

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

(Registered Charity Number 1048554)



An IAM RoadSmart affiliated Group for Cars and Bikes
<https://www.warram.org.uk>

Group Newsletter



August / September 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by order of the Group Committee, that the 39th Annual General Meeting of "WARRINGTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS" will be held at **8.00pm on Wednesday 16th October 2019** at **Grappenhall Cricket Club, Broad Lane, Grappenhall, WA4 3ER** to enable the Trustees of the Group (Registered Charity No 1048554.) to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 for approval by the Group Members and to conduct an election.

Secretary's Name: [Mrs. Jean Carter](#)
Address: 74 Forshaw Street,
Warrington,
WA2 7HD.

Date: 8th August 2019
and 3rd October 2019 for
final notice.
Group No. 5075

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only fully paid up members of the Institute and of the Group may vote.

CURRENT OFFICERS

All Officers retire annually but may stand for re-election (Group Rule 3.3)

Mr. Andrew Bloomer.	Chairman	Standing for re-election
Vacant	Vice Chairman	
Mrs. Jean Carter.	Secretary	Standing for re-election
Mr. Steve Segar.	Treasurer	Standing for re-election

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

One third of the committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually but may stand for re election (Group Rule 3.3)

A RETIRING BY ROTATION AND STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

B RETIRING AND NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

[Mr Chris Harris.](#)

C COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT RETIRING (remaining yrs of office)

Mr. Simon Jones, Mr. Tim Bolton, Mr. John Dorman, Mr. Vince Scriven.	1 yrs
Mr. Peter Marsland.	2 yrs

D CO-OPTED MEMBERS, STANDING FOR ELECTION

[Mr. John Bellamy, Mr. David Cox.](#)

E OTHER MEMBERS STANDING FOR ELECTION (as at going to publication - closing date for Nominations 4th October 2019)

NOTE - The total number of Committee Members including the Officers must not exceed twenty. Please see the NOMINATION PAPER (available from the Secretary) for further detail.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Due to unforeseen circumstances I've stepped back into the role of Chairman, so have taken back responsibility for Chairman's Chatter.

As you can see earlier in the Newsletter, we're coming up to that time of the year when we're starting to get ourselves organised for the AGM (see notice) and I'd like to encourage everyone to try and get along to hear about what we've been doing this year and answer any questions you may have. Remember, this is YOUR Group and we, the Committee, run it on your behalf.

I'm also pleased to announce that John Bellamy has been co-opted onto Committee and has just attended his first Committee meeting, and will be seeking formal selection at the AGM. He'll be a very welcome addition.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend this year's AGM, and this was one of the reasons I decided to step down early from my role of Chairman, to allow a new person to get their feet under the table and present their report on the evening. I'm sure the meeting will flow just as well, and maybe even better, without me being there!

We are also running our usual Driver of the Year and our incoming President and former Examiner, Paul Griffiths has very kindly agreed to conduct it for us this year to give Steve Bielizna a rest!! We are limiting the field to 8 entrants and all runs must be completed by the end of September. To be eligible, you must be a full member of the IAM and the Group. All interested parties please let me know as soon as possible, as we'll be operating a "first come first served" basis.

Finally, instead of a brain teaser I've given you a Sudoku puzzle to get your teeth into. As always, the answers will be shown later on in the Newsletter.

						2		
	8				7			9
6		2				5		
	7			6				
			9		1			
				2				4
		5				6		3
	9		4				7	
		6						

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to new members Glyn Cobourne, Amie-Leigh Williams, Caitlin Rich, Sharon Powell, Maddison Knight, Teresa Shaw and Colin Fell who have joined the car section. Also Alex Hardie, Lee Johnson, Stuart Rutter, Marc Bufton, Stephen O'Neil, Paul Hill and Andrew Walker who have joined the Bike section.

WELCOME

Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

Congratulations to Jacob Birkenhead, Jill Cudd and Nick White on passing their car test and Steve Robinson, Ian Chadwick and Justin Atkinson on a successful motorcycle test.



When you pass the Test and receive your membership information from head quarters could you please let me know so that the membership records can be updated with your IAM membership number and expiry date?

A special note for our email members, please keep your mailbox cleansed as they sometimes bounce back, also if you are thinking of changing your email address then please remember to let me know at distribution@warram.org.uk

With thanks
Vince

DIRECT BANKING TRANSFER TO SETTLE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

For those members of the group who are ultimately organised this is forward notice that WAM group subscriptions are due 1st October 2019 for the 2019/2020 year. Subscription rate remains at £5 for full membership. Details to make a bank transfer are as follows:-

Sort Code: 09-01-51 Account No: 71840801
Account Name: Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

As you can appreciate there will be lots of entries all for £5 and so the treasurer requests that you place your name in the payment reference field.

For those members who prefer traditional methods then a cheque payable to Warrington Advanced Motorists or cash can always be sent in the customary white or brown envelope to:- Mr Vince Scriven.

10 Martindale Road, Beechwood, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2TU.

Associates still under training are exempt from this fee as are honorary members. We no longer need the membership form to be completed but please do contact our membership secretary if your personnel details have changed (contact@warram.org.uk).

Receipt of your subscription will be deemed as allowing WAM to hold your personnel data in accordance with new GDP regulations 2018.

FORMER PRESIDENT ALAN DOMVILLE CONTINUES HIS REMINISCENCES AS A MOTORING WRITER & LIFELONG GROUP FRIEND.....

Many of the car manufacturers like to add on something extra to a model launch simply to ensure, amid the plethora of such events in the year, that motoring journalists not only write about the event and, as I am doing now, possibly pen something additional as well.

Suzuki, for instance, have now and again taken the opportunity to introduce us to their latest marine engines. Not so long ago I enjoyed a pleasant sail on Loch Lomond on a boat powered by one of their refined units - and so it was that some weeks ago a launch concerning their Swift special edition Attitude and four wheel drive models was given that extra ingredient ...a trip from Lymington on the Hampshire coast across to the Isle of Wight.

I had done this trip several times before, memorably with Ellen McArthur aboard when Renault were launching a new car, and also enjoyably with Peugeot in rubber inflated boat and with Volvo in one of their ocean-going yachts (despite a squall on the way back).

Deciding to forgo the rigmarole of a plane flight from Manchester to the venue or a long drive I opted to travel to the event by train. I didn't reckon on my coach bursting at the seams with humanity and being locked in a four seat berth surrounded by three women conducting a WI meeting for the duration! I was truly up for the sail following the launch - after all I descend from several admirals - eager to enjoy lunch at the Royal Yacht Club in Cowes while the less brave (and much younger than my 70-plus years) were offered their midday meal on the mainland.

But, hey, some 90-plussers who had taken part in the D-Day landings were parachuting out of aircraft over Normandy that same week.

After making my way through at least £300m worth of moored yachts I and my journalist colleagues reached three RIBs for our journey. Wearing a wetsuit that would have fitted both Sirs Redgrave and Pinsent at the same time I staggered into the RIB, and off we went. Bang, bang, bang went the craft as we thumped into every wave at 35 knots - and the advice was to stand rather than sit so that one's spine wasn't shattered. And as we made our way towards Cowes we came across a superb piece of Suzuki PR...a Swift resplendent on a RIB pointing our way forward.

My knees took the strain and I was pretty shattered when disembarking at Cowes, stumbling and bruising my leg that hopefully should heal within a few months. Lunch for me was a beef burger and nothing more given that I did not want to see my meal reappear during the return journey. We were warned that the weather was deteriorating, the wind was getting up and it would be a tough journey back. But first a detour into a quiet backwater where our pilots enabled the RIBs to form various twists and turns. Then, thankfully, we were on our way back to Lymington.

Yes there was even more bang, bang, bang - but I survived - and I have to admit that I wouldn't have missed the trip for the world.

CLASSIC CAR CAMPAIGN - JULY TO SEPTEMBER

The Marketing team of IAM Roadsmart are running a Classic Car campaign throughout July, August and the beginning of September.

The main aim of this campaign is to encourage existing classic-loving members to engage with us through social media/email/Inform content, and most importantly increase new Advanced Driver Course sales for classic-enthusiasts. We will be running a 15% discount for classic car owners/lovers to buy an advanced driver/rider course with the code [classic15](#).

Social Media activity:

We are inviting members and non-members to send in photos via Facebook of their classic car and driving tips. There will be competitions incentivising the photo entries, prizes include; merchandise bundles, and prize draws with a chance to win a classic driving experience, and a tour of the Ford Heritage Museum. We are also designing a classic car windscreen sticker, available to anyone to order and display in their car for free.

Videos:

We recently had a day filming at Thruxton, and 5 videos are being produced containing tips and advice for driving a classic vehicle, showing the differences between a classic and modern car.

These videos will be shared on social media and the website each week with other supporting content. We will be using specific hashtags including:

#classiccartips
#classiccarlovers
#classicvsmodern
#IAMclassicclub and
#classiccar

as well as the usual ones.

The first video will be going live today (Thursday 18 July), so keep your eyes peeled for this.

Please encourage all your groups to like/share/tweet and comment as much as possible!

If you receive any questions from members/prospects regarding the campaign, please direct them to the classic car landing page <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/campaign-pages/end-customer-campaigns/classic> . This will contain more information about the promotional offer, as well as video content and tips for classic driving and riding.

TOUGHENING UP SEAT-BELT LAWS

IAM RoadSmart has welcomed a possible toughening up of the laws on the use of seatbelts in cars, saying it's the most obvious and direct way of saving lives in road crashes.

Today (19 July) the Department of Transport announced this as one of 74 measures to tackle road safety in the UK.

Currently, those not wearing seatbelts are given a £100 on-the-spot fine - but now the government is considering issuing penalty points for this offence.

In 2017 27% of car deaths involved people who were not wearing a seatbelt, an increase of 7% on the previous year and a marked increase on the years before it.

IAM RoadSmart, the UK's biggest independent road safety charity, has consistently lobbied for these laws to be made tougher, while also noting that the fear of being caught must be greater to encourage car occupants to belt-up.

An investigation by IAM RoadSmart in February 2018 found that more than a third of police forces were using their mobile safety camera vans to prosecute drivers not wearing seatbelts or using a handheld mobile phone.

The charity made a Freedom of Information request to 44 police forces and found that 16 of those that responded routinely used their safety cameras to identify other motoring offences. The 16 forces recorded more than 8,000 unbelted drivers between them.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart director of policy and research, said: "This is very welcome news. The best way of tackling this ever-present issue is to make people believe there is a high chance of being caught. This could start tomorrow if consistent guidelines on using mobile speed camera vans to enforce seatbelt laws were issued.

"Currently there is no standard approach on using this high-profile resource across the UK. Making non-wearing of seatbelts an endorsable offence is also a quick win. Not only would it persuade more people to take the offence seriously, but it might benefit them to take a seatbelt awareness course. People avoid using seatbelts for a wide range of individual reasons and these views need to be challenged face-to-face."

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER SOLUTION

9	5	7	6	1	3	2	8	4
4	8	3	2	5	7	1	9	6
6	1	2	8	4	9	5	3	7
1	7	8	3	6	4	9	5	2
5	2	4	9	7	1	3	6	8
3	6	9	5	2	8	7	4	1
8	4	5	7	9	2	6	1	3
2	9	1	4	3	6	8	7	5
7	3	6	1	8	5	4	2	9

CARAVANING TIPS FROM IAM ROADSMART

With a bank holiday on the horizon, there will be more people dusting off their caravan and packing for the long weekends. IAM RoadSmart has partnered up with the [Caravan and Motorhome Club](#) to offer some advice for a successful holiday trip.

Going away with the whole family and the caravan, trailer tent or camping trailer is a great experience. By ensuring that you load the caravan or trailer correctly, and deal appropriately with other traffic, you can help ease the stress levels, especially if you lack towing experience.

With the south west of England being a very popular place to visit, it is not surprising that the South West has some of the highest incident rates for caravans. Between January 2017 and May 2018 there have been 850 caravan or trailer incidents on main roads in the South West region, with 460 of those occurring in the summer months of May to September last year - a sure way to put a sudden end to a lovely holiday. With the majority of caravans only being used over the summer months, this figure needs to be reduced.

Most incidents happen around the weekend. Nearly a third of all incidents occur on Saturdays and Sundays, with Mondays and Fridays not too far behind.

Caravan and trailer road-worthiness is just as important as your car's, and particular care is needed for that first summer outing, as many are parked up and unused over the winter.

- We recommend that before you start your trip you make sure you have checked both your car and caravan or trailer. Especially check your tyres as they should be inflated to the correct pressure, have a good amount of tread (no lower than 1.6mm) and be free from damage
- The caravan breakaway cable (or safety chain on smaller unbraked trailers) should be in good condition and connected correctly. If you have a caravan or a large box-shaped trailer you will almost always need to fit extension mirrors - these will help make sure you have a good view behind you and comply with the law
- Remember when loading your caravan or trailer to make sure it is not overloaded as this can put you at additional risk of instability, and mean you're breaking the law. Ensure your heavy items are positioned correctly over the axle, low to the floor with lighter items higher up
- A quick refresher of the Highway Code will remind you that travelling in the right-hand lane of a motorway with three or more lanes is not allowed and your speed limit when towing is 60 mph on dual carriageways and motorways and 50 mph on single carriageways, unless a lower overall limit applies
- Be extra vigilant on downhill stretches as your speed can easily creep up and get too high - this is a common contributory factor to your caravan/trailer losing stability. Remember, you will need more room to stop when towing and you should always have a big enough gap to be able to slow down and stop in an emergency
- Towing in high winds needs additional care and perhaps a change of route should be considered. However it's not just windy days you need to be mindful of. Overtaking large vehicles can place you in their "bow wave" and this can cause instability of caravans which are badly loaded and/or being towed too fast

Martin Spencer, technical manager at the Caravan and Motorhome Club says: "Towing a caravan or other trailer can be unfamiliar, but doesn't need to be intimidating. By getting the basic set-up right, then following straightforward advice over issues such as speed and safety around other vehicles, towing can be relaxed, easy and comfortable. Above all, it will be safe.

"In almost all cases, serious incidents only occur because inexperienced drivers have not taken the right advice, or experienced ones have become complacent. The Club has 15 training centres across the country so anyone just starting out, or those needing some refresher training can receive the best possible guidance."

Neil Greig, director of policy and research at IAM RoadSmart says: "The advanced driving skills of observation, anticipation and planning are key to good towing. They will keep you a safe distance from the vehicle in front and help you predict problems ahead and around you. If you prepare yourself, your family and your vehicles for the road ahead your trip will be as relaxing as possible."

BIKER DOWN COURSE AT LYMM FIRE STATION (FREE)

We are planning another "Biker Down" event at midday on Sunday 13th October. Venue is at Safety Central (the new Lymm Fire Station) Cliff Lane, Lymm, Warrington WA13 0TE.

The Course will run until around 4pm and is free for anyone to attend. Covering "scene of accident management, riding strategy, first aid and some other elements". Free coffee, tea & biscuits.

Personalised certificate for all who attend. Please contact Simon Jones via text on (07957 170185) or WhatsApp to reserve a place. Just name and contact number please!

WARRINGTON IAM MOTORCYCLE NEWS AUGUST 2019

Following last years successful tour, we endured another Scottish highland's bike trip which took place over the May bank holiday weekend.

With 8 motorcycle riders from our group staying for 4 nights over the 5 day trip, a slightly shorter, but enjoyable route was taken this year, due to unfavourable weather.

Another trip next year is on the cards. Venue and date etc T.B.A.

HOW TO PASS HORSES SAFELY ON THE ROAD

You may see more horses on the road during the summer months, and more than likely they'll be on a country lane. Here are IAM RoadSmart's tips on how best to pass a horse safely on the roads.

Horses are powerful animals and have extremely heightened senses. They are also 'flight' animals so if they become scared, they will revert back to their natural instinct.

The [British Horse Society](#) has reported that nearly two horses are killed each week on UK roads. In last year alone, 87 horses and four people have been tragically killed.

If you're approaching a horse from behind:

- Slow down and hold back. The rider will indicate whether it's safe to approach and overtake. If they don't, make sure you stay at least three car lengths behind and be careful to not move into this space. Be prepared to slow down further or even stop to protect yourself and the horse and rider. Avoid any sudden movements and loud noises such as revving the engine and playing your music loudly
- Most riders, and occasionally their horses will be in hi-vis so you should see them and able to slow down in good time. Remember in the countryside they could be around any corner
- When passing the horse and rider make sure you give plenty of space. We recommend at least a car's width and ensure it's done slowly. Remember to always pass "slow and wide" stick to 15mph or under. Take a look at this video explaining it from the British Horse Society: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJfZM41oUOE>
- If you're on a country road and there's not much room to manoeuvre around the horse, the rider may decide to trot towards the nearest lay by or grass verge. Do not speed up to match their trot, stay back and allow the rider to get to safety before over taking
- Often when you see two riders it is for safety reasons. This could be an inexperienced rider or nervous animal being coached along by a more experienced companion. Give them some consideration
- Keep an eye out for the rider. They will often give you signals asking to slow down, stop or to overtake. They will acknowledge you and assist you to pass, but their main priority is keeping themselves and the horse safe, so they'll be trying to keep their hands on the reins at all times
- Always accelerate gently to pass the horse and when moving away. Both rider and horse may both be inexperienced and nervous in traffic; do your bit to keep them safe
- If there are grass verges, many riders will take the option to move themselves up onto them and allow you to pass. Please continue to pass slowly as the noise of your engine can still spook the horse

If a horse is approaching on the other side of the road:

Slow down completely and consider putting on your hazard warning lights for anyone that may be behind you. You may need to stop to allow the horse to pass you safely, if it is safe to do so Horse rider and IAM RoadSmart's digital content executive Jaimi McIlravey said: "Please continue to be careful when driving close to horses. From personal experience it's not always a car that will spook a horse. You may be driving safely with enough gap between yourself and a horse and rider, however something else may scare them, so be sure to stay alert."

October / November NEWSLETTER

The only method available to receive our group's newsletter is to send your email address to distribution@warram.org.uk and ensure your mail browser does not reject messages from this address.



Contributions to the October/November newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for next newsletter is Sunday 22nd September 2019.



QR CODE

The group has set up a QR code - simply scan the image with a smartphone and it will take you to our website.



FACEBOOK

You can find us on Facebook - just look up Warrington Advanced Motorists. There is also a national IAM Facebook group: IAMRoadSmart.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[Cars] Sundays at 10:15: Every Sunday except Christmas and New Year and Easter Sunday	Observed Runs (car) Refresher Runs (car)	Holiday Inn Woolston Grange Avenue Woolston, Warrington WA1 4PX
[Bikes] On arrangement with your observer	Observed Runs (bikes)	On arrangement with your observer
Sunday 25 th August Sunday 29 th September	End of month run (bikes)	Poplar 2000, Lymm
Every Thursday at 19:00 (weather permitting)	Chippy Run (bikes)	Let's Eat Cafe and Tall Trees filling station layby (off A49 in Lower Whitley)
Wednesday 6 th September at 19:30	Committee Meeting	Holiday Inn Warrington, WA1 4PX
Sunday 22 nd September	Newsletter deadline	

Further details of all of these events can be found on our website:
www.warram.org.uk or by asking any committee member.

FINISHED READING? PASS IT ON....



Personal recommendations from members are one of the main ways we recruit new associates, so please feel free to pass on this newsletter.