

## Chairman's Letter

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Dear Readers

Summer is the most popular season for days out, holidays and long distance travelling.

Often we don't find the time we need to prepare both the car and ourselves for a journey because many of us are working up until the day of departure, then everything including the packing has to be crammed into a small amount of time before leaving.

There are well publicised tips for drivers who must travel long distances, most of which can apply to those drivers who must drive in their occupation too.

- If there is more than one driver in the vehicle, take turns
- Make sure that the vehicle is insured for all drivers for the full duration of the journey/holiday
- If the vehicle is a hire car, take sufficient time to familiarise with the controls, bonnet and boot releases, seat adjustments etc. if possible, do this on a car park or a quiet road before heading off. Read the vehicle's handbook, don't be fiddling with unfamiliar controls like the radio/tape/CD player whilst driving
- Plan ahead, be clear about the route. Tune in to traffic reports. Have all the necessary maps to hand but let the passengers deal with these
- Stop for a break frequently and regularly. Do not be persuaded to go on to the next Services if you have decided to stop. It is tempting to do this when you have been delayed by road works or weight of traffic in order to make up some time
- Keep the vehicle ventilated
- Keep the children occupied and above all fastened in with the appropriate restraint for the size and age of the child (see Highway Code Para 75)
- Remember that a baby should **NOT** be positioned in the front passenger seat in a rear facing seat where there is air bag protection. Manufacturers will often remove a passenger air bag on request when the seat is used exclusively for a baby. Some cars have an air bag immobiliser for this purpose
- If possible, travel during off peak periods and consider an overnight break along the way. There are numerous Lodges and Inns at strategic points on route which are easily accessible and where you pay for the room and not per person. They are clean and reliable and you can get on your way early the following morning with the minimum of fuss.

There is a useful section on Summer Driving in Pass Your Advanced Driving Test, which I recommend. I'm sure readers will have other helpful literature which they too would recommend.

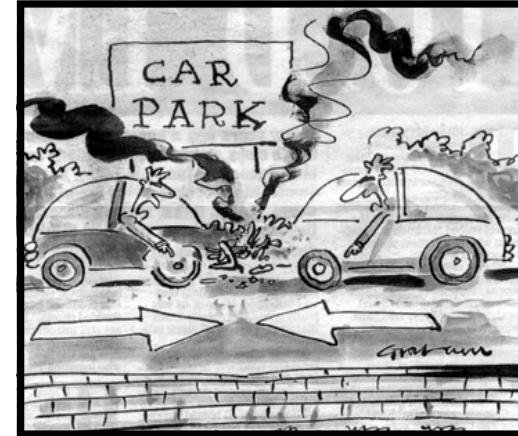
Finally and most importantly, have a safe but wonderful trip wherever you are going.

Until the next Newsletter. Drive safely

Beryl Schofield

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March 06



## Drivers, on your marks

**Q** Do the direction markings on the car parks belonging to the council, hospitals and trading estates, for example, have any legal standing? Could a driver going the "wrong" way be prosecuted? How are the insurance companies likely to respond to a claim resulting from an accident there?

**A** Some car parks where the access is open, i.e. where there's no barrier, are now classified as the public highway. A motorist could face prosecution by the police for failing to observe signs in such a car park. As far as claims are concerned the classification of the car park is immaterial.—you have to be able to prove fault. Anyone involved in an accident while ignoring direction markings would have difficulty proving they weren't to blame. However, insurers may refuse to cover the negligent driver if the accident did not occur on what they deem to be the "highway".

## PERFECT SUMMER DRIVING.

**Long weekend or two-week annual holiday? Chances are you'll get behind the wheel for one of them this summer. These tips will make it a more blissful experience for you and your car.**

### TIPS TO BEAT DRIVING STRESS

**Get traffic jams** in perspective. If they add 40 minutes to your journey time, what's that compared to two weeks away from work? Relax, you're on holiday. (Say this to yourself at 15-minute intervals. Doesn't it sound good...)

**Be Zen**, plan for the journey, not the destination. Check the map and if there's a particularly scenic road as part of your route, allow yourself 10 extra minutes in your total journey time so you can drop your speed and enjoy it.

**Plan for the shade**, aim to be somewhere cool to stop for lunch. Is there a road that cuts through woods rather than one that powers through open fields? Even better, find somewhere that has an activity for the kids.

**Pack water**, dress in lightweight cotton and wear comfortable shoes.

**Prepare three tapes** the 'open road' tape, the 'city traffic' tape and the 'stationary on motorway' tape (whale song, waterfalls, that sort of thing). Entrust them to someone who can tell when to use them by the whitening grip of your knuckles on the steering wheel.

If you've got a long drive home DON'T spend your last day stocking up on the tan, knocking back the last of the vino or climbing the biggest hill. Do you really want to be covering 300 miles while your back's burning, your head's throbbing and your legs are aching? And try taking a different route home, make it part of the holiday.

### TIPS TO HELP YOUR CAR TACKLE THE JOURNEY

#### "Don't worry, half a tank should get us there..."

"When deciding if you need to fill up, don't judge it by how far you have left to go or the next available place for cheap petrol, judge it by how many traffic jams you might hit. Two miles of stop-starting can equal 10 miles of normal driving in terms of fuel consumption.

#### "Plenty of oil in the engine, right?"

You're a kindly soul, but oil is not chocolate. You don't treat your car by giving it 'a little extra to see it through'. When topping up, leave a few minutes for the oil to settle before checking the dipstick —it takes that long to show up as a higher level and you could be fooled into adding too much.

#### "Anti-freeze is for wimps"

Why add anti-freeze in the middle of summer? Because it has a dual purpose as a coolant in hot weather and to prevent the engine/radiator overheating, by raising the boiling point by around five degrees.

#### "Hot brakes"

Water isn't the only thing that can boil in a hot engine area. The brake fluid can too, if it hasn't been changed and kept to the levels set in the car service manual —that's when you'll suddenly notice a loss of braking power on steep hills.

#### "Rubber to the road"

A holiday-heavy car needs more air in the tyres, and your manual will tell you how much. This isn't to give you a better "ride", it's to ensure the extra weight of the car isn't forcing more tyre rubber into contact with the road. If it is, the tyres stand a greater chance of overheating, and a blow out is more likely.

#### "Screen wash is not just for dead flies"

Don't wait until the windscreen is smeared with insects before using the washer —use it at regular intervals and top up the reservoir when you can. Screen wash additives coat wind-screens to help stop things sticking.

## IAM News Release

### BRITISH MOTORISTS "AT RISK ABROAD" CLAIMS IAM

Motorists bound for the continent this summer got a grim reminder today from the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM): you are almost twice as likely to be in a fatal car crash in France or Spain, the most popular holiday destinations, than you are in the UK.

And if you plan to hire a car in Greece or Portugal, the risk of dying in a road crash is about FOUR times higher than at home.\*

"We have produced a new book in association with our publishers Haynes called *Driving Abroad* which covers everything that a UK motorist will need to get there — and back — without incident," said IAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock.

"These statistics are not intended to spoil anybody's driving fun — rather to make the point that you must never forget your responsibility to ensure the safety of yourself, your passengers and other road users. Not everybody on the road overseas is as patient, well behaved or courteous as we are in the UK," he said. Mr Bullock added that despite local differences, the basic rules of safe driving hold true no matter where you are driving.

**Read the road:** the further ahead you look, the more time you give yourself to recognise and respond to potential road hazards.

**Anticipate:** drivers often pride themselves on their quick reactions, but the really good driver anticipates the problem that's coming and slows down well in advance to avoid last minute evasion.

**Create space:** the more space there is around your vehicle, the more time you have to respond if something goes wrong and the more likely you will be able to find an escape route.

**Assume the worst:** never assume that another motorist has seen you or will react as you expect — and don't rely on somebody else's reactions to keep you safe.

**Concentrate:** at 70mph a car covers more than 100ft per second. Looking away at a crucial moment can be fatal, especially when driving abroad. Don't drive when your concentration level is poor, such as immediately after a long-haul flight, or when tired.

A free fact sheet, also called *Driving Abroad*, is available from the IAM on 020 8994 4403. The handbook, *Driving Abroad*, by Robert Davies, is £12.99 from Haynes Publishing.

For further information contact Vince Yearley at the IAM press office on 020 8994 4403.

\* source: *TRL report 445*.

## Congratulations to Gary & Joanne

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A small tribute to Mr & Mrs Styles, who tied the knot on Sunday 11th February 2001. The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Garforth, Leeds. Although typical February wet and windy weather, it did not spoil the wedding celebrations. A number of friends from West Pennine were invited and an excellent day was had by all.

The Reception was held at Painthorpe House Golf & Country Club, Painthorpe, Wakefield.

Best wishes for your future life together, from all your friends at West Pennine.



*Our Ex-ex-Treasurer Gary Styles and his new bride Joanne.*

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## “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

Registered

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I would like to make donations from the donations. I will make at least equal

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Charity number 1006658

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### on:

I request the West Pennine Group of Advanced Motorists to treat all I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations I make late of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid. I confirm that I pay income tax and/or capital gains tax at the rate of 10% and I will pay the tax that the Charity reclaims.

..... Date: .....

### Return this completed form to :

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

March 2001

## 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.

*Jonathan Bussy  
David James Charnock  
Jane Cheetham  
Pamela Daniels  
Dinesh Gorasia  
Joan Hughes  
David Lees  
Simon James Liles  
Ian Livsey  
Tom Baxter Lord*

*Steven Love  
Stephen Mark McGarry  
Jo-Anne Susan Mellor  
Kath D Simmonds  
Paula Smithers  
Alison Darch-Waite  
Eileen Wells  
Anthony C Williams  
John Williams*

## OBSERVER TRAINING

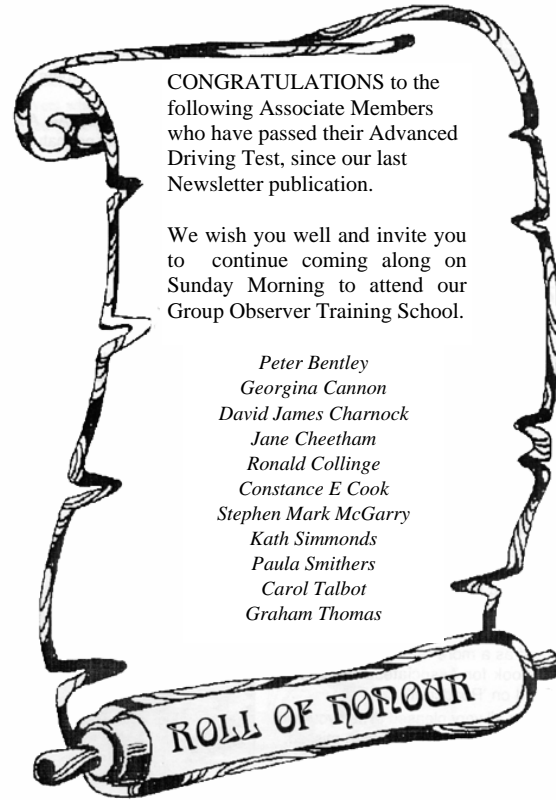
Welcome to the following recently qualified member who has joined our Group Observer Training School.

Shamin Akhtar

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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March 06

## You wouldn't believe it, but it's true...

### Pass the parcel

Rob Clubley arrived home last week to find a phone message from his local parcel depot telling him that they couldn't find his house. 'I called the depot and the agent said she couldn't help me without a consignment number, 'he says.' There was no other way of tracing the parcel.' . Where would he find the consignment number? It was, she assured him, on the card that the delivery man would have put through his door. 'I await my parcel with bated breath he adds. Don't hold it though, Rob. (*Network News April 2001*)

### Pope has ex-Communication problems

Vatican radio has agreed to lower the frequency of its 'Top of the Pops' style radio output after fears that it may be helping its parishioners to meet their maker early. The station was broadcasting the Pope's speeches worldwide at 27 volts per metre, which is the equivalent of setting phasers to kill. The maximum setting allowed in Italy is 6 volts, which the Pope's radio station has the right to avoid as it is in a separate sovereign state. A Vatican spokesperson said the transmitters were built when the site was far from civilisation, but today 100,000 people live within stun range of the transmitters. Station manager Father Federico Lombardi claimed the Government was scare mongering, but officials would have 'nun' of it. However, in an act of good faith, Vatican radio agreed to reduce its broadcasts to Italian levels and set up sub-stations. (*Computing May 2001*)

### Sea-I Life

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

### What a Shock

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Until that moment he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

### As happy as Pigs in Muck

Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn Germany. Suddenly the pigs, all two thousand of them, escaped through a broken fence and stampeded, trampling the two hapless protesters to death.

### And finally .....

Iraqi terrorist, Khay Rahnajet, didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with "return to sender" stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb, he opened it and was blown to bits.

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### FOR SALE

4 Michelin Energy Tyres  
175/65/14 Originally off a Renault Megan  
£10.00 each ono

4 Firestone Tyres  
185/65/15 Originally off an Alfa 156  
£15.00 each ono

(Both sets less than 6,000 miles wear & still on original hubs)

Contact Nick Furnell on 01706 879 394

### 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