

Chairman's Letter

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After reading 'Members' Classics' in the Winter 2001 copy of 'Advanced Driving' I began to think about my first car.

Now I'm sure that everyone has fond (or otherwise) memories of their first car, I know I certainly do----- I loved mine.

Many years ago, my late father had a local haulage and removals business. Every year----- and my information here is a bit sketchy----- he would travel to a Commercial Vehicle sale in the Midlands and sometimes he would buy an addition to the fleet.

One afternoon sometime between August 1964 and Summer 1965, after I had returned home from work, he took me up the street to the garage yard where we found a Morris Minor strapped to the back of one of our lorries. *I can remember the excitement even now!*

At the sale, in addition to the Commercial Vehicles that year, there had been a small number of ex Army vehicles going for auction. This one had been used by a disabled driver and had hand controls and seat belts. By the mid 1960's vehicle manufacturers had moved away from 'all cars are black', but because this one was ex Government stock it was black.

I was clearly very fortunate since my dad had bought the car for me.

This Morris Minor saloon had a divided windscreen, I don't remember it having any heating and there was certainly no radio. I carried a sizeable 'transistor' around on the passenger seat which needed to be turned around frequently for a stronger signal

HJU 785 was 800cc and manufactured in 1956. It was valued at £115 and my insurance premium for 1965/66 was £20.18s.9d. We were able to adjust the modifications on the controls returning the car to its original specification.

If any reader has interesting memories of their first car then I would be very interested to read about them.

Well that's enough about me. Moving now to the present time, you will find enclosed with this Newsletter, membership renewal papers for 2002. Members who passed their Test during 2001 will now need to consider the renewal of West Pennine Group subscriptions if they wish to continue receiving copies of the Group Newsletter, having the opportunity to remain as an Observer or to have their driving checked periodically.

All other members who have renewed their subscriptions regularly either by Bankers Order or by other means will be familiar with what to do next.

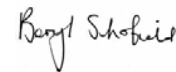
The West Pennine Group values all members who collectively make their contribution to road safety by continuing to practise Advanced Driving as demonstrated by the above average driver. We also appreciate your local support very much.

On December 16th. you are invited to join us for hot mince pies and coffee/tea before the morning's runs at 9.45am. Until the 16th., Steven Slater will be selling raffle tickets at £1 each. Raffle prizes will include a 1 litre presentation bottle of Baileys and the draw will take place on the 16th December. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Dr. Kershaw's Hospice in Oldham on this occasion.

Sunday 16th December will see the last Observed Runs of 2001. We will then be closed until Sunday 6th January 2002.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all members and friends a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope to see you soon but particularly at the AGM which will be held at the Pennine Way Hotel in Oldham on Wednesday 13th February at 8.00pm when the guest speaker will be Roger Taylor, IAM Examiner.

Drive safely



Many Thanks

Apologies and a very big thank you to "Foster & Suthers". Who kindly donated the trophies that we presented to our winners of the "2001 Driver of the Year" competition.

Sorry, we accidentally deleted your company name and thanks, from the last issue. Thank you again for your continued support .

We need your contributions.
This newsletter is published for you by you, and we welcome any contributions from the readership. We cannot guarantee that submissions will appear in the next newsletter, .
But we will try! Thank you.

Save Yourself £2 !!

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Now in its sixth reprint, Roadcraft is available at a £2 saving on the RRP of £13.99. If you order this superb guide to "Advanced" Driving through the West Penning group you can have your own copy for only £12. Please contact either Steven Slater or Norma Scholes.

"Roadcraft is the handbook for police driver training and other advanced drivers concerned about safety."

"Roadcraft is essential for any driver who wishes to improve their driving skills and safety record. It also provides a valuable resource for driving instructors who wish to raise driving standards. This new edition includes: a chapter on how attitudes affect driving and full colour illustrations and diagrams which help to explain complex ideas."



Pot Hole Vigilante

Following a discussion at the 2001 AGM regarding road maintenance and who was responsible for repairing pot holes and sunken access points. I decided to tackle the worst offenders and report particularly dangerous areas to the local council and the Highways Agency. With the fact that I cover over 25,000 miles per year in my job on all types of roads and my experience as an advanced driver—I felt that I would be able to help the average road user.

Before you jump to conclusions, I do not make a habit of reporting every bump in the road, nor do I recommend that you do either. I use my judgment and report only the worst or most dangerous. To date my biggest complaint was a section of the M60—just a few weeks after it opened. A large strip or tarmac in lane 3 had become oily and slippery when wet: repairs were carried out within 2 days! Motorway problems such as a damaged road surface or fallen signs should be reported to the Highways Agency on 0845 955 6575.

Nick Furnell

Press Release

March 06

MOBILE PHONE ABUSE NOW "MOST ANNOYING DRIVING HABIT" SAYS IAM SURVEY

A nation-wide survey by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) has revealed that the single worst driving habit on UK roads is steering with one hand while using a hand-held mobile phone.

The survey of IAM UK wide delegates, representing the IAM's 100,000 plus advanced driver members, disclosed the top driving gripes across the country.

The most common driving fault — at 34 per cent - was using a hand-held mobile phone, followed very closely by "lane hogs" — drivers who refuse to move into the correct lane on motorways and dual carriageways - at 33%.

In third place came "the tailgaters" — drivers who are too close to the vehicle in front - at 21 per cent. A wide selection of other irritants, such as speeding regardless of the conditions and driving with fog lights in clear conditions, made up the remaining 12 per cent.

"We did this survey two years ago and it is a sad reflection on the attitude of drivers that mobile phone abuse has since moved up the list of driver irritants," said IAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock.

"Is that phone call so urgent that it's worth risking your life — let alone the lives of others? These 'phoney drivers' are a major irritant and a road safety hazard. We know the police act when they see this offence being committed. But it often seems to the responsible motorists that these one-armed merchants are getting away with it," said Mr. Bullock. Mr Bullock restated the IAM's long standing car phone advice to drivers, pointing out that the IAM is not anti car-phone — but it is anti dangerous driving.

"Never use a hand held phone when you are driving. Even if you have a hands-free system, you should avoid using the phone while driving as it distracts you from the main task. If you receive a call while driving, keep your conversation short and tell the caller that you can't talk at the moment. Then find somewhere legal, safe and convenient to return the call," he said.

Notes For Your Diary

The course will be closed on the following dates over Christmas:

23rd December and 30th December

Don't forget mince pies are available before the last Sunday run scheduled for the 16th of December.

Christmas Raffle: Tickets are on sale now at £1 each. Raffle prizes include a 1 litre presentation bottle of Baileys. The draw will take place on the 16th December. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Dr. Kershaw's Hospice in Oldham.

The 2001 AGM will be taking place at the Pennine Way Hotel in Oldham on Wednesday 13th February at 8.00pm. The guest speaker will be Roger Taylor, IAM Examiner.

This is your chance to see the committee and to ask any questions that you wish as to how the course is run and what we do throughout the year.

If you feel that you are able to contribute to the running of the group in anyway. Then don't miss this opportunity, just contact any of the committee members between now and February, and we will be happy to explain what's involved.

Please remember: Commercial Advertising space is available at £60 for half a page and £100 for a full page per year.

Personal adds to subscribing members are free.

Contact the Newsletter Co-ordinators for information.

Thank you.

7 Speed Camera News

March 06

New guidelines governing roadside speed cameras have been defended by the government. The high visibility cameras painted bright yellow were unveiled on Monday 3rd December. They come with new rules on the position of camera signs as part of a drive to cut the number of accidents. The cameras will be bright yellow in the 15 areas where police forces use money from fines to pay for more cameras, the "netting-off" scheme.

Transport Minister John Spellar said the aim of speed cameras was not to catch large numbers of motorists and collect more fines, but to get drivers to slow down and thus reduce accidents.

Despite plans to introduce thousands more cameras on the UK's roads, the government is worried many drivers brake suddenly when they see one. Under the new measures, speed cameras must now be visible from a distance of 66 yards on roads with a speed limit of up to 40mph and 109 yards for speeds above that. The signs will now have to be no more than two thirds of a mile from the nearest camera. Although, cameras in beauty spots can remain grey under the new regulations.

The government has already announced that speed cameras can only be put in locations with a history of crashes. Police forces will also be forbidden from putting up speed trap warning signs on long stretches of roads where there are no cameras.

Mr Spellar said: "These rules should ensure that motorists are not caught by surprise by cameras... I hope that this will reinforce the government's message that cameras are there to save lives at places where there is a history of speed related accidents... They are not there as a means of raising money."

Richard Freeman of the Automobile Association. "All our research shows that the public do not like the idea of speed cameras being hidden away or not clearly signed".

Drivers' support

More than 75% of drivers still support the use of speed cameras, according to Mr Freeman. "But problems begin when people think there is an element of entrapment," he added. "Support drops off in areas where cameras are not well signed because motorists believe the government - or the police - are just using them to collect money."



So far only 15 Police forces have signed up to the "High Visibility Scheme", the current list can be seen below:

Cambridgeshire	Norfolk	Strathclyde
Cleveland	North Wales	Thames Valley
Derbyshire	Northamptonshire	Warwickshire
Essex	Nottinghamshire	
Lancashire	South Wales	
Lincolnshire	Staffordshire	

Information taken from www.bbc.co.uk/news: Monday, 3 December, 2001

"The Final Exam"

At University, there were four students taking Organic Chemistry. They were doing so well on all the quizzes, midterms and labs. That each had an "A" so far for the semester. These four friends were so confident that, the weekend before finals, they decided to go and party with some friends.

They had a great time but, after all the hearty partying, they slept all day Sunday and didn't make it back until early Monday morning. Rather than taking the final then they decided to find their professor after the final and explain to him why they missed it. They said that they had gone away for the weekend with the plan to come back in time to study but, unfortunately, they had a flat tyre on the way back, didn't have a spare, and couldn't get help for a long time. As a result they missed the final.

The professor thought it over then agreed they could make up the final the next day. The guys were elated and relieved. They studied that night and went in the next day at the time the professor had told them He placed them in separate rooms, handed each of them a test booklet, and told them to begin.

They looked at the first problem, worth five points. It was something simple "Cool," they thought at the same time, each one in his separate room, "this is going to be easy." Each finished the problem then turned the page. On the second page was written: Which tyre? (95 points)

Thanks to **Paul Morris**.

NEW ASSOCIATES

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.

Margaret Jennifer Gaffney	Murray Foster
Irene Stone	David Thomas
Stephen Pike	Kevin Holmes
Barry Kolomits	Jennifer E White
Ben Crosley	Gareth Buckley
Lawrence Foster	Roger Petty

OBSERVER TRAINING

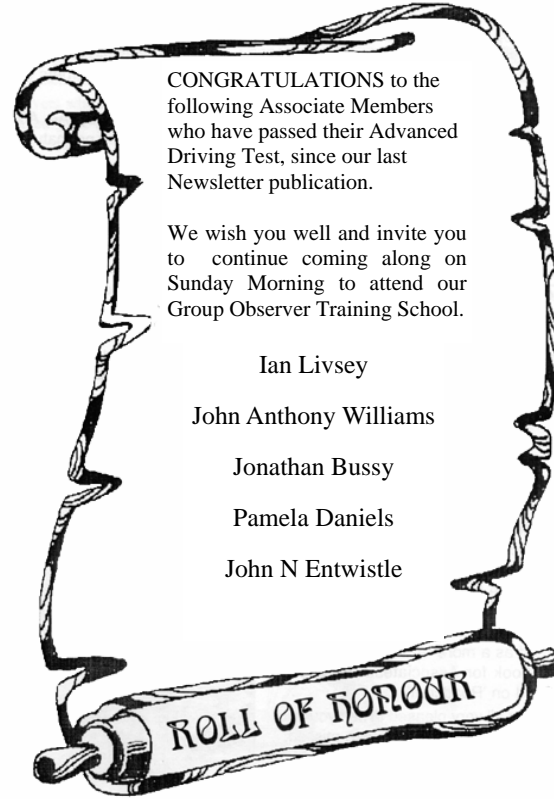
Welcome to the following recently qualified member who has joined our Group Observer Training School.

Anthony C Williams
John Anthony Williams
Steven Love

We wish you every success.

TEST PASSES

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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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Stuck For A Present

March 06



Why not buy a course of
Advanced Driving from
your local Group of
Advanced Motorists.

Call Pete on 01706 843127

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JUST FOR
CHRISTMAS**



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If you have any articles that you wish to submit, please post them to any member of the committee

OR Fax to 01706 299 682

OR E-mail to nickfurnell@netscape.net

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers, your family and friends.

We hope that you have a happy, safe and enjoyable break.

The West Pennine Committee



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