IAM Young Driver

Schemes helping hundreds of drivers under 26 to pass the advanced test. A special mention here for John Cleland and his Borders young driver initiative

- IAM membership is at its highest level for almost two years and continues to grow.
- We made over 6,000 TV, radio and press appearances during the last twelve months.
- We continue to champion road safety issues from the standpoint of 'the thinking driver and rider'

Your support directly helped to achieve this. A special thank you to all our active volunteers.

Finally, an extra special thank you to the many thousands of active IAM volunteers who give time as group observers, committee members, examiners, event attendees and in all the other ways that our members continue to contribute to this great organisation. In addition many thousands of our members will be active, or on duty with the various emergency services over the holiday period. Have a safe and peaceful holiday period, with best wishes for 2015.

Paul Wozzley
Membership Manager

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Christmas Carol Service

During my travels around Derbyshire I found a wonderful little Church in a very small village above Matlock, called Elton. They told me that they were having a Carol Service on Christmas Eve. Well I'm all for a good sing song so I went along.

The Church was full, with people standing in the aisles, and we really did have a good sing song. Afterwards there was the story of the Nativity, played out and narrated by the children of the village. It was good to see everyone enjoying themselves, and thinking about the friendships that they had formed within the community. The Nativity was a little different with real animals being used, yes I did say real animals and it was good to see; even though there was some cleaning up afterwards.

Well with phone comes camera, so here is the pic to go with this.
Jan



More photos from the Christmas Social

Tommy from Matlock and Ray studying the quiz!



Claire and Yvonne in the Christmas Jumper 'Parade'

Hi

Thank You

It's that time of year when I have to say a very big thank you to everyone who has been involved in the Group over the last year. We are all volunteers and give our time freely to the group.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on our outings promoting the IAM and making people in our area aware of Advanced Driving. It has been a hard job this year as we all have such very busy lives, and it is difficult to fit everything in.

In particular we should send thanks to our old friends in the Matlock Group for their support as we greatly value this support. It is just everyone who helps, from the person who makes the coffee, brings the water, puts up the awning, tows the caravan, collects the lunch, takes time to talk to prospective customers. Whatever job you did at the events, thank you.

Thank you also has to be sent to all the Observers, who have stood by the caravan in all sorts of weather, waiting for Associates and people to talk to about the IAM and Chesterfield Group. Thank you also to those who do mid-month observing.

Thank you to the people who tow the caravan, because without you we would not be going very far.

Thank you to all the Associates who turned up for Guidance.

Thank you to the Committee and our President, for keeping things on an even keel over the past year.

A very special thank you needs to go to Yvonne, who has kept this mag going through thick and thin; and can only do this with your help in getting articles to her.

A big thank you to Sainsbury's for allowing us to use their car park throughout the year. Without this the message of safer driving would not be known about by people in this area.

Last but not least we need to thank you all at Chiswick; as without the IAM we would not be here.

Well If I have left out the job you have been doing the thank you is still there. Thank you.

Oh I forgot, we should have a big thank you for all the friendships we have enjoyed over the past year; for without these life would not be as rich.

Well thank you again for everything you have done over the last year. Hope to see you all again during 2015.

Sending you all good wishes for the New Year as well as health and happiness for the future.

Jan

**Thanks must also go to Jan for her continual work and
commitment to the Group.**

ODD COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

GPS Tracking for cats!

We all know how useful the GPS system can be, but one of my favourite Christmas presents this year was a GPS tracking system for our cats. It is made by a company called g-paws. It works by way of a small device attached to their collar.

When they come home from their travels you link the device to the website via your laptop/PC, and download the files. So it has been great fun over this Christmas period to find out exactly where our cats get to when they go out for hours on end. What is interesting is that they seem to have their own 'patches' which they explore. We only have one tracker at the moment and three cats, so the device has to be swapped around, but of course, I am tempted to buy more! (Thanks to son Philip for the gift!)

NB: As I edit this Newsletter the tracking device is on one of our cats, Kasper, and where is he? Asleep upstairs!

Ooops!

It was pointed out to me at the Christmas social that in the December Newsletter I had provided more answers to the Christmas quiz than there were questions! So sorry for this non-deliberate mistake, and I hope it didn't spoil your enjoyment if you had a go at the quiz.

Christmas Travel chaos

Well our two sons and one girlfriend were due to come up to us on the evening of 23rd December. Only one of our sons has a car and unfortunately on 22nd, the thermostat housing on his Ford Ka decided to crack which meant he couldn't drive it. He called out the AA who diagnosed the problem but of course couldn't fix it there and then. One son decided to still come on 23rd but got an (expensive at that late stage) train ticket. Philip and girlfriend Kate decided they would hire a car for the week, which didn't work out much more expensive than two return train tickets. And a heck of a lot more convenient especially when you are bringing bundles of Xmas gifts!.

On Boxing Day evening they were due to travel to Warrington. They left at about the time it started snowing. They got through Stoney Middleton, and up ahead there were abandoned cars, at the side of the road and the snow was getting heavier. They decided to turn back. They managed to get to the Highwayman at Eastmoor and got slightly stranded, but some nice people were on hand to help push the car so they could get on their way. However, it took them 2 hours to get from Eastmoor to Chesterfield. Next morning, they decided sensibly to get the train to Warrington.

Newsletters

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter in 2014. Believe it or not, the more articles I have, the easier it makes the job of Editor. It would be great if in 2015 we could have more of you submitting your thoughts on anything (motoring-wise preferred).

Deadline for February newsletter will be 9 a.m. Monday January 26th.

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There will be a vacancy on the 2015 Committee for a Guidance Officer and Social Secretary (e-mail Chris Lake for details).

Job Descriptions for any post are available from Bob Stone. Nomination forms are also available from Bob.

Please consider volunteering to act in any vacant position on the Committee at the AGM, because without a full quota of committee members, the group will suffer to keep things running smoothly.

NOTICE OF GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

Notice is hereby given (Under Rule 2.2.1 section 4.12) by order of the Group Committee that the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Chesterfield Group of Advanced Motorists is to be held at St Thomas's Centre, Chatsworth Road, Brampton on Thursday 22nd January 2015.

The AGM is to enable the trustees of the Group (Charity number 1017471) to present for approval the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2014, and for election of the 2015 Committee.

All members and friends are invited to attend but only fully paid up members of the IAM and Group will be eligible for election at to vote.

Election of 2015 Committee:

In accordance with our past practice, all committee members will be retiring and therefore all posts are open for nomination.

Committee Posts to be elected are :

Chair / Vice Chair / Secretary / Treasurer / Membership Secretary / Social Secretary / Guidance Officer / Observer Training Officer / Public Relations Officer / Webmaster plus a number of additional committee members without specific portfolio.

Should you be interested in standing for any post the Secretary holds outline Job Descriptions for all posts, please contact him for a copy.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. Please submit nominations to the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

Secretary, Bob Stone, 5 Clifford Close, Chesterfield S40 3PP.
01246-568894 or 0770-447-1083 robjstone@aol.com

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LUNCH



Lunch is something that we all need in some form or another, so what do you think of the idea of a Lunch Club? When I say that I mean a very informal gathering, once a month, say the second Wednesday of the month, to have lunch, sarni, or whatever. This would run from February to November at different locations within Chesterfield or within easy reach of Chesterfield. It would be reasonably priced and open to you all as well as wives, husbands etc and you can dip in and out as you please.

The first Lunch is set for **the second Wednesday of February (that is the 11th) 2015.**

Please think about coming, you will be made most welcome. More details will be available in the next issue of this mag so watch this space. Jan

On the IAM website there is a short survey which asks which area you live in and how the local authority coped with winter weather over 2013/2014. It also asks about how you prepare your car for winter. It is voluntary to complete and doesn't ask for your name. But it might be useful for them to collate information.

Talking about the dangers brought about by the recent weather, which we weren't, I have come across incidents over Christmas without travelling far at all.

In the run up to the festivities I was off to the superstore for supplies when a woman pulled out of a junction and followed at close distance. With her I observed another young lady in the front seat, who had a small child on her lap, no signs of straps. The driver was taking her eyes from the road to speak to her friend and to smile at the child. Forget the legal aspect for the moment, if questioned I am sure the passenger would no doubt have claimed that she had a tight hold of the child. But had there been an accident a shunt would have increased the apparent weight of the child from 25lbs to easily 75lbs and I doubt she would have restrained it. Why do people do this? Ok the driver would not have been at fault, obviously, but the child would still be badly injured.

Then later the same day on the drive to Committee in the dark I spotted a cyclist riding a black bike in black gear with what appeared to be a dynamo light at the rear, I say this because it was small and dim and got even dimmer when he slowed. Needless to say he also went through the red traffic light close to the town. Again a driver would have found themselves criticised had there been an accident but the cyclist was putting himself in danger. That I spotted him was luck as he crossed in front of a cars tail light and I had detected the movement. Without this action he was next to invisible against bright background lighting of shops etc.

Bob

Diary Dates

JANUARY 2015

Sunday 4 th January	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park, 9.30 a.m
Saturday 10 th January	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park 9.30 a.m.
Thursday 8 January	Meal at Caernarvon Teversal,	Ask Chris Lake for details
Thursday 22 January	A.G.M. Hopefully followed by DVD/film with a motoring theme.	St Thomas's Centre, Chatsworth Road, 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 27 th January	Committee Meeting	Chesterfield Library Café, 7.30 p.m.

Future Dates:

February :	Sunday 1st	-	Guidance
	Saturday 7 th	-	Guidance
	Thursday 19 th	-	Social
	Tuesday 24 th	-	Committee Meeting