

DECEMBER 2016

Issue 12/16



CHALLENGE CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS 40th Anniversary year - 1976 - 2016 GROUP NEWSLETTER



iam.chesterfield@gmail.com

GROUP CONTACT: BOB STONE 01246 568894

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

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017471
COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS**

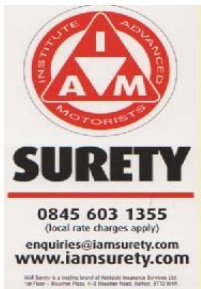
PRESIDENT	MIKE DICKERSON	01246 292144
CHAIRMAN	DOMINIC BOOTH	0782 1464483
HON. SECRETARY	BOB STONE	01246 568894
TREASURER	JEFF SNAPE	01246 567058
WEBMASTER	DOMINIC BOOTH	0782 1464483
GUIDANCE OFFICER	BOB STONE	01246 568894
PRO (Publicity)	VACANT	-
OBSERVER TRAINING OFFICER	VACANT	-
SOCIAL SECRETARY	VACANT	-
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MAYNARD STEPHENS	01246 235074
ASSOCIATE LIAISON PERSON (ALP)	ROGER BATES	01246 276629
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITHOUT 'PORTFOLIO'	JAN CRESWELL RAY PARKER SIL KINDER JOHN NORTH	

E-Mail Contacts

HON.SECRETARY	robjstone@aol.com
GUIDANCE OFFICER	robjstone@aol.com
GROUP	iamchesterfield@gmail.com
EDITOR	ymstone@aol.com

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

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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***I would like to wish everyone a very
Happy Christmas and a great New Year.
Happy and safe motoring in 2017
The next newsletter will be out around
30 January***

Yvonne, Editor

Continuing my theme of looking back over my past articles to see if much has changed, an observation from 9 years ago referred to newly qualified drivers – should they be restricted in what they can drive in a similar way to newly passed motorcyclists? Nine years of debate, but no answer yet.

Fact. Ten years ago, fuel broke through the £6 a gallon barrier, that's £1.40 per litre...today £1.15 ish per litre – some relatively welcome news.

In 2009 I commented on how many uninsured drivers were on the road – some progress recently, but still a long way to go.

Again in the same year I “pleaded” with associates on test, to tell the examiner what they are going to do about it when commenting on a hazard. This has now become “mandatory” on the test if you want to impress! Tailgaters and middle lane hoggers were highlighted in 2010 – no final solution yet of real importance.

For information in 2008, 27,093 motorists were prosecuted for using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving.

I asked if it was public knowledge how car makers came up with their fuel consumption/emission figures. (As yet, no comment from VW!!)

September 2011 I discussed “ crash to order “ situations and whiplash – some progress to report with the recent trend for in-car cameras, and very recently- stricter medical checks.....about time too.

I will here repeat almost word for word a comment I made in June 2012. Today, Monday 21st November we travelled 210 miles from “down south” in the worst rainfall I have ever experienced and sadly realised there has been no significant improvement in the lorry/spray prevention. We also saw two very serious accidents on the M40 and M42, the latter held us up , stationary, for over an hour.

2013 saw us pass the £2,000 mark for Ashgate Hospice raised from the auction social nights, and again I thank everyone who gave and bought.

I am still noticing the gregarious nature of motorists who will persist in parking very close to other vehicles when there is an almost empty car park!! More or less up to date now as anything from 2014 onwards is still on-going. Next month, in my last article as President, I may reminisce and do a few thank yous, until then...

Stay safe and happy Mike.

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"It was reported recently of the death of Fred Clarke, older members will remember him and Doreen his wife, as our secretary and social secretary for many years. Our thoughts go out to his family at this time."

(From Mike Dickerson)

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APPEAL

The 2017 AGM is almost upon us. There are vacancies for 5 posts on the Committee – President, Social Secretary, PRO Officer, Guidance Officer, Observer Training Officer.

The Committee has been struggling to keep things going for the last couple of years with some members doing more than one job. Considering the number of members we have, this should not be the case! **So, PLEASE consider taking on a role.** Bob Stone has Job Descriptions for all posts.

NOTICE of GROUP AGM

Notice is hereby given by order of the Group Committee that the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Chesterfield Group of Advanced Motorists is to be held at St Thomas's Church, Chatsworth Road, Brampton, Chesterfield on Thursday January 19th 2017 starting at 7.45pm.

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 2016, and for election of the 2017 Committee.

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

Election of 2017 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 / Associate Liaison Officer / Webmaster, plus additional committee members without 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
0770-447-1083 – email Robjstone@aol.com

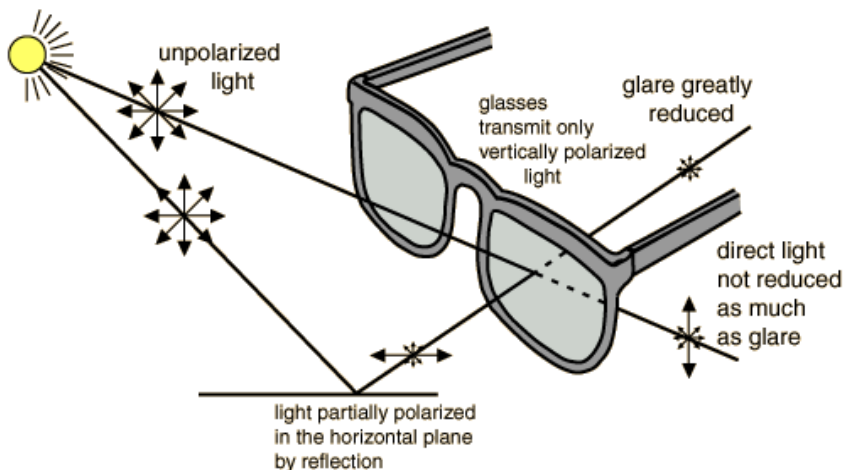
A PHYSICIST WRITES . . .

Article courtesy of Peter Soul, Thames Valley IAM (October 2016)

How often does it happen that you're driving along a local road and you see a familiar face on the pavement looking in your direction, so you give its owner a wave or perhaps a toot on the horn – but you get no equivalent response? Conversely, how many times have you been walking along when you saw the lift of a hand from a driver, but you had no idea who it was (unless maybe you recognized the car)?

The explanation for this poor visual communication is, of course, that whereas you can see out perfectly clearly from the driving-seat, it's much harder for people to see in, because the light reflected off the windscreen from sky and surroundings is usually much brighter than the light being reflected off you.

A pedestrian might identify you more easily if he or she was wearing Polaroid sunglasses. These use the fact that light reflected off a flat, more or less horizontal surface tends to be horizontally polarized (meaning that the 'light waves' are vibrating from side to side instead of in all directions), as shown in the diagram. So the reflected light will be partially blocked by the lenses, which only allow vertically polarized light through them.



On second thoughts, though, *you* would probably have difficulty identifying the pedestrian, behind the sunglasses! But the reverse problem of seeing the driver through the windscreen leads on to something potentially serious that happened to me a couple of days ago: I arrived near home on our local bus (not for the first time or even the hundredth), alighted from it and, as usual, strolled along to its rear end intending to wait for it to move off, before thinking about checking for traffic in both directions and crossing the road.

During the short stroll I saw someone I knew, a locksmith called John, get into his van in front of his house a few yards along the road. He then reversed out so as to face me, and straightened up to wait behind the bus, but still some way away from it. As the bus departed I expected John to move off after it, past me, but he didn't. Instead, I saw the lift of his hand. I returned the wave, assumed that he was kindly letting me cross the road, and started to walk.

Before I was halfway across (luckily), there was the blare of a horn right beside me. It was from another van travelling in the opposite direction, which had been concealed from me by the bus. When I did get safely across, John drew level with me, wound down his window and explained that he had actually been pointing at the approaching van, trying to draw my attention to it. As best as I could, I said thank you very much, and don't worry about what nearly occurred.

Later I started to count the different lessons that might usefully be learnt from this narrow escape. I could think of half a dozen at least...

> Pedestrians first: you may know the rules for crossing the road – but never forget how easy it is to be distracted from them, for example when a driver is – or seems to be – waving you across. It's your responsibility to check for other traffic!

(Remember too that the direction-indicators on the front of some cars can be hard to see, not only after dark against the glare of the headlights but also in daylight because of being positioned close to daytime-running lights. And vehicle-owners: are you aware of how visible your indicators are, or aren't, against the other lights?)

> Drivers next: for the same reason of possibly distracting pedestrians, take great care in gesturing to them (or flashing other drivers, for that matter) to say that they may cross in front of you. Be as sure as you can that there are no other hazards, especially approaching traffic, that they might overlook.

> Certainly do not try to give any other sort of message with gestures – remember that your hands, like the rest of you, are likely to be hard to see behind your windscreen, as I explained at the start.

(I am not at all attempting here to transfer the blame for my near-miss to John, but I might not have started crossing the road with such confidence if he had kept his hands on the wheel...)

> Better, really, never to signal that you are giving way – either with your hands or with your lights. Instead, just let the pedestrian or other road-user calmly work out what your intention is from the speed (if any) and position of your vehicle, giving them time also to take full account of any other traffic.

> When you're on the move and passing stationary vehicles of any sort (and on whichever side of you), be ready for some idiot to step out from behind one!

> Watch for opportunities to prevent a possible accident or incident by obstructing it. For example, if John had been thinking at a really high level he could have stopped me stepping off the kerb by simply rolling his van slowly towards the bus. More generally, I'm reminded of times when I have obstructed a driver who clearly had the intention of overtaking me dangerously on a roundabout (on the outside or even the inside), by straddling the lanes while going round it.

Similarly, if I'm starting along a length of road that has been 'narrowed' on the right-hand side (by parked cars, for instance), and in the distance an oncoming vehicle is about to move out and then present me with a tight squeeze as it passes, I see nothing wrong with moving out a bit myself first – deliberately and clearly giving the other driver no room to pass at all.

Ian Goring

Master Driver, National Training
Team Member
National Observer, Observer
Training Officer,
Local Observer Assessor

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Hello,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and to invite you to assist John Buffoni [Chair, York Group] and I with an exciting new project.

From 23rd-27th October 2017 we are going to support The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust in bringing the Pathfinder Project (www.under17driver.co.uk) to a location near York. We are seeking local observers willing to volunteer up to 5 days to support a group of rising 17's in following the Pathfinder Methodology (rooted in Roadcraft) and mastering the technical basics of driving and understanding how to comprehend and manage road risk. Pathfinder has been operating successfully since 2008 and has substantial support from both Policing and IAM RoadSmart

Working with rising 17's is very different to our normal 'observer' activity so volunteers will need to undergo basic training to meet the standards and criteria of The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust, this will include a requirement for DBS clearance.

We also need help with circuit set up and general administration on site. All activity is on a voluntary basis and does not constitute employment. Training for Instructors is compulsory, and will be provided to selected Observers: this will take place at the Spring Pathfinder in Worcestershire - 17 & 18th April 2017.

If you are interested and think you have the qualities and enthusiasm required, or would like to know more please contact me initially: I have just returned from the event held in Worcestershire and would be delighted to provide you with more details.

Kind regards,

Ian Goring

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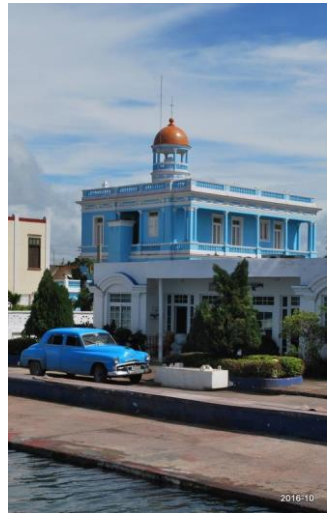


**December Lunch –
Table booked for 12 people**

Christmas lunch at the Bowshaw, Dronfield on Wednesday 7th December. I have booked for the carvery menu which offers a choice of 4 roast meats with veg. The cost is £6.29 for the main course and starters and puddings are available from about £2 - £2.50. There are vegetarian options. If you haven't already let me know, **Please let me know by Monday 5th** if you will be coming (if you haven't already). (Yvonne, 01246 568894, email ymstone@aol.com)

CUBAN METHODS OF TRANSPORT

Most people know that Cuba, Havana especially, has an awful lot of 1950's American cars, the vast majority of which have the original engines. On our recent trip to Cuba, our guide told us that Cuban mechanics are geniuses for keeping these cars on the road, especially considering they do not import much in the way of spare parts. Certainly a lot of vehicles, and not just those lovely big American cars with all the chrome, chuck out quite a bit of black smoke! A lot of them are owned by the Government and used as taxis, although there are some which are privately owned. There are more modern cars as well, but few and far between. But apparently with relations between Cuba and the USA thawing quite considerably these days, they are hoping to set up an agreement to import spare parts.



Other forms of transport in Cuba

Home made bicycle taxis – with lovely upholstery





MATLOCK IAM PHOTO COMPETITION

Matlock IAM are holding a photo competition on Tuesday 6 December at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale, at 7.30 p.m. Local groups are welcome to join in. A maximum of 3 photographs can be submitted which must have been taken within the last 12 months. These should be emailed to Bill Storey at matlockdhv1@btinternet.com - any theme, any size, but please submit by 1st December (sorry about short notice, I have only recently found out about the competition - Editor)



Time to get the Christmas Jumpers on and come along to the Christmas Fuddle social at St Thomas's Centre, on Thursday December 15th, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Quizzes, games, food, raffle and general frivolity. Family members welcome. Tea and coffee available.



If you are coming to the Christmas social, please bring along some food to share with everyone, it doesn't have to be home made - but it needs to be enough for everyone to 'dip in' to.

Advanced Driver and Rider Course gift vouchers now available with 10% off.

Our advanced course gift vouchers make attractive, thoughtful presents. Valid for twelve months, our vouchers are sent to the purchaser so that a personal greeting can be added before gifting them. The voucher pack is presented in a beautiful blue ribbon design envelope.

Your guide to IAM RoadSmart Advanced Course gift vouchers

Gift vouchers are available for both our Advanced Driver and Advanced Rider Courses and include everything needed to help any driver or rider gain our advanced qualification. The recipient simply needs to add a dash of commitment to learning and developing new skills with us!

Save 10% by ordering before Christmas

Our gift vouchers are usually £149, however if you order before Christmas then we are offering them at just £134, saving you £15 per voucher. There is no limit to how many can be ordered. Simply use the code **GV10** when ordering online or by calling **0300 303 1134**.

How to redeem the vouchers

Our vouchers are valid for twelve months from the date of purchase so they can be redeemed when convenient. Many recipients wait until the Spring before activating their course. All the recipient needs to do is to call the activation number on the voucher, quote the reference code and then provide us with their contact details - it's as simple as that.

How to order your gift vouchers

Call **0300 303 1134** quoting **GV10** to purchase by phone. Remember they are valid for twelve months and we don't need to know who you plan to give them to when you purchase them, so they are ideal to keep for future use.

Diary Dates

DECEMBER / JANUARY

December Sunday 4 th	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park, 9.30 am
Wednesday 7 th	Carvery Lunch - 1 p.m.	The Bowshaw, Dronfield S18 2GA
Thursday 15 th	Christmas Social See advert!	St Thomas's Centre 7.30 – 9.30
No Saturday guidance in December No committee meeting in December		
NO SUNDAY GUIDANCE IN JANUARY AS THE FIRST SUNDAY IS NEW YEARS' DAY		
January Saturday 7 th	Guidance, Sainsbury's Car Park, 9.30 a.m.	
NO LUNCH GROUP IN JANUARY		
Thursday 19 th 7.45 p.m.	A.G.M. St Thomas's Centre, Chatsworth Road, Brampton	
Tuesday 31 st	Committee Meeting, Chesterfield Library Café, 7.30 p.m.	

February guidance: Sunday 5th, Saturday 11th