

APRIL 2011



CHALLENGE



***CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS***  
**GROUP NEWSLETTER**

facebook

i.a.m.chesterfield@gmail.com

GROUP CONTACT: BOB STONE 01246 568894

GROUP WEB SITE: **www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017471

Associate Members; **PLEASE** attend the forthcoming Sunday or Saturday guidance sessions which are held at the **SAINSBURYS CAR PARK** at 9.30 or 10.30am as per the list below. If this causes any difficulty, please contact **Ray Parker** on **01246 206959** 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.**

<b>APRIL</b>		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>3rd</b>	Guidance 9.30am to 12.00 noon Sainsbury's Car Park
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9th</b>	Guidance 9.30am to 12.00 noon Sainsbury's Car Park
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>21st</b>	Social Club Chesterfield 7.30pm (See Back Page)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>19th</b>	Committee meeting 7.30pm Chesterfield Library
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>1st</b>	Guidance 9.30am to 12.00 noon Sainsbury's Car Park
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>7th</b>	Guidance 9.30am to 12.00 noon Sainsbury's Car Park
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>19th</b>	Social Club Chesterfield 7.30pm (See Back Page)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>24th</b>	Committee meeting 7.30pm Chesterfield Library

CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING THEIR TEST

FRANCES CRAM... OBSERVER ROGER BATES

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATES

MATHEW BRADLEY ... OBSERVER ROGER BATES

BEN COOPER ... OBSERVER SUE WHEATCROFT

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

# Some thoughts on servicing President Mike

This month I am looking for your comments on the following article.....There has recently been a huge increase in garages offering what appears to be cheap servicing. There is at least one local garage advertising servicing from £65, the norm seems to be from £99. Let's consider what you might get for this price. Assuming an oil change takes 4 litres of multigrade, that's about £30 for an oil of quality. You can expect to pay a lot more for a specialised oil, say for a diesel or for semi or full synthetic containing all the extra ingredients a modern engine demands. A £5 disposal charge for the old oil can also be expected.

A change of oil filter is essential to go with the new oil – say £6 to £10. A new air filter is recommended at every service – an average price of £10. To protect the fuel lines and injectors, a fuel filter is another must – averaging £20. These items are only for an intermediate service as pollen filter, fuel treatment, screen wash, anti-freeze and brake fluid change sparking plugs etc etc must be included in a full service. Totting up the cheap service to £75 for consumables..... plus labour at between £30 and £100 an hour means there is not much time to check the vehicle over, brakes, lights, steering, suspension, tyres, belts, and the rest, after the time spent fitting all the basic items.

I am sure we are all aware of the phrase “you get what you pay for”! Question.....would you really consider buying a used vehicle with a history of only these cheap services? Comments please.

Making brake pads asbestos free, has had a knock-on effect on the life of brake discs. The new friction material is now much harder than in the past and wears away the cast iron discs much quicker – it is suggested changing the discs every second or third pad change. Discs for the modern car are not too expensive at between £40 to £60 per axle, but is an additional expense and have to be fitted incurring more expense. (Now the moral of this story) Using advanced driving techniques can considerably extend disc life. I'm pleased to report that my present vehicle has covered over 76000 miles in 6 years and the discs are still in serviceable condition; the pads were changed at 32000 when I acquired the car some three and a half years ago. I would be pleased to hear of your experiences with your pads and discs.

With the winter hopefully well behind us, it is the ideal time for a vehicle super-spring clean, especially the underneath to get rid of any salt still trapped in the nooks and crannies of the chassis and mechanicals – a pressure washer really does the job well.

Hopefully, more next month.....stay safe and happy

.....

I am very pleased to report that the money raised at the President's Auction at the February Social evening amounted to £285, all for the Ashgate Hospice. I would like to thank all those members who both donated and all those who attended the event. The only disappointment was the lack of numbers present – where were you? You truly missed some never to be repeated bargains.

Some unsold items have been taken to the local Hospice shop at an estimated value of £30. This brings our running total over the last six years to £1572.50

Many thanks Mike

# Thoughts, Reports and Retorts

From the Chairman

---

How time flies when you are busy, no sooner is the last magazine put to bed than the following months is on the stocks and it really has been a very busy month. It was a funny start to the last committee meeting, we arrived and bounded into our usual room at the Library to find it was occupied by a twenty strong Ladies Group, an invitation to stay and join them was extended but considering our interests were a little diverse we declined and found we had been allocated an adjoining room which was much quieter, only two ladies in our group, and it adequately accommodated our much smaller numbers. I mentioned the two ladies because one, I'll call her Sheilah because that is her name, was not a committee member but was very welcome to our open meeting where she was able to join in the discussions and thus extend the committees views which with some committees tend to be rather insular, and although not able to vote, has by her presence a better understanding of the group's activities and how the organization is motivated not just locally but also nationally as one of some 220 groups throughout the country. The opportunity to come along to the well publicized meetings is open to any member, be it Associate or Full member so if you have a couple of hours to spare on the last Tuesday of the month why not come along and bring your opinions for an airing.

I started by saying it had been a busy month and most importantly has been the Library exhibition where we had the two main display boards in the entrance advertising the CHESTERFIELD Advanced Motorists activities in what was a most attractive display, and it lasted for the whole of March. As I write this we are expecting it to be a great success in bringing our name to the fore in many people's minds, such that in the future when mention of the IAM is made there will not be a Quizzical 'What's that?' but rather a quick 'I've heard of that, saw it in the Library and I am interested' so we are looking for a repeat in 2012 in the hope that it will swell our numbers.

Last month mention was made that Chris Lake had been appointed to the newly created IT post. Since then Chris has been very busy using his expertise in creating a new web site for the group and it is now 'Up and Running' and available for all to visit, not only group members but also the general public and all one needs to gain access is the password or address which is **chesterfield-iam.org.uk** and it is well worth a visit, so please try it out and tell your friends, neighbours and other acquaintances about it and I am also sure Chris would be pleased to hear your comments be they good bad or indifferent. Chesterfield Group is now on the 'Worldwide Web' with what promises to be a superb site, what do you think? If you have difficulties accessing the site try 'Googling' it.

Our involvement with the caravan on selected Market Days proved a success in 2010 and is set to continue in 2011 and bookings have now been made to facilitate this but some details are subject to confirmation due to Market reorganization and refurbishment in the not too distant future but ample notice will be given when details are known. So watch this space for further information.

Other events, notably the now established 'Lunch Get Togethers' and the equally established 'Segway Drives' in Clumber Park, possibly in May, are in hand and some details are already appearing in this Newsletter with more to follow.

A renewed interest is a visit to 'Go Carting' at Husthwaite in April, Sue has been very busy with the outdoor events and we do have a very full social night calendar also but their success depends upon your support. If these activities or subjects are not in your particular field why not tell us and suggest where your interest lies and Sue would be pleased to hear from you.

With a different form of transport last year we had a very successful outing to RAF Waddington, this year we intend to repeat it but with a different venue, at Cosford. Details are now available from Ray or see this Magazine or the caravan notice board.

Whilst you are attending these numerous events don't forget to take your camera along and then enter our Photo Competition, for this see Clare on Guidance days, you pay to enter but could well win your money back with an appreciable profit.

On a sadder note many of you will have heard of the unexpected death of a very good friend of the group, Trevor Wall. Trevor was not actually a member of Chesterfield group but a member of Matlock group with whom we have a good liaison, but he attended all our social evenings and actively supported other outdoor events such as the Intergroup Challenge. The Chesterfield group was very well represented at his funeral and the collection was donated to British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research On his last visit to Chesterfield Trevor donated a raffle prize which was used at the January Auction and the £22 it raised has been donated to these two charities.

May I wish you all Safe and Happy driving in spite of the cost of fuel escalating way beyond all reasonable bounds, and finally if you do wish to contact anyone regarding the above articles, they are all listed in the magazine

**Bill Harrington.**

---

## **The Group Goes on the Web** RICHARD

---

Thanks to our new Web Master Chris Lake the group now has its own web site.

The site is still in its infancy and any comments together with any suggestions as how it could be improved or things that you would like to see on the site would be welcome. You can contact Chris via email: [chris.lake@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:chris.lake@mypostoffice.co.uk)

Newsletters and a calendar of events, both social and guidance sessions are available on the site so they will always be available for easy reference.

You can access the site by entering the following address in your browser

**[www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk)**

# ECO DRIVING –SOME USEFUL MONEY SAVING TIPS

---

Some serious words on how to avoid those seriously escalating bills when it comes to refueling your vehicle at the pump. As they say on TV they are not in any particular order and you can certainly Pick and Mix to suit your particular needs. However the first and foremost is to ensure your vehicle is well and truly adequately serviced since this forms the basis of any appreciable savings.

Speed comes at a cost, flying starts in first gear from stationary and putting on excessive speed which has to be removed by unnecessary and excessive braking definitely wastes fuel. If you have a MPG gauge fitted note the 2 to 3 mpg indicated when moving away from a standing start and being heavy footed. If you don't have a gauge take my word for it is very true and such figures rapidly reduce the overall average consumption figures.

After the start the next sequence in the drive is to change to a higher gear and this should be done as soon as possible and here the rev counter comes into use to indicate the ideal point of change. With petrol engines change up at just under and certainly no more than 2500 revs, and with diesels the figure should be 2000 revs, anything in excess of this means excess fuel consumption.

Once up to speed, particularly on the open road, maintain a constant speed with ideally very little variation in accelerator pressure. Don't accelerate to rush up a hill, accept a slight speed loss and make use of a lower gear to maintain momentum. On a downhill run with the foot off the gas pedal, petrol engines and to a large extent also most modern diesels, both of which are injection engines, will be using no fuel whatsoever so take advantage and watch that gauge show 99.9mpg. Don't be tempted to coast downhill since it is both very dangerous and also illegal and insurance companies would welcome a get out clause that you were not fully in control of the vehicle at the time of an incident occurring.

The above are money saving tips whilst the vehicle is moving, but savings can also be made whilst stationary. When starting up from cold don't run the engine to warm it up, just start and move off straight away, the engine will warm up much quicker and attain ideal running temperature quicker. Modern engines with modern lubricants obviate any considered engine wear. On the road if you should join a traffic queue and are likely to be stationary for more the 2 to 3 minutes say at road works then switch off. This is where regular servicing comes into play since you need to be confident the vehicle will restart easily when required, but the savings can be quite appreciable since with an enforced stop of 3 minutes when previously travelling at say 50 mph you will have saved sufficient fuel to have taken you a further 2.49 miles.

The government and motor manufacturers both recommend an ideal and most economical cruising speed as a constant 56 mph This was brought home to those of us able to recall the petrol rationing which was imposed on us as a result of the 1956 Suez crisis and is a well founded figure.

What other things affect our fuel consumption? Excess weight in a vehicle and I don't mean overweight drivers although slimmer ones do have a weight advantage, but in this instance I refer to excess baggage, not the mother in law but rather the rubbish we tend to cart around in the boot – get rid of it and leave it at home. Incorrect tyre pressures which should be checked weekly and certainly increased if carrying extra loads, low pressures can reduce mpg considerably mainly due to drag and are also dangerous and illegal. Use of air conditioning can considerably affect consumption particularly if the differential between inside and outside temperature is great. At low speed air con used for cooling ventilation is better switched off and rely on open windows, but at higher speeds open windows can cause drag and put up the consumption, so consideration to use the best options is advised. Roof racks and roof top boxes are again culprits in the economy stakes and should be removed when not needed. Any unnecessary electrical loads should be turned off when not needed e.g. screen and window heaters, interior heaters, heated seats, wireless and Cd players etc.

Quite a list of items to bear in mind but consider the options and you could be saving up to 10% on fuel bills. Mainly it is your style of driving which is going to be reflected in your pocket, purse or handbag. There may be other ways of effecting some savings which I have missed or not included so if you know of any, particularly if they are well proven then drop us a line and share it with your fellow motorists.

Not only Safe and Happy driving, but in this instance Economical driving to you all.

Bill Harrington.



## MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

April's theme is FROST and pictures can be uploaded from 3rd onwards. So get snapping or hunting through your hard drives to find your best shots to enter.

The winner will be announced on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Entries will be being taken at guidance sessions in Sainsbury's car park on the first Sunday and following Saturday of each month. If you are unable to make guidance, please e-mail Clare to arrange entry ([iam.chesterfield@yahoo.com](mailto:iam.chesterfield@yahoo.com)).

Images are uploaded onto a group Flickr account, so internet access is required. Images will be judged on technique as well as creativity. To help the judges with their choice, you are asked to give a brief description of how you came to take each shot and what equipment you used.



This article will look at the fascinating driving cultures extant in polar regions, the unusual cars, the permafrosted glacial roads, and the teak-tough people who live, drive and work there – from minus 50 C in winter to 0 degree C in summer months.

## **Introduction**

Between November 2006 and June 2010 my wife and I followed Michael Palin's footsteps, travelling from 81 degrees north in Svalbard to the British Antarctic Survey base on the Antarctic Peninsula, 69 degrees south. It took us almost four years travelling to many remote places, coming home several times to reconnect with our families, and then going out again.

We leapfrogged between the polar countries on a shoestring budget, cruising and flying. In contrast Michael Palin completed his trip in five months and his trip was lavishly funded by your TV licence fees. But to us Michael is an iconic figure and inspired our wanderlust.

## **Southern Hemisphere**

I am a great fan of Sir Ernest Shackleton and have read all his books. Now we had the opportunity to follow his footsteps in Antarctica where he is known as the BOSS. Unlike Scott who sacrificed his men in order to reach South Pole ahead of Amundsen, Shackleton cared for his men. He did not lose a single member of his team. His brilliant leadership skills are now taught in London Business School to MBA students. By the way, Scott used Derbyshire pit ponies and Amundsen used Siberian husky dogs. and won the race easily.

We travelled to South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula via Falkland Islands. The Falkland dependency has the southern- most traffic jams and traffic lights in the world. Around Stanley the roads are good A class type with 2 lanes. Outside Stanley the roads are narrow and meanders through hundreds of miles of bogs and marshes, passing scores of sheep farms. Fishing, wool and lamb provide the bulk of exports. In future oil and gas will make the Falklanders rich.

The most common car is the ubiquitous Land Rover Defender, used by both the locals and the army who outnumber the locals. And sheep outnumber both by a factor of 10. I also saw Vauxhall Senators, the Morris Oxford and Morris Marina. Because of the boggy country roads 4-wheel drive cars and lorries are necessary. We drove from Goose Green to Stanley, the capital of Falklands, and retraced the famous yomp of the Parachute brigade. They yomped from Goose Green to Stanley through the treacherous bogs and marshes, flushing out the Argentinian soldiers along the 50-mile long route. In the Stanley museum there is a bloodstained two feet long curved kukri which a Gurkha marine used to persuade a platoon of Argentinians to surrender gracefully. Unfortunately Argentina, after losing the war, sowed millions of mines in Falklands in revenge. Hence about 50 square miles of Falklands is fenced off and regular mine clearances takes place.

In South Georgia the only vehicles are the snow cats with caterpillar tracks. There are no roads or harbours and the landscape is dotted by huge clumps of congealed rock- hard broken glaciers and wandering 18 feet long elephant seals weighing 4 tons or more.

In the Antarctic Peninsula British, American, Russian and Polish scientists, in their separate research bases, use snow tractors to traverse the ice fields. Dogs are not allowed and individual scientists use skis. I met a young Polish PhD student in the southern most pub in the world where beer or vodka costs about £ 1 a glass. He prefers to spend the winters in Antarctica in temperatures that can plunge to minus 70 C with 100mph gales. For him it offers

The best skiing in the world with vast ice fields, high mountains and frozen seas. But, very few remain in winter. By the way, the enterprising Poles grow tropical vegetables – tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, onions etc. – in a vast greenhouse they have erected near their base station in Antarctica.

On the way back our ship docked in Ushuaia, the southern-most tip of South America. Ushuaia is on the Beagle channel that leads to the infamous Drake Passage. In the Southern ocean the Drake Passage is the most dangerous stretch of water, controlled by the ferocious weather system of Antarctic. Fortunately the sea was calm when we sailed on it. Calm sea here means a gentle swell rising and dropping 50 feet in a trough.

From Ushuaia, in the Tierra del Fuego region of Argentina, the Pan American Highway starts its long 6500 miles long journey – traversing over mountains, glaciers, desert, forests and rivers – all the way to Deadhorse Bay in Prudhoe Alaska, in the Bering Sea. It is an all-weather road, the second longest in the world and crosses 14 countries. Annual races are held. The world record is 24 days by a team of professional long-distance drivers. The highway, although having only 6 lanes, is much wider than M1 to accommodate the monster trucks. The 6 lanes narrow down to 2 lanes as it crosses high Andean passes. The road was busy with lorries, SUVs of every size and make, beat-up trucks, huge motorbikes and hundreds of beetle cars. American pensioners also drive on the road in their vast Winnebagos for spring and summer vacations.

Here I had the opportunity to observe at close quarters a mammoth American truck –nearly a storey high and 100 feet long with trailers attached, carrying cargo to Mexico and United States. The lorry had bespoke livery and was sumptuously fitted with a double bed, kitchenette, shower and toilet. The cabin had the dials and switches of a small aircraft. The drivers are generally the owners and this explains their immaculate appearance. I also suspect that some carry hidden automatic weapons. Sometimes the drivers take their families with them to enjoy the scenery of Tierra del Fuego, which is awe-inspiring with vast glaciers, dense forests and towering mountains over 20,000 feet high with abundant wildlife- bears, wolves, wild cats, wild boars and eagles.

The whole of Ushuaia area is full of tyre and car accessory shops, car rentals and car dealers. It is like a frontier town and even has strip joints. Sometimes enterprising tourists buy second-hand 4 litre Toyota Land Cruisers here and drive it all the way to Alaska and sell it there – and recover the costs of an awesome road trip of a lifetime.

However, the longest road in the world is the Trans Siberian super highway at 6900 miles long. It runs from the St Petersburg on the Baltic Sea to Vladivostok on the Pacific Ocean. You pass eight time zones in your journey.

In my second article I will describe the driving culture, people and cars north of the Arctic Circle. It will include Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and Spitzbergen.

Part Two Next Month

# LIVING WITH YOUR CAR: AVOIDING BOGUS COLLISIONS AND INSURANCE FRAUD

---

A new Police unit is being set up specifically to target criminal gangs that instigate deliberate car crashes to cash in on fraudulent insurance claims. Innocent motorists are targeted by the gangs, with a low-speed collision initiated so that thousands of pounds can be claimed.

It's estimated that staged accidents are costing £350m per year, because it's not only organised gangs doing it - single drivers looking to make a quick profit from a claim are at it too. It adds around £40 to an average premium, so police officers are being trained by the Metropolitan force to attend the scene of any suspect accidents to eradicate the problem. But it won't stop overnight.

Of course, with unscrupulous drivers around, nobody can be certain of staying out of harm's way - but the more you know, the safer you are. Read on to find out about the scams and how best to protect yourself

## **Accident types:**

There are two types of staged accidents: those involving an innocent victim (sometimes known as an 'induced accident'), and those where the two drivers are in cahoots. Obviously you needn't worry about the latter too much, but the former accounts for the majority of bogus insurance claims.

## **How does it work?**

Induced accidents were brought into focus recently when 24-year-old Mohammed Patel was convicted of a £12m 'crash for cash' scam involving hundreds of innocent motorists at the same roundabout in Cheadle, Manchester. His technique was common: he'd target elderly drivers, usually, because they're generally more vulnerable, position his car in front of them then slam the brakes on so they'd shunt his car. It worked because he'd disconnected his brake lights so the driver didn't notice until it was too late. Technically, the accident is the victim's fault because the driver of the rear car is usually responsible in a rear end collision.

## **How can it be avoided?**

Usually the fraudster will drive slowly to avoid whiplash, but all you can really do is be sure to leave a big gap between you and the car in front. Watch out for cars that slow down noticeably without the brake lights coming on too.

'Witnesses' from the gang will usually be on hand to verify what happened, so have your wits about you for those that seem over-familiar with the other driver, or seem keen to side with them. As with any accident, though, you should make sure you exchange details with the other driver, and have them write down their version of events. You should do the same too, including every detail about the car, the driver, the witnesses and the circumstances.

Most importantly, tell your insurance company if you think you've been a victim of a scam.

## **Telltale signs:**

As is often the case, certain locales are worse than others. Busy roundabouts are usually the place where staged accidents occur because traffic queues are slow moving and unpredictable.

If the car you've shunted seems to have followed you or you've seen it a few times already - on the roundabout, say - then you might have been a victim.

After the event, has the claimant made excessive injury or damage claims? That's why it's important to note every single detail at the time. Often, extra passengers will be claimed for that weren't there, so be aware of that too.

# Braking RAY PARKER (GUIDANCE OFFICER)

---

The other day I was out with Richard and as per the norm he picks on something to do with my driving. This time it was my braking which I must add is usually very smooth and progressive. However Richard's car brakes are very keen and it doesn't take much pressure on the pedal to give a good brake.

Now let's be serious. Braking should be smooth and progressive with no harshness when coming to a stop. If you drive and plan well ahead then you will have lots of time to react to any and all hazards that you see, and have time to react. When coming to a stop just before you actually stop just lift your foot off the brake pedal very slightly and you will find your passenger will not disappear through the windscreen. As a passenger there is nothing worse than being thrown forward and then backwards. You as the driver might not feel it but your passenger will. If you're reading the road and you spot a hazard well ahead then just by lifting your foot off the accelerator it will slow you down enough so you may not even have to brake. I should have titled this Planning and Braking as good planning means good driving and good braking.

Don't forget on any road you need to be able to stop in the distance at which you can see, therefore leave a good gap between you and the vehicle in front. I.e. the two second rule and we all know what that is don't we. "Only a fool breaks the two second rule", it takes two seconds to say it and please remember it. If you have left a good gap and you're on the motorway and someone jumps in front of you then don't get grumpy just ease off and increase the gap again. Speeding increases bad braking and late braking so keep to speed limits and read the road.

Safe Driving

Ray

.....

**LUNCH**  
**THE BULL'S HEAD**

New Road, Holymoorside, Chesterfield. S42 7EW

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

**11-45am for 12-15pm.**

Black board specials 2 meals for £10.

Regular menu available including vegetarian choice.

Toasted sandwiches/baguettes and omelettes. Desserts.

Please contact Sue for more information and to add your name to the list.

Tel: 01246 274785. E mail [dw.sw274@btinternet.com](mailto:dw.sw274@btinternet.com)

Closing date Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

# Fancy being a better driver?

---

This is the question South Yorkshire police are asking people. They were on show at Meadowhall today (Jan 29<sup>th</sup>) and I went along to see them. There were certainly a few faces there that I recognised including PC Tim Scothern from the TV series. They had a computer set up to run a hazard perception test for people to try out and that gained a lot of interest too.



The courses they run are open to the general public, our observers and associates alike. These will continue as long as there is a need for them. The sessions will look at the following, Attitudes, The System of Car Control, Observations and Cornering, and Demonstration Drives. There will be talks on Drink Driving, Mobile Phone Use and finally an Open Forum where you can ask as many questions as you like. All this is done over around thirteen hours of tuition.

It does look a promising course for anyone who may be interested. If you want to book a place on a course then contact Joanne Morgan on **01709 443575** or for more information contact Peter Hiley on **01709 443641**. I have a more detailed leaflet which I will put on our boards at Guidance.

Safe Driving

**Yes that is right, it's a Lotus. I don't think you would have much chance of escaping from this.**

Ray.

---

## **Note to all Members and Associate Members.**

As from January our distributors of the Newsletter have changed, Ray Parker is the distributor for all members and associates that currently receive their newsletter by hand delivery. So any problems contact Ray on: **01246 206959**

Richard Wilkinson is the distributor for all those who receive their newsletter by post. So any problems contact Richard on: **01246 563575**

# Day trip To RAF Cosford Air Display

---

Seeing as we enjoyed the Air Show so much at Waddington last year I have decided to run another trip, only this time to RAF Cosford. Some of us went last year to the museum so you will know what to expect plus a lot of flying displays this time.

The show this year is on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> and we will meet at the town hall in Chesterfield to get a nice early start. The camp gates open at 08.30am so we need to be there as soon after as possible. Again we will travel in our own cars and I will give times later on. Their web page is <http://www.cosfordairshow.co.uk/index.html> which will give you a lot of information and you can follow links to where you can purchase tickets or you can go straight to another part of the site, <http://www.seetickets.com/Tour/COSFORD-AIR-SHOW> where you can buy them. For those who do not have internet access there is also a telephone number where you can buy a ticket from which is 08712301083. You can pay on the day at the gates but it must be cash only and the cost will be £25.00.

I will be collecting names at Guidance days and you can let me know either by phone or e-mail. Details are Tel. 012346206959 and my e-mail is [rayparker744@btinternet.com](mailto:rayparker744@btinternet.com) Where food is concerned I think we should do the same as last year and bring lunches with you. There will be food on the site but I imagine it will be expensive so the choice is yours. All we need do now is pray for a nice sunny day.

Safe Driving

**Ray**

---

## Reply to the Presidents Article 'AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION'

---

My Mercedes Benz E 300 Turbo diesel estate has an automatic gearbox with manual gears 3-2-1 available sequentially after D drive.

During the December snows I used the second gear to drive on the snow and ice. The third gear is useful for driving downhill.

It is a superb gearbox with the advantages of automatic driving coupled with the versatility of manual gears for greater control on narrow and winding steep roads.

**Diip Guha**

# Speed limit could reach 80mph

---



**The UK Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond, has proposed to increase the speed limit on UK motorways from 70- to 80mph.**

The idea behind the change is to reduce journey times, as the Government believes that the economy could be improved if motorists spend less time behind the wheel.

Mr. Hammond said that safety might not be the only factor to consider when it comes to judging how fast cars travel on the roads.

Speaking to the 'Daily Telegraph', he said: "We need to do this on a pretty rigorous cost-benefit basis. At the moment there are a clear set of criteria for making these decisions. Perhaps we ought to ask if we are using the right set of criteria."

Motorway speed limits in the UK are significantly lower than those in other European countries. The maximum speed on similar roads in France and Italy is 81mph. In Spain, Portugal and Ireland it is 75mph.

The UK's 70mph motorway speed limit was introduced in 1965, following a series of reports of manufacturers and car owners testing high performance cars to their limits.

There were 132 deaths on UK motorways in 2009, which is the last year for which figures are available. However, motorists are more likely to experience an accident on town and country roads with lower speed limits, poorer visibility, less space and no division between oncoming traffic.

## Driving test centres could soon be a thing of a past.

***Leaked documents suggest the Driving Standards Agency is looking at plans to close down test centres and use private firms as "delegated examiners".***

---

The new plans could see examiners based at supermarkets and community centres. The Public and Commercial Services union says it has seen leaked documents showing that the DSA is exploring several options to lower its costs. The plans follow moves by the Government to study ways of providing driving tests more efficiently at a lower cost and whether they could be undertaken by other organisations inside or outside of the public sector.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	MIKE DICKERSON	01246 292144
CHAIRMAN	BILL HARRINGTON	01246 412696
VICE CHAIRMAN	TO BE ALLOCATED	
HON. SECRETARY	BOB STONE	01246 568894
TREASURER	JEFF SNAPE	01246 567058
GUIDANCE OFFICER	RAY PARKER	01246 206959
OBSERVER TRAINING OFFICER	BILL HARRINGTON	01246412696
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	ALAN MORGAN	01246 204639
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	RICHARD WILKINSON	01246 563575
WEB MASTER	CHRIS LAKE	
SOCIAL SECRETARY	SUE WHEATCROFT	01246 274785
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MAYNARD STEPHENS	01246 235074

## DATA PROTECTION ACT

Details which members have supplied to the group are held on a data base for the groups own use. If you object to your details being held this way, please inform the Secretary in writing.

GUIDANCE OFFICER	rayparker744@btinternet.com
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	alanmorgan413@btinternet.com
OBSERVER TRAINING OFFICER	williamh@30bentsc.fsnet.co.uk
HON.SECRETARY	robjstone@aol.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	challenge_copy@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
JOHN NORTH ... JAN CRESWELL

The contents of this Newsletter are purely the views of the contributors and do not necessarily constitute the views of the Editor, the Institute, or the chesterfield Group of Advanced Motorists

THURSDAY APRIL 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm  
AT THE CLUB CHESTERFIELD  
**MARSHALLING AT MOTOR SPORT EVENTS**  
Presented by  
**BARBARA SHILLAKER**

Barbra is an experienced marshal and has attended many motoring events. Come along and listen to what she has to say.

Raffle tickets on sale as usual, proceeds going to group funds.

**LET'S GO KARTING.**  
**THE KURBURGRING, HUTHWAITE**

PRICE PP: £35 for 'Arrive and Race 20'.  
APRIL (date to be confirmed at time of booking)  
£10 deposit per person required before booking maximum 12 people

Please contact Sue Wheatcroft for details and reserve your place.

Tel: [01246 274785](tel:01246274785) or Email: [dw.sw274@btinternet.com](mailto:dw.sw274@btinternet.com)

Bring your cameras and capture those unique moments.

**SEGWAY TOURS, CLUMBER PARK**

By popular demand, we will be riding the Segways again in May 2011 (date to be announced) Chris Moulds, who runs the tours, informs us that he is planning a more demanding route this year.

Again for more information and to reserve your place. Contact Sue Wheatcroft.



**SURETY**

0845 603 1355  
(local rate charges apply)

[enquiries@iamsurety.com](mailto:enquiries@iamsurety.com)  
[www.iamsurety.com](http://www.iamsurety.com)

IAM Surety is a trading brand of Absolute Insurance Services Ltd.  
1st Floor - Braucher Place, 4-6 Braucher Road, Solihull, CV112 0AB



SELF DRIVE HIRE  
SERPENT MOTORS  
EST OVER 30 YEARS  
10% DISCOUNT FOR IAM MEMBERS

**FOR THE BEST SERVICE AND UNBEATABLE VALUE**

**SMALL CARS ... FAMILY CARS... MINI BUSES... VANS**

**01246 279920**

**OLD ROAD, BRAMPTON, CHESTERFIELD S402QZ**