

Chairman's Letter

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Dear Readers

Spring is on the way. I know that because the snowdrops and crocus are out in the gardens, the days are getting longer and the AGM is behind us.

On the 7th February, the West Pennine Group held the AGM when reports of activity during 2000 were heard. It was a pleasure to see Dion Etherington Principal Road Safety Officer for Oldham and Bob Higginbotham MBE, IAM Regional Co-ordinator in attendance.

The many members present at the AGM heard reports from 11 sections of the Committee, met Helen Smith who was presented with flowers for her hospitality at the Bank Top Tavern during the latter half of 2000, and were engaged by Chris Slater who gave a presentation on Traffic Management in the Oldham Area.

Chris as IAM Examiner and IAM Examiner liaison Officer is always a welcome guest at West Pennine and members were pleased to have the opportunity to share their thoughts on traffic management with him.

The Committee for 2001 was formed with one significant change from 2000. Nick Furnell has had to step down as Hon. Treasurer due to his very heavy workload and Steven Slater has been elected to replace him. Nick has done a very good job as Treasurer and I know that he will leave everything ready for Steven to follow. I wish Steven well as he takes over his new role on the committee. Nick has agreed to be nominated as a Committee member and will help out with the newsletter in particular.

John Rostron was co-opted on to the Committee last year and I am pleased to say that he has now been elected as a full Committee member. John has begun to simplify systems for mailing Newsletters and other correspondence to the membership and I know that he will build on this during 2001.

From time to time members make comment on all aspects of the Groups functions which are welcome. The Committee will always try to address any matters brought to their attention in the best interest of all members and associates.

If you have any comments to make, either complimentary or developmental, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Committee members named inside the front cover.

Until the next Newsletter
Drive safely,
Beryl Schofield

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March 06

MEMBERS IN UNIFORM.

One of our members, Frank Stanyer who now lives in Staffordshire, wrote earlier this year to draw drawing attention to a photograph of him, as he says, "when I was a bit of a lad".



The photograph with comment appeared in The People's Friend Jan 20th 2001. Frank tells us that the band played with Jeff Love, he was MC for the occasional dances and this photograph was taken during World War 2 in the desert, circa 1940/4.

MY BOSS

When I take a long time I'm slow.
When he takes a long time he's thorough.
When I don't do it I'm lazy.
When he doesn't do it he's too busy.
When I do something without being told I'm a know all.
When he does something without being told that's initiative.
When I do well he forgets.
When he does well he never forgets.
I wish I were my boss and always right!?!

A BIT OF A LAUGH

AMUSING MISPRINTS

It is now apparent that with the recent losses or curtailments to more than 7 different bus routes in the Telford district, that any claim that Telford leads the way on public transport is entirely felatious.

(Shropshire Star)

Mr Pavitt said that the issue of drugs, alcohol and substance abuse was part of all pupils personal and social education programme at Colbayns, which is approved by the governors.

(Frinton & Walton Gazette)

Large Dark Brown wooden wardrobe and matching toy boy. Good condition £15.00 o.n.o.

(Sale & Altrincham Messenger)

Airbus double decker jumbo project wins £617 development loan from German government.

(Bristol Evening Post)

FAMOUS QUOTATIONS.

The Titanic is well able to withstand any exterior damage and could keep afloat indefinitely.
(Vice President of the International Mercantile Marine Company)

Herr Hitler is no longer a problem. His movement has ceased to be a political danger and the whole problem is solved. It is a thing of the past.

(General Kurt Von Schleicher 1933)

You can't say the people of Dallas haven't given you a nice welcome.
(Mrs John Connolly to president J F Kennedy Nov 22, 1963)

Gone with the Wind is going to be the biggest flop in Hollywood History.
(Gary Cooper turning down the role of Rhett Butler)

No woman in my time will be Prime Minister. I wouldn't want the job, you have to give yourself 100%.
(Margaret Thatcher in the Sunday Telegraph)

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NEWS RELEASE



IAM WELCOMES HOME OFFICE REVIEW OF PENALTIES

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) believes the Home Office is right to increase the penalties for the worst repeat offenders while at the same time addressing measures to improve driving standards.

“To meet the Government’s road safety targets, we need not only the stiffer penalties for the worst offenders but also a re-education programme so drivers breaking the law have to face up to the consequences of their anti-social behavior. Prevention is better than cure, and there is a long-awaited recognition today that changing attitudes through education is just as important as enforcement,” commented LAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock.

Mr. Bullock particularly welcomed measures to improve driving standards, hoping this would be the first step in a major move away from a fines and penalties regime to much more driver re-education and training. “Repeat offenders are identifying themselves as needing help. Instead of a series of fines, there should be an automatic requirement to attend a driver improvement course,” he said.



NEWS RELEASE

IAM REMINDS DRIVERS THAT SPEED LIMITS ARE NOT TARGETS

The court case this week which saw record damages awarded to a child left with brain damage after a crash involving a motorist driving within the 30mph limit was this week described as a “grim reminder of the need to educate drivers” by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

“Speed limits are exactly that - limits not targets,” said IAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock. “This case illustrates that it is too easy to be negligent, with possible tragic consequences, even if you are driving within the speed limit.

“The cliché ‘speed kills’ is exactly that - a cliché, and one that is too simplistic by half. It is inappropriate speed that is the killer. Mindlessly letting your car drift up to 30mph as you approach a busy school gate at 9am is easy to do - but it’s irresponsible and could have fatal consequences.”

Mr. Bullock said he would not like to see 20mph zones introduced on all urban through roads but that he would like to see more around schools, as well as shopping precincts and other areas where pedestrians are vulnerable.

West Pennine Wanderings

(An Occasional Series by Beryl Schofield)

Having driven along the recently opened link of the M60 on several occasions, we decided to explore around and under the M60 close to the Daisy Nook Country Park and the Medlock Valley

It had been some years since we walked in the area the Oldham Way, Tameside Trail and Medlock Valley Way all pass through and on the last occasion the nearby construction of the M60 had only just begun to take shape. We wanted to return to see how, if at all, the motorway now impacted on this area of countryside.

On a dry but dull early January morning we parked the car at the John Howarth Visitor Centre within Daisy Nook Country Park, put on the walking boots and left the Park to cross Stannybrook Road. Once through the stile opposite, we followed the tow path of the disused Hollinwood Branch Canal. As we looked up, the sky had become noticeably brighter, there was a patch of blue sky and we grew optimistic that we might not need to put on our waterproofs

The canal is home for all manner of life and was less overgrown than when we last walked there. It is a designated site of biological importance. Bulrushes continue to flourish, we watched two mallards chasing around in the undergrowth and then spotted a water rat. Soon, the canal disappeared into a culvert under the M60 and the towpath continued to span the motorway by way of an impressive footbridge. After about 1/2 mile, we crossed a small wooden bridge to take a detour to Littlemoss Camp, a former military camp.

Returning to continue along the canal towpath as far as Cinderland Bridge, a robin watched us with interest. It was here that we left the canal, passed through two stiles and skirted the edge of Brookdale Golf Course. The sun began to shine and the view opened up towards Hartshead Pike and beyond. We could hear the River Medlock below and to our left, as we approached Ash Bridge which crosses the Medlock in the middle of the Golf Course. We had to wait on the bridge whilst 2 golfers took strike across our path. We confirmed that they had indeed finished, waved and went on our way through oak woods towards the conservation village of Woodhouses. A pied wagtail attracted our attention on the other side of the road.

Once through the village we left the road to descend through a newly fenced path to pass parallel to the M60. To our right we could see the River Medlock meandering along the valley. Ahead we could see the M60 trailing away in the distance and although we knew that the M60 was also to our left, we could not see it since it passed through a cutting. We could only hear a very low acceptable hum of traffic.

The Medlock flows under the M60 but it has not been culverted. As we followed the riverside path we walked under the M60 which now bridges the valley. There has been some interesting landscape work undertaken here which, if kept clear of debris and unnecessary undergrowth could become a useful pathway to a potentially pleasant picnic site.

We soon passed through the car park of the Daisy Nook Garden Centre, crossed the Medlock and Stannybrook Road near Hencote Cottage and entered the Country Park through National Trust woodland. At the model boat pond next to Sammy's basin, we sat in the sun and had lunch. The Country Park was getting busier. Other walkers were now about, a couple of cyclists used the bridle path alongside horse riders and there were anglers at the waterside.

After lunch we crossed the aqueduct which carries the Hollinwood Branch Canal over the River Medlock and walked on to Crime Lake. There, the lake becomes an important wild fowl refuge in Winter and we saw several pairs of swans, dozens of Mallard ducks, Canada Geese and some coots. Two Canada Geese climbed out of the water next to us, started to tap their webbed feet and shouted "where's my bread?"

We eventually returned to the car via Dark Tunnel which is no longer a tunnel, and on to the Visitor's Centre.

Now that the motorway has been completed and from our first impressions, it is clear to us that attention has been given to the preservation or the creation of paths in the valley. Any disruption to wildlife habitat has appeared to be kept at the minimum possible and a small but important Country Park can continue to provide for recreation and relaxation located as it is, surrounded by the urban and industrial sites of Oldham and Tameside.

Please note:

Beryl and Norma used the "Woodhouses Circular Route" from the Medlock Meanders series of leaflets published by Oldham Countryside Service as a basis for this walk. More information can be obtained on 0161 6208202

"Gift Aid"

March 06

Dear Member,

The government has recently introduced a scheme called Gift Aid whereby Charities who receive subscriptions or donations from their members can claim back some tax. As the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists is a registered Charity, your annual subscription qualifies for the group to receive this tax rebate.

The current annual subscription is £8.00. For every £8.00 subscription the Group can claim back £2.26 in tax as long as you pay at least that much tax each year.

I must emphasise that this does not require you to make any additional payment whatsoever to us or the Inland Revenue. All you have to do is fill in the form below and send it back to the treasurer, it's as easy as that!

The Group could benefit by several hundred pounds if we get the support of all our members. This would be a valuable boost to our funds so please complete and return the form today. If you have any questions regarding this scheme, please contact the group treasurer. Further information can also be obtained from:

Inland Revenue, Financial Intermediaries & Claims Office, St. John's House, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L69 9BD.

The following notes are relevant:

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the group treasurer.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount of the reclaim on your subscription/ donations in the tax year.
3. If in the future, your circumstances change and you no longer pay income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to at least the amount of the reclaim, you must notify the group treasurer.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

Cut along here

WEST PENNINE GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Registered Charity number 1006658

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Details of donor:

Title: Forename(s): Surname:

Address:

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Postcode:

Declaration:

I would like the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations. I confirm that I pay income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims.

Signed: Date:

Please return this completed form to :

The Treasurer
West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists
Steven Slater
49 Dorset Avenue
Shaw
OL2 7EG

March 2001

Cut along here

Traffic Calming makes Driver Mad

Readers will know that local authorities have invested heavily in all sorts of ways to stow traffic and make roads safer places. In Rochdale they even have humped zebras.

If, however, you are in Oldham travelling along Coldhurst Street in the direction of Godson Street and wishing to turn right up Crompton Street, you will find that you have no alternative but to drive right OVER the mini roundabout there because you can't drive ROUND it.

Now that makes me MAD, I am so MAD, so very very MAD, I am FURIOUS.

A VERY ANGRY DRIVER
who wishes to remain anonymous



A WARNING FOR COMPUTER USERS.....

I like my new spell checker,
It came with my pea see.
It plainly marques four my revue,
Miss steaks I can knot sea.
I've run these verses threw it,
I'm shore your please two no.
It's let her perfect in its weigh,
My chequer tolled me sew.

Did you know that there are basically only three types of people in the world – those who can count, and those who can't.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

DON'T BE A FASHION VICTIM, IAM WARNS SCOOTER RIDERS

Britain's growing army of "scooter commuters" run the risk of severe injury because riders are wearing inappropriate clothing, warned the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) today.

Launching a new booklet "Safer Scootering" at the NEC's 2000 International Motor Cycle and Scooter Show, TAM Council Member Steve Norris said scooter riders could easily become fashion victims if they are involved in a crash.

"Scooter commuters have the right headgear, and that is about all," said Mr. Norris, who opened the show alongside boy band FIVE.

"Commuters seem to think that riding a scooter is like an extension of driving a car. And they dress accordingly - in suits, lightweight clothes with a jacket on top and normal footwear. But they should remember that if they come off their scooters, even at 30mph, they will regret not having worn the right protective clothing."

Mr. Norris pointed out that many scooters have somewhere to store the protective clothing. "As President of the Motor Cycle Industry Association I am delighted that more and more people are turning to scooters as the ideal way to combat congestion and help the environment. But even scooters need riding with care".

"Statistics show that there were around 700 injuries in 1998 - but there were seven fatalities, all on built-up roads. The IAM is concerned that with their new popularity, we will inevitably see a rise in those casualty figures.

"Wearing the right clothing and spending a few minutes on our easy-to-read booklet are two ways that scooter commuters can stay ahead of the game, getting to their destinations quickly and safely," said Mr. Norris.

"Safer Scootering", at £1.99, is available from the IAM,
359 Chiswick High Road,
London
W4 4HS
(post and packaging free).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the group was held at the Bank Top Tavern on Wednesday 7th February 2001. It was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the talk by Chris Slater, the guest speaker, the subject being Traffic Management in the Oldham area, or roughly translated, road works! (I am at a loss to understand how, whilst speaking at the Bank Top, Chris managed to make the road works disappear which had been on Oldham Road, Royton, near the Broadway traffic lights. They were definitely there at teatime and had gone when I was driving home – I almost thought it was a mirage and that I would vanish into a black hole (Who said 'I wish she would'?)

Due to his massive work load Nick is unable to continue as Treasurer, although he wishes to continue as a committee member, and Steven Slater, who had been co-opted on to the Committee during the previous year, was elected as our new Treasurer. Beryl was elected as Chairman for a second consecutive year, and Lorraine again as Secretary. John Rostron was elected as a full member of the Committee (he also having been co-opted during the year).

Long-service Certificates of Appreciated were awarded to Beryl Schofield and Tony Bottomley, and Steven Slater was presented with his National Observer Certificate. Bob Higginbotham, MBE, the Regional Co-ordinator, was on hand to do the honours.

It was a very enjoyable evening, and if you didn't make it this year, why not, and make sure you come along next year.

Lorraine Brown
Secretary

QUIZ WINNER THANKS TO WEST PENNINE

Copies of the Beastly Quiz were sold among the group just before Christmas. This was a quiz sold throughout the North West on behalf of the Macmillan Nurses. A copy sold by our very own Peter Smithies was the winning entry. Well done Mrs Millard who correctly answered all the clues, and thanks to Pete for help raising so much money for a worthy cause.

RED ROSE HAND CAR WASH and VALETING SERVICE

Red Rode Garage, Shaw Road, Royton

Tel: 0161 620 5661 / 01706 290397

*Discounts are
available to I.A.M.
members displaying
A badge on there
vehicle.*

GROUP RULES CHANGE.

At the 2001 AGM the membership agreed to modify the group rules to delete reference to specific locations. This adjustment is being prepared and a copy will be available for inspection on request.

ATTENTION

Don't forget, we still need more articles from you.
If you have anything of interest please forward it to any
member of the committee.

NEW ASSOCIATES

March 06

Welcome to the following visitors who have recently joined the group as Associate Members. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings for advisory runs, in preparation for the Advanced Driving Test. Good Luck to you all.

Richard John Lord

Joanne Liles

Constance E. Cook

Georgina Cannon

Parveen Akram

Graham Thomas

Carol Talbot

Mandy Estrey

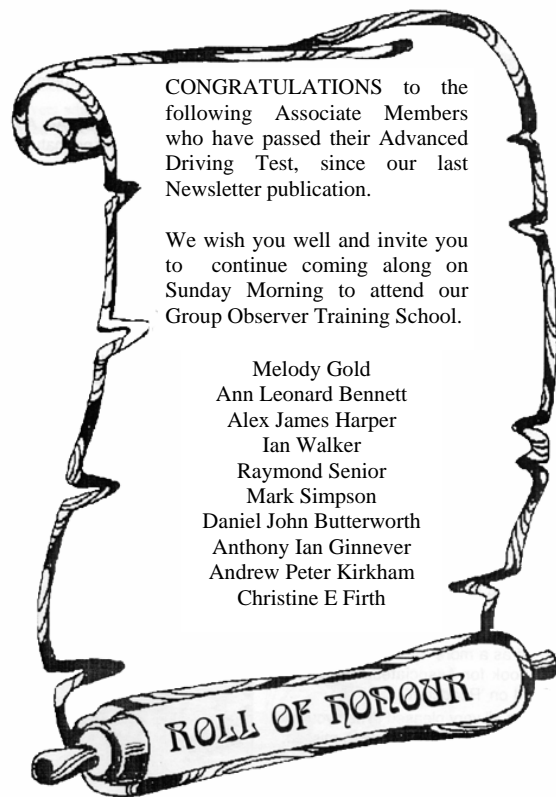
Peter Bentley

OBSERVER TRAINING

Leonard Hirst and Daniel Butterworth continue with observer training. Look forward to seeing them on the "Observer Team" shortly.

TEST PASSES

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CONGRATULATIONS to the following Associate Members who have passed their Advanced Driving Test, since our last Newsletter publication.

We wish you well and invite you to continue coming along on Sunday Morning to attend our Group Observer Training School.

Melody Gold
Ann Leonard Bennett
Alex James Harper
Ian Walker
Raymond Senior
Mark Simpson
Daniel John Butterworth
Anthony Ian Ginnever
Andrew Peter Kirkham
Christine E Firth

We are always at the Bank Top Tavern both before and after the morning's activities. Please come and talk to us if you are experiencing any difficulties and wish to discuss any problems relating to your driving.

David Mellor – Beryl Schofield – Peter Smithies – Allan Thorne
Associate Scheme Co-Ordinators

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March 06

REGALIA

The following items are in stock and available for sale to members:-

Circular radiator badges	@ £6.50
Square radiator badges	@ £6.50
Lapel badges	@ £2.00
Tax disc holders	@ £0.50
Key rings	@ £2.50
Rear window stickers	@ £1.00
T' shirts	@ £5.00
Ties	@ £5.80
Stick pins	@ £2.00
Ball pens	@ £2.00
Sew-on-badges	@ £2.00



The following items, each bearing the West Pennine logo, are available on order:-

Sweatshirt	@ £21.00
Polo shirt	@ £17.00
T' shirt	@ £14.00
Baseball cap	@ £9.00
Woolly hat	@ £9.00
Embroidery on own item	@ £8.50
Additional words to IAM logo	@ £3.00
Surcharge for XXL sweatshirt	@ £2.50

Sweatshirt colours:- black, bottle green, bright red, burgundy, light grey, navy blue, royal blue.

Woolly hat colours are as above except that light grey is replaced by marled grey.

BOOKS IN STOCK FOR SALE TO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES:-

Motorway Driving Explained	@ £0.95
Know Your Traffic Signs	@ £2.50
A Guide To Advanced Motoring	@ £2.50

All of these items are either on sale or can be ordered from Norma Scholes on Sunday mornings.

GROUP VIDEO/CD ROM LIBRARY

You may borrow any of the following videos for one week from Peter Smithies.

A returnable deposit of £5 is payable.

Video's are limited to one per person per week.

HMSO The Driving Video	Roadcraft IAM
HMSO Highway Code	Safe Motorway Driving IAM
IAM Maybe Too Late	Advanced Driving IAM
FORD Aggressive Driving	Test Drive IAM
FORD Driving Without Fear	"Crash" Channel 4 Video
Steps to Safe Minibus Driving	CD ROM Advanced Driving