

FEBRUARY 2017

ISSUE 2/17



**CHALLENGE
CHESTERFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS
GROUP NEWSLETTER**



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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1017471

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	VACANT	-
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HON. SECRETARY	BOB STONE	01246 568894
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WEBMASTER	DOMINIC BOOTH	0782 1464483
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OBSERVER TRAINING OFFICER	RAY PARKER	01246 206959
SOCIAL SECRETARY	SIL KINDER	01246 557979
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MAYNARD STEPHENS	01246 235074
ASSOCIATE LIAISON PERSON (ALP)	VACANT	
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WITHOUT 'PORTFOLIO'	JOHN NORTH TONY POPE PAUL DALY	

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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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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 **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

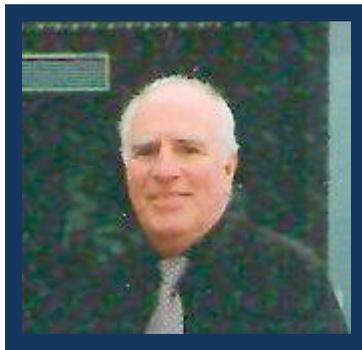
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An Invitation to all

As you all may or may not know I will be getting married to Dot this year in South Shields on the 1st March at 3pm. We openly invite anyone who wants to come - you will be more than welcome. I am aware that it is a long way to travel so if you can't then I understand, but the invite is there. Contact me for all the details. Thank you, Ray

**Farewell –
Last article as President**



Dear Committee members, observers, associates and friends and families of the Chesterfield IAM

The time has come to hand over the presidency to the next incumbent and wish him/her well for the foreseeable future. The task is not particularly arduous, but a good ear and broadish shoulders are needed as sometimes confidences of a private nature need to be addressed and not holding a position on the committee is often an advantage. Thankfully these instances are rare and the Group has been a most successful part of the IAM for 41 years.

Many hundreds of associates have taken advantage of what we offer and as an average of 12 or so test passes per year, about 500 Advanced Drivers have been trained – quite an achievement.

It is also pleasing to see “Head Office” taking a bit more interest in the groups’ efforts recently....without the work of the hundreds of volunteers up and down the country, their task would be difficult. (This is a personal observation)

If I have one regret over the years, firstly as a committee member, then as Chairman and latterly President, it is that more members do not support the social side of the group. I fully realise that we primarily exist to train Advanced techniques, and associates come, train, pass and go - this is what we are all about, but it would be nice to see an increase in the support given

to our guest speakers and other events - such a lot of hard work is expounded by a few stalwarts. If anyone can offer a solution to this problem, then a "medal as big as a dustbin lid " is waiting. (For the younger members, the modern equivalent would be the black wheelie bin !)

As we enter 2017, I hope we will see a vast reduction in the number of drivers who cannot be parted from their phones for the duration of a journey at the expense of other road users , they do not seem to think it is wrong, perhaps until they maim, or worse, some innocent person and have to live with that for the rest of their lives.

The latest news on the Learner Driver front, is that under strict conditions, they will be allowed to train on motorways. We have always offered help in this area, albeit after passing the L test....perhaps it should be advertised nationally that we do this already.

I would really now like to thank all those involved in the day to day running of our Group and all observers who give up their valuable time for the benefit of associates, I have said many times before, the IAM could not perform without their dedication.

This is not goodbye, as I intend to still observe and support the social scene for the near future.....who knows just what the long term (I hope) future holds for us all, let us continue to support safer driving and offer our help to as many as we can to make our roads safer places.

I hope you have enjoyed my ramblings over the years and now I wish you all happiness and safety for the future; signing off now and thanking you for the pleasure and privilege of being your President for so long.

Mike Dickerson

NEW COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE AGM

Details of the new committee following the AGM in January appear on page 2.

Bob Stone awarded Observer of the Year to Roger Bates, for the second year running. Congratulations to Roger.



A Special Commendation certificate was presented to Sil Kinder for outstanding support to guidance, most notably for his continual commitment to get the caravan to Sainsburys.



Mike Dickerson decided that this year the Presidents' Rosebowl should be given to the whole committee. Dom Booth is Guardian of the Rosebowl for the next year.

Those present also gave a vote of thanks to Mike Dickerson for his time as President. Mike will continue to be involved with the group.

TEST PASSES

Between 6 December 2016 and 4 January 2017 we had 5 test passes. Of these we had 3 passes at FIRST! It is also worth noting that these 5 tests were conducted by 4 different Examiners so we can take comfort that our standards are appropriate.

Associate

Paul Daly (First)
Craig Holmes (First)
Jane Weller (Pass)
Jake Meikle (First)
Daniel Neal (Pass)

Observer

Roger Bates
Selwyn Gough
Bob Stone
Bob Stone
Roger Bates, Tony Pope & Bob Stone



Paul Daly receiving his Pass Certificate from Observer Roger Bates



Daniel Neal receiving his test pass certificate from Observers Roger Bates and Bob Stone.

SOME MOTORING NEWS

- Drivers who stay in the comfort of their warm homes while they defrost their cars are breaking the law, police warn. It is an offence for motorists to leave their vehicles unattended with the engine running - even in the cold weather .

And thieves are also making the most of the opportunity - as it emerged that six cars were stolen in 30mins on one frosty morning this week.

British drivers are now being warned as the mercury plummets below zero.

- Hundreds of thousands of motorists are using their mobile phones at the wheel to access Facebook and other social networking websites, an official survey has found.

More than 500,000 motorists used their mobile phones while driving last year, an increase of almost 50 per cent since 2008.

The rise is being fuelled by the "addiction" to social networking websites, particularly among young people.

According to a survey of tens of thousands of drivers, on average 1.5 per cent of car drivers use their mobile phone at the wheel.

However, young people aged between 17 and 29 are four times more likely to use their mobile phone while driving.

The White Van man is also far more likely to use a mobile phone while driving than other motorists, with 2.7 per cent of them spotted using mobiles.

The DfT report found that two thirds of those seen using their mobile phones were using them to text or for access to social networking websites.

Recently a woman pulled over by Police for using her mobile phone said she was using Facebook whilst driving, she wasn't using it as a phone!

- New vehicles may not require an MOT for the first four years of ownership under new government plans to save motorists more than £100 million per year. Transport Minister Andrew Jones yesterday revealed the proposals to extend by a year the period before a new car or motorcycle's first MOT is needed.

The government is currently consulting on the plans, which if successful would align England, Scotland and Wales with Northern Ireland, as well as with European countries such as Ireland, France, Spain and Italy.

Jones said: "We have some of the safest roads in the world and MOT tests play an important role in ensuring the standard of vehicles on our roads.

"New vehicles are much safer than they were 50 years ago and so it is only right we bring the MOT test up to date to help save motorists money where we can."

The MOT-free period was reduced in 1967 from 10 years to its current three-year length. It is a legal requirement that all vehicles must be roadworthy, irrespective of whether they have passed an MOT. The content of the tests will not be changed.

Each year, more than 2.2 million cars are subjected to their first MOT, which can cost owners up to £54.85.

The past 10 years have seen the number of three- or four-year-old cars involved in an accident where a vehicle defect was a contributory factor decline by almost two-thirds. In 2006, this figure stood at 155. In 2015, it had fallen to just 57.

Faulty lights were named by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency as the most common reason for a car to fail their first MOT.

Nearly half the faults found during an MOT could be avoided if motorists performed checks and maintenance before the test. This includes replacing bulbs and checking tyres and oil.

The proposed changes could come into effect in 2018, subject to the public consultation.

Article courtesy of Simon Davis, The Press Association.

LUNCH CLUB

Wednesday 8th February, 1 p.m.
The Lockford Inn, Tapton S41 0TQ

Please let me know if you are coming so that I can advise numbers
(Yvonne)

February Social – Thursday 16th February 7.30 p.m. St Thomas's Centre, Chatsworth Road, Brampton

Fran Thompson, Local Examiner, will be coming to give a talk on the following subjects:

Highway Code and IPSGA questions included on Test
Safe position on left hand bends to avoid oncoming traffic straddling white line.
Brake gear overlap
Steering - hand position
Overtakes – is there any tolerance on speed
The new standards.

ALL OBSERVERS AND ASSOCIATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

BITS AND PIECES:

- Matlock IAM are having their annual quiz night on Tuesday 7 March at 7.30 p.m. at the Whitworth Institute Darley Dale. Let's hope we can get a team together for this fun event.
- Our March Social is Mr James Pogson of Northern Tea Merchants who will be coming to talk to us about his travels sourcing different tea and coffee. Family and friends are very welcome and it promises to be an interesting night.
- Regarding the monthly Newsletter, costs are rising with printing, stationery and postage. Toners for the printer cost around £45 monthly which means that the hard copies of the newsletter are costing around £1 per issue plus postage. Unless we hear otherwise you will in future receive the newsletter by email, providing we have an email address for you.
- At the AGM I announced that I would now like to withdraw from organising the Lunch Club. I have organised the one for February but if someone else would like to take this on from March, I am sure all the regular 'lunchers' would appreciate it. Whoever may be responsible for organising each event would need to let me know details of where/when so that I can put details in the Newsletter.
- NEW REGISTERED ADDRESS FOR IAM:
1 Albany Place, Hyde Way, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3BT.

Diary Dates

February 2017

Sunday 5 th	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park, 9.30 am
Wednesday 8 th	Lunch Club, 1 p.m.	The Lockoford Inn, Lockoford Lane, Tapton S41 0TQ
Saturday 11 th	Guidance	Sainsbury's Car Park 9.30 am
Thursday 16 th	Social – Fran Thompson Local Examiner ALL OBSERVERS & ASSOCIATES PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND	St Thomas's Centre Chatsworth Road, Brampton, 7.30 – 7.45 pm SEE ADVERT
Tuesday 28 th	Committee Meeting	Chesterfield Library Café, 7.30 p.m.

Future Dates: - March

March Guidance – Sunday 5th, Saturday 11th,
March 7th – Matlock IAM Quiz, 7.30 pm at the
Whitworth Institute Darley Dale

**March Social – Thursday 16th –
James Pogson from Northern Tea Merchants –
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME**

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 28th