

JUNE 2012

ISSUE 6/12



CHALLENGE  
*CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS*  
GROUP NEWSLETTER



Neil Samson and Roger Bates

**facebook**

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GROUP WEB SITE: [www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017471

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

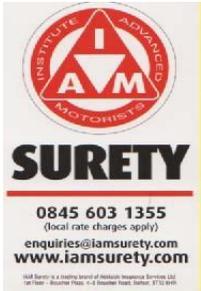
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### DATA PROTECTION ACT

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.



SELF DRIVE HIRE  
**SERPENT MOTORS**  
SMALL CARS ... FAMILY CARS ... MINI BUSES ... VANS  
ESTABLISHED FOR OVER 30 YEARS  
*10% DISCOUNT TO IAM MEMBERS*  
**01246 279920**  
**OLD ROAD, BRAMPTON,**  
**CHESTERFIELD S40 2QZ**

**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 **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.**

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

+++++

**NEW MEMBER**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER PATRICK SCULLY.

## TEST PASS & COVER PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEIL SAMSON WHO PASSED HIS TEST ON 8 MAY.  
HIS OBSERVER WAS ROGER BATES.



CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE RALLY



RENISHAW HALL

WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2012

3 P.M. – 8 P.M.

HELPERS REQUIRED FROM 2 P.M.

PLEASE LET RAY KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, FROM  
WHAT TIME AND HOW LONG YOU ARE ABLE TO SPARE

Joke corner :

“Give a man a gun and he will rob a bank. Give a man a bank and he will rob everyone.”

The Newsletter for July will go to print on 28/29<sup>th</sup> June.

Any articles for inclusion by midday on 28<sup>th</sup> please.

Thank you

Editor

## Claimed MPG - From the President.

A recent "Which" report confirms what we all have known for a long time.....car manufacturer's fuel consumption figures are almost a figment of some laboratory technician's imagination to the extent that they are up to 25% on the generous side. One of the most popular Ford models had a claimed 62mpg, but the best the "Which" experts could achieve was 48mpg. This is down to the fact that their test was carried out under road conditions and not for a few moments on a test bed in a lab!

The moral of this tale is that if you want to know, ask someone who already owns a similar model. No doubt this is not the end of this story.

Many thanks to the couple of our members who took up the challenge to find the answer to "can you tow with a towrope on a motorway?"

Not really much to add to last month's article, but again, I don't think this is the end of this question.

Coming back home from 'down south' a couple of weeks ago in the biggest downpour of recent times, I was surprised to find no noticeable reduction in the amount of spray being thrown up by the HG vehicles.....I understood that recent (well not so recent) legislation made it compulsory to have "brushes" fitted to the wheel arches to cut down on spray, but it does not seem to have had much effect.....perhaps it is time for a re-think.

What I did notice though was how the top layer of the road dressing determined the amount of standing water. I am talking M40, M42,M1 mainly, and my conclusion is ... the rougher the finish, the less water there is to be thrown up. A lot of the M42 is of a concrete texture, or large pebbles type surface and is much better at 'hiding' the surface water, and lessening the chances of aquaplaning. Any comments?

Perhaps like many of us, you thought that any driver amassing 12 penalty points, was almost certain to receive a driving ban and only in very extreme cases, like losing your livelihood, would you be able to continue to drive. NOT SO! The Co-Operative Motor Group requested figures from the courts and DVLA and found that nearly 9000, yes nine thousand motorists have twelve points and are still driving. Even though this figure is likely to include "drivers who have served their disqualification and re-applied for a licence" it is still surely far too high. Perhaps some form of re-testing and retraining is called for? Have you any views on this subject?

Hopefully more next month , stay safe and happy,

Mike

# Thoughts, Reports and Retorts

From the Chairman.

With the summer already underway, or so it seems by the weather today as I write this article, it occurs to me that a reminder of some of our future activities is called for. We are looking for maximum support from our current membership of 120 paid up members who having passed the test as Advanced Drivers, consider it worth their while staying with the group and hopefully encouraging other drivers, whether it be friends, relatives or just acquaintances, to do the same and make their own and the environment of other road users a much safer place.

A programme of events has been published and can be found on the Groups Web Site @ [www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-iam.org.uk) where up to date details can be found.

On the social side of events, the May meeting at Club Chesterfield was a most informative evening with a presentation by Hannah Blockwell, a Community Support Officer, on Community Speed Watch. This was prompted by a sighting on Loundsley Green road of a group in action, under Hannah's guidance, checking traffic speeds, an action itself prompted by complaints from local residents who were concerned about traffic exceeding 40 mph within the 30 and 40 limits. The presence of such groups does generally have an effect on speed in those areas, however, a week later I was witness along the same road to a motorcyclist practising for the Le Mans event and by the sound of his engine screaming in high gear and heard from at least a mile away and the sudden flash as he passed by he was travelling at well over the ton. I quote this instance since we as law abiding drivers, along with many other road users are having our lives put at risk by a small minority of, in this case Riders- although Drivers can also fall into the same category - who flout the law to satisfy their own craving for speed.

What can be done about it? Firstly , Hannah and her colleagues would like to know details of events, location and times when the miscreants are active, and secondly, if you have personal contact you could offer road safety advice as the gentler conscience pricking advice, with of course due mention of the IAM driving or riding courses which are available locally in Chesterfield for cars and at Matlock or Sheffield for motorcyclists. Should however the offender have already been caught it is well worth mentioning CREST – the Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team – where for a price, and with the power of the law behind it, a Speeding Course can be taken but there are restrictions as detailed, firstly they are not eligible if a course has been taken in the last 3 years, and the following table also applies to the speed registered :

In a 30 mph zone between 37 – 42.  
40 mph between 47 – 53.  
50 mph between 57 – 64.  
60 mph between 68 – 75.  
70 mph between 79 – 86.

Quite a consideration since they get something for the money paid out rather than just accepting a fine, but not as good as the IAM course which is much more detailed in driving / riding aspects and extended safety.

Still with speed in mind, although in this case at the lower end of the scale, or should I say, at the MUCH lower end, and still with the social aspect of the group in mind, you will have seen a report of the canal trip on the Judith Mary at Whaley Bridge in the May issue. Well, with the success of the test run another trip is to be organised very shortly, so if you are interested in watching the countryside pass by at a sedate 3 to 4 miles an hour (not 103+mph) get your names in to Susan ASAP. In the meantime safe and happy driving to you and above all please do try and support your group.

Bill Harrington.

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**DEDICATION OF GROUP CARAVAN TO ALAN MORGAN**

Most of you will have heard or read the sad news earlier this year about the untimely death of our PRO Alan Morgan.

Alan was a stalwart of the group, promoting the road safety and advanced driving message at every opportunity. One of his main passions was to ensure that the group caravan was present at as many events as was possible. Also on many occasions he would tow the caravan to and from these events.

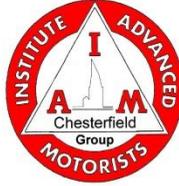
It is with this in mind that it has been decided that the caravan will be dedicated to the memory of Alan and also to the greatly appreciated work that Alan did for the group.

The dedication will be carried out by our president Mike Dickerson at 11:30 on Sunday 29 July 2012 at the Rotary Ashover Classic Car & Bike Show when a plaque will be attached to the caravan to mark the dedication.

It would be good if as many members as possible could be in attendance to mark this occasion.

The address of the venue is:-  
Ashover Show Ground  
Rectory Fields  
Milken Lane  
Ashover  
Chesterfield S45 0BA

We look forward to seeing you all there,  
Chesterfield Group Committee



# MONTHLY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



## UPCOMING THEMES

Theme	Opens	Competition closes	Winner Announced
<b>2012</b>			
<b>Woodlands/Trees</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> June	1 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>The Olympics/Sport</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July	27 <sup>th</sup> August	2 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b>The Great British Holiday</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> October	4 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Bridges</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> November	31 <sup>st</sup> December	6 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>2013</b>			
<b>Agriculture</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January	25 <sup>th</sup> February	3 <sup>rd</sup> March

Images must be your own but may be from your collection. They do not have to have been taken especially for the competition.

Please email your wish to enter and you will receive the password.  
[iam.chesterfield@yahoo.com](mailto:iam.chesterfield@yahoo.com)

# CODE BREAKERS

## Part 7 – continuation from May.

Traffic lights on Motorways! As I said last month they do exist but not in the usual manner we are accustomed to on more normal roads and pages 89 to 93 goes into detail of the “whys and wherefores”, (reference, Traffic Signs – official edition 2007), and they are not the typically Red, Amber and Green sequential signals of other roads. They display advice of conditions ahead, generally of a need for a speed reduction necessitated by an accident, reduced visibility or road works and subsequent lane closures and of course for various other reasons which may not be self evident. I was recently delayed for almost 50 minutes whilst police, or Highways agency personnel rounded up a flock of sheep which had decided to investigate conditions the other side of their fence and strayed on to the Motorway and they didn’t have “Go Faster Stripes” painted on their backs.

Such signs, not the stripes, are generally purely advisory but others are mandatory. These are contained within a red ring (see page 9) and are usually displayed on overhead gantries, and when lit in red, with accompanying Pairs of Vertical Red flashing lights, could apply to the whole Motorway or only to particular lanes and it is an offence to ignore them. Other signs showing White messages and generally with pairs of Horizontal Amber flashing lights are advisory but should still be observed and their messages adhered to. If you are considering entering the Motorway and vertical red flashing lights and signs indicate that the carriageways are closed then don’t go there, find an alternative route, it will be quicker.

Finally, if you see a vertical sign, particularly in Scotland, with a single pair of vertical Amber flashers you are being warned of a hazard ahead and should restrict your speed to a maximum of 30 mph until the hazard is passed.

Going on to pages 91 – 93 we come to Active Traffic Management and this is particularly applicable to the M42 which is fairly adjacent to our own patch if you are heading in the Birmingham direction.

The system, which you may or may not be familiar with, allows traffic to use the hard shoulder, under controlled conditions, when necessitated by heavy congestion or incidents. The first intimation that you are entering the system is a sign (p91) proclaiming its existence and advising you to follow the overhead instructions. As advised on entering the system it is very important to observe the signs on the overhead gantries and to be very vigilant of the actions of other drivers who may not be familiar with the Motorway.

One of the obvious consequences of using the hard shoulder as an active carriageway is the lack of its use in case of emergencies and to this end Emergency Refuge Areas are provided at 500 metre intervals, and these areas should still be used when the system is not active. You also need to be aware that when using the hard shoulder and approaching a junction it then becomes a Drop Lane for the exit slip road and should ideally be used only by traffic intending to exit at the junction.

Finally, when in use there is usually a 50 mph speed limit imposed on all lanes, so none of the 70 plus in lane 4, and in particular watch the indicated speed for you particular lane since it can be variable. When exiting the Active Traffic Management System a sign indicates this and normal National Speed Limit is resumed unless otherwise signified.

Should you have any questions or comments on the above I would be pleased to hear from you and hopefully provide any answers, but you would seriously be advise to get the book and read the detail particularly if venturing far afield to strange areas. Our Motorways are ranked amongst the safest in the world, but do know the rules and adhere to them at all times, SAFE DRIVING.

Bill Harrington.

**JUDITH MARY RESTAURANT BOAT**

Whaley Bridge (Post code SK23 7LS)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

11am Sail.

Come along and enjoy lunch and a relaxing 2hr 30min. cruise along the Upper Peak Forest canal.

Local premier pork sausages served with creamy mashed potato, onion gravy and garden peas.

Hot apple pie and cream.

Price inclusive of lunch and cruise £14.

(Car sharing to be organised and departure time 9-30am approx.)

Please give your names to Sue.

[Tel:- 01246 274785](tel:01246274785)

E mail:- [dw.sw274@btinternet.com](mailto:dw.sw274@btinternet.com)

Closing date:-Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June2012.

**According to Britannia Rescue, if you are travelling to France this summer, you should be carrying a Breathalyser kit with you, because as from July 2011 motorists caught driving without one will be fined. Motoring laws on the continent vary from country to country and travellers should always check up local laws before setting off.**

**(Halfords sell a range of breathalyser kits starting at £5. – Ed)**



## WHATS ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE

### MAY 2012

Saturday 26 May	Observer Training Day	The Lodge, Leeming Bar (TBC)
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Caravan & Display Chesterfield Market Square	Set up time 8.00 a.m.
Tuesday May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	7.30 pm chesterfield Library Cafe

### JUNE 2012 (NO SOCIAL EVENING IN JUNE)

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park, 9.30 a.m.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Guidance	Sainsbury's car Park 9.30 a.m.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	IAM Region 4 Event – Special Assessment Day, Leeming Bar	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Caravan and display Renishaw Hall	2 – 2.30 p.m. for setting up. See Advert
Saturday/Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> June	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Volvo Owners Club, Thoresby Hall NG22 9WH	Two Day Event
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting	7.30 pm Chesterfield Library Café
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Trip on Judith Mary Canal Barge	Depart 9.30 a.m. (See advert)
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Possible Caravan Display	Chesterfield Canal <b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>

Future Dates;

July 24<sup>th</sup>

July 29<sup>th</sup>

Chesterfield Mediaeval Market **TBC**

Ashover Car and Bike Show