

Herefordshire

Advanced Drivers



for better, safer driving

iam
RoadSmart



Spring has sprung!

Hopefully, by the time you get this, the weather will have decided to be spring-like, replacing wintry woes.

However, if not, there are tips galore in this, your Spring 2018 Magazine.

There are updates on the rules of the road, tales of heroism and facts and figures about our effectiveness as a Group.

There are insights into the future of the automobile industry and how these might affect your purchase and use of your next car.

Also, perhaps most important of all, we are spreading the word about the benefits of joining our Group, further and wider than before, with the help of Area Coordinators and their teams.

We shall be reaching out to local drivers and groups who might not have heard of us yet.

Every members is invited to add their weight, so please contact Stella if you will give them your vital support.

More details on page 9 and in your next Newsletter.

Read on

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Herefordshire Headlines



How well are we doing?

Our performance is rated regularly by **IAMRS** and compared with other Groups in our Region. Considering that we are smaller than most Groups, the latest stats. demonstrate that we punch way above our weight, an achievement of which our dedicated Observers - and their Associates - can be justly proud.



Group Scorecard for Hereford Advanced Drivers (3027)

Date: Tuesday, 03 April 2018

IMI

	Group	Region Avg
Total Observers	17	16.6

National Local

	Group	Region Avg	Group	Region Avg
Pass	8	8.8	11	7.7
Referred	0	0.5	0	0.0
OS	1	0.5	0	1.9

Advanced Course Status

	Group	Region Avg
OS Enrolments	0	4.8
Average Days	0	815

	Group	Region Avg
OS Test Ready	9	28.4
Average Days	181	606

Advanced Course Statistics

Allocations

	Group	Region Avg
Last Month	0	1.8
3 month Average	1	1.7
Last 12 months	19	23.7

Enrolments

	Group	Average Days	Region Avg	Region Avg Days
Last Month	0	0	2.2	130
3 month Average	1	0	2.1	85
Last 12 months	19	1	23.3	42

Test Statistics

	12 months	Region Avg
First	9	3.5
Pass	15	10.9
Fail	2	2.1

% Pass

92	87
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Advanced Course Allocated Sales

	Total	Region Avg
Last Month	0	1.6
3 month Avg	1	1.6
Last 12 months	19	23.2

Test Ready

	Group	Average Days	Region Avg	Region Avg Days
Last Month	1	168	0.8	271
3 month Average	2	175	1.1	207
Last 12 months	23	196	15.3	205

In defence of the older driver

In "Times 2" recently, Robert Crampton talked about the "fragility" of older drivers, finding certain road layouts confusing.

It is this kind of generalisation which is picked up by the press. From our experience of participants at our Refresher Days, most are aware that, as we age, there is the possibility of loss of muscle and general body condition, speed of reaction, etc. However, more older people now partake of some form of exercise

than ever before, maintaining body and mind. In the majority of cases, there is a marked improvement in anticipation and response time, which helps them stay out of trouble.

Continual sniping at older drivers diverts attention from where the real danger lies.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about younger people who don't exercise properly.

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In doing my regular Car Mag read, I noted that the **2018 Geneva Motor show** was on.

Items of interest included:

- In the past two weeks, manufacturers had launched over 120 new editions of some of their cars plus several new ones – especially small SUVs.
- At the same time, the SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) reported that the UK car output in 2017 was down by an average of 3% on 2016, most notably of diesel vehicles.
- The RAC reported that nearly 3000 of the members' cars suffered breakdowns that could be attributed to potholes; an increase of 12% compared to 2016!
- The Government has dropped its proposal to change MOTs to 4 years instead of 3.
- The most popular colour for cars is black, followed by grey, then white, with an increase in yellow and bronze.
- An unexpected and and unwelcome side effect of new technology built into cars is the increased cost of accident repairs. With parking sensors, blind spot warning radar and other features built into or behind the bumpers, a minor shunt could lead to a replacement at a cost running into 4 figures. The average car repair bill has increased by 32% over the last three years.
- From 2022, Euro NCAP will begin testing automatic emergency steering functions, which will eventually form part of the future five star rating. It will also look at features to detect and avoid collisions with vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

IAMRoad Smart made a significant style change with the latest edition of "Drive", giving emphasis to its charitable status.

It is easy to forget that the organisation is in fact a charity, with charitable companies, whose purpose is not only to meet the charitable aims, but also provide financial support for the charity itself.

It is a model followed by many charities, notably St. John, which provides First Aid courses to the public and to companies.

Also, if you have read the latest edition of "Drive", you will have noted that **IAMRoad Smart** is organising a courtesy day.



Identified as "Thumbs Up 2018", this will take place in August, with the aim of publicising the importance of courtesy and tolerance amongst all who use our roads, from pedestrian to driver, under the umbrella of **IAM** as the "go-to" organisation for advice and guidance on Road Safety. For more details, keep your eye out for our next Newsletter.

Hot off the press!

At the New York Motor Show, the announcement that caused the biggest stir was that Waymo, formerly the Google autonomous car project, is to buy up to 20,000 of Jaguar's new all-electric I-Pace. These will be used as part of it proposed ride-hailing service.

Anyone thinking of buying one should be prepared for a long wait!

David Williams, Chief Observer

Safer driving in spring



Any other time of the year, my mind is full of safety aspects which are pertinent, but spring? I've delayed writing this, while I take note of various things on my drives.

The weather is and has been very changeable; wet one day, dry the next; sun in your eyes, then cloudy and misty. Weather-wise therefore, the important thing is to take note, anticipate and prepare accordingly.

Around here, many of the road side hedges have been cut again. The snow caused many trees to be brought down or low across the roads, but also any general hedge cutting must be done before 1st March. I have had several neighbours reporting punctures.

Sugar beet harvesting has meant much mud on the roads too- and some farmers are not good at cleaning it up each day. Muck hauling to the fields also leaves a trail.

The advice therefore is for good observation and reasoned anticipation.

David Williams, Chief Observer

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Crampton cited the statistics that 1 in 5 newly-licensed drivers crashes within six months of passing their test.

Although 17 to 19-year-olds constitute only 1.5% of motorists on our roads, 12% of accidents resulting in fatal or serious injury involve the same age group.

Over this Easter holiday period, the majority of drivers killed were in their 20s.

So, as Advanced Drivers, let us maintain our vigilance and support for drivers of all ages, all of whom can benefit from our example.

Drink Driving

Figures recently released by the Department for Transport (DfT) show that drink-drive casualties in 2016 were at their highest level since 2012 at 9,050. This is a 7% increase in just 12 months- and is the biggest increase since 2012. There were 240 deaths attributed to drink-driving – the first rise in four years- and 1,260 seriously injured casualties.

Worryingly, the worst offenders appear to be 20-year olds.

Many organisations blame the lack of meaningful enforcement due to reductions in traffic police and changing priorities according to financial constraints.

In my view, it is similar with speeding and illegal parking. There are always going to be those who will look to get away with their wrongdoing, if they think there is little chance of being caught.

This is not helped by the kind of statements emanating from those responsible for enforcement.

For example, the DfT's response to these latest figures was: "The number of fatalities has fallen by 44% over the last 10 years". Remember the adage about statistics?

What can we do about it?

The obvious is to show example, give reasoned argument and encourage more people to appreciate the benefits of responsible, safer driving.





Land Rover rescuing Ambulance

(photo with acknowledgement to "Hereford Times")

Now that I am retired from my professional business commitments, the early period of my year is dominated by all of the Associate and Member responses dropping through the letterbox enclosing payment details of the subscriptions that fall due for the New Year.

The vast majority of you have paid your dues and more and more of you credit us with membership fees via a standing order each year, which makes my role of Membership Secretary so much easier.

My grateful thanks to all of you who have already paid; The label on the envelope used to post this magazine to you acknowledges this with "2018 Subs paid; thanks", quoted at the top right.

As always, one or two have not yet settled up for the current year. Each of you that have NOT paid your subscription for this year will have a letter from me advising that this could be your last communication from us. We struggle to balance our books if we don't recoup the costs of magazine production and postage; and we will be very sorry to see you go. Please check your own records and if you suspect you haven't paid us and please contact me as soon as you can, either by email, 'phone, or letter. Please take note of the contents of any letter from me sent out with the magazine and let me know your intentions. I'm always happy to help with any issues . . .

We might also have contacted you regarding a "bounced" email address or to advise you of a subscription overpayment. Please advise me if any changes are required to our records about you, as we will soon need to request explicit permission from every one of you to keep in touch after 25 May 2018 due to implementation of the new Data Protection rules being introduced through the General Data Protection

Regulation (GDPR). If you wish to know more, many pages of fascinating reading about GDPR can be found at <https://www.eugdpr.org/> and please be assured that we will comply as required.

After a couple of very cold interruptions, spring is hopefully with us now, and we can get on with the rest of our 2018 programme. The cold snap and the drifted snow gave me an opportunity to test some of my own driving skills.

Volunteer 4x4 Group to the rescue!

I spent a couple of days at the beginning of March working with the Herefordshire 4x4 Response Group. My contribution was a night-time drive in the early morning of Friday 2nd March to Shropshire and back and next day spent locally in Herefordshire. More details about the group can be found at <http://www.herefordshire4x4response.org/>

We travelled as far as Birmingham, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Monmouthshire and beyond). Our duties included collecting Consultants, Doctors, Nurses, Ambulance and Paramedic and ancillary support staff into and out of Hereford County and Ross on Wye Hospitals and the Wye Valley Trust, ferrying District nurses and patients for routine and emergency attendance throughout the County. Many of our volunteer Responders picked up lots of additional work en-route, towing/digging out ambulances, lorries, buses, and private vehicles stuck in snowdrifts to help get them on their way both during the day and through the cold nights . . . me included!

My thanks to Hollie Pritchard (Senior District Nursing Sister) and the Hereford Times for picking up part of the story. I spent a very



pleasant day with her doing her “rounds” for the day on Saturday, having been out for over 3 hours from midnight on Thu/Fri 1st/ 2nd March ferrying a Trauma/Orthopaedic doctor between Hereford County Hospital and Orleton in Shropshire.

Extract from Hereford Times : 8th March 2018

A volunteer 4x4 group carried out more than 400 journeys during the snow to make sure NHS workers could get to work to care for residents. The Herefordshire 4x4 Response team worked tirelessly under the direction of Herefordshire Council's Emergency Planning team transporting doctors, nurses and care workers to and from the county hospital and also district nurses out on their rounds. They travelled as far as Birmingham to collect doctors and responders were still out working on Sunday. Vice Chairman and deputy controller Charlie Bennett said: "On behalf of Steve Wright, our chairman, I would like to say a massive thank you and a big thumbs up to all of our controllers and drivers and a big thanks to the staff at the county hospital for keeping us fed and watered."

Wye Valley NHS Trust has paid tribute to many of its staff who battled through the atrocious snow storms.

Jon Barnes, the trust's chief operating officer, said: "Our staff members responded magnificently and they made a real difference to the quality of care we've been able to provide our patients. "We've lost count of the many great examples we've heard of staff supporting patients, supporting each other and going the extra mile in our communities to deliver health care." He added that a number of staff struggled through terrible conditions to get to work, with many working extra hours and staying in or near their local hospital so they could attend work.

My two outings utilised all of the lessons learned in qualifying as an Advanced Driver, augmented by me having completed a skid pan course last year, (another one is due on Sept 8th at Castle Coombe Skidpan Experience; highly recommended!), although I have to say that my Range Rover Sport in “Snow mode” coped brilliantly in what was generally considered a “Don’t go out unless absolutely necessary” couple of days.

The midnight drive in particular was a surreal experience, meeting the odd one or two stranded cars and articulated vehicles struggling to cope in the strange reflective light of the hushed, freezing and occasional blizzard conditions.

Most of the drivers out there were fellow Response 4x4s rescuing and ferrying emergency staff around, police officers on patrol offering route advice in their own 4x4s, and gritting/ploughing vehicles struggling to keep the county's highways passable (with a few forgivable failures due to over 2 metre drifts in places), and our dedicated farmers were out tending to their livestock.

The A49 was strangely transformed into a single track road, where if required you had to make your own individual passing places as needed; a carefully considered leap of faith when you can't see any kerbs or verges! This was 13 or so hours of intense concentration for me, but nevertheless, both occasions were really enjoyable drives, and all for what I consider a very worthwhile cause. I'm already looking forward to the next lot of snow!

Alan Eastough

Membership Secretary

T: 01981 540006

E: members@advanced-drivers.org.uk

A Vision of the Future

It now appears certain that the part the car will play in the transport system of the future is going to change dramatically. The driving force behind the autonomous car has been the objective to improve road safety by eliminating the driver, statistically shown to be the main cause of accidents. It is anticipated by some that artificial intelligence will enable driverless cars to take decisions like a human. In parallel the protection of the environment has accelerated the development of electric power and the internal combustion engine will be phased out. This technological turmoil has resulted in new and serious competition for the car industry, **Tesla** and **Google** being examples with other large software companies forming partnerships with the traditional manufacturers. Various manufacturers have expressed views on their vision for the future.

Volvo have unveiled Project 26; although it looks like a normal car interior, **Concept 26** has three distinct modes – Drive, Create and Relax – each designed to reflect the driver's mood. When in autonomous Relax mode, the steering wheel retracts, the driver's seat reclines and a large display folds out on the passenger side. The result? The driver lets the car do the work, but can easily return to the controls if needed.



Research clearly shows that some people will want to use their commuting time creatively

when they have full autonomous drive available, while others will want to just sit back and relax, watch online media or listen to music,”

New possibilities



Although autonomous technology itself is the current focus of self-driving cars, it's only the catalyst for a larger change in how the car is used. Without the permanent need to drive, the space inside a car is now open to a wealth of new possibilities. What those will be, and whether they'll extend to something more than just a large screen and reclining seats, remains to be seen.

Jaguars' Future Type Concept is a vision for 2040 and beyond and is a compact on-demand vehicle concept, designed to meet the needs of future generations.

At the heart of the concept is the world's first intelligent and connected steering wheel. This steering wheel lives in your home and becomes your trusted companion. Sayer – named after the designer of the E-type - is the first voice-activated Artificial Intelligence steering wheel that will be able to carry out hundreds of tasks. It can summon your car, play music, book you a table and even knows what's in your fridge. Sayer signals your membership of our on-demand service club. A club which offers either sole ownership or the option of sharing the car with others in your

Driving Vision

(continued from previous page)

community, meaning that you need only fully own the steering wheel, not the car itself.

Need to be at a meeting two hours away from home by 8am tomorrow? Simply ask Sayer from the comfort of your living room and it will work out when you get up, when a car needs to autonomously arrive at your door and even advise which parts of the journey you might enjoy driving yourself.

Peugeot have announced their **Instinct Concept** car. It is a plug-in hybrid that features the Samsung Artik Cloud platform, allowing it to sync with the user's devices and learn their lifestyle and reconfiguration settings, including seat, interface and lighting preferences, as well as preferred driving mode and audio settings.

There are four driving modes comprising Drive Boost, Drive Relax, Autonomous Soft and Autonomous Sharp, meaning the driver can choose to drive themselves, or choose the car to drive for them.

A responsive Cockpit switches seamlessly between Drive and Autonomous modes, folding the steering wheel and toggle switch panel into the dashboard and the accelerator pedal into the pedal unit when either autonomous mode is selected.

Switching modes takes place via a device which is positioned next to the 9.7-inch display in the centre console. This is also where the driver can take action where necessary, even when in the autonomous modes, such as overtaking a car in front.

The combination of the technology and the Samsung Artik Cloud platform means the car will know when you've been to the gym based on your smartwatch, for example, selecting the Autonomous Soft mode for a relaxing drive home.

It could also synchronise with your diary in order to prompt you to set off for a meeting earlier based on the traffic and weather conditions

There is also a personal assistant built into the Instinct Concept, allowing passengers to communicate with the car via voice, asking it to do anything from booking cinema tickets to buying something online.

Daimler Benz has some far-reaching thoughts on what might lay ahead. Software and artificial intelligence will disrupt most traditional industries within the next 5-10 years and eventually most car companies, who will continue to try and build better conventional cars, will go out of business whilst the high tech companies will build revolutionary computers on wheels.

In 2018, the first self-driving cars will appear and eventually people will not want to own a car that can be called on demand on the phone. It will show up and take you to your destination for which you will be charged on mileage,

There will be a major impact on insurance companies because at the moment there is one accident for every 60,000 miles and this is expected to drop to one accident in 6 million miles, dramatically reducing the number of road deaths.

There will be a great reduction in the number of cars needed freeing up car parking spaces in towns and cities and coupled with the introduction of electric power units expected to become main stream by 2020, will improve the quality of air and reduce noise levels.

The vision of the future, expressed by these manufacturers, has strong similarities and illustrates how the initial desire to improve road safety is resulting in a complete change of direction for a very large industry. Is this what we want?

It seems that Governments are supporting these developments so it appears inevitable that the driving we experience and mostly enjoy today is set to change forever and the need for advanced driving education will fall away. The only question is "how long will it take"?

with acknowledgements to Jaguar Land Rover, Volvo, Peugeot and Daimler Benz.

Algernon says . . .

“Some good news regarding the use of photographic evidence gained from the public use of dash cams.

At last, some police forces are starting to use photographic evidence provided by the public, but at present only in Wales; let’s hope others follow their example, after all “the camera never lies”.

I’m sure the police will be very careful in its use, being mindful of certain individuals who might try and persecute others for personal reasons.

Being close to the Welsh border, it could impact on our members.

Public dashcam evidence leading to prosecution

Following a pilot scheme by North Wales Police, Operation Snap was launched last October.

All four police forces in Wales are to start using dash-cam footage submitted by the public to investigate driving offences, in response to an increase in the amount of video and photographic evidence submitted by people who have witnessed driving offences.

South Wales Police followed suit in April, saying that the initiative would provide a ‘safe alternative way’ to share footage of offences and it would now seem that both Gwent and Dyfed-Powys Police are to participate in the operation - which runs in partnership with Go Safe (the Wales Road Safety Casualty Reduction Partnership).

Since October, North Wales Police says it has dealt with 129 cases as a result of footage submitted.

To submit footage, members of the public have to complete a form available on the Go Safe website.

Once it has been reviewed, officers update the individual as to what action will be taken.”

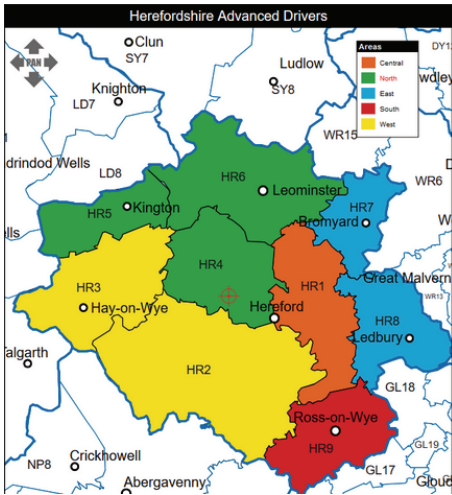


Reaching out . . .

We have recognised that, because of the frequent changes we have undergone, we have lost touch with many of our Members and Associates.

So, we shall be building those bridges again by organising several driving-related events.

To spread the word over our huge county will be made easier by 5 Area Coordinators and their teams of volunteers who will be promoting us to local parishes, businesses and clubs, offering to present their members with a choice of subjects according to their concerns about driving in Herefordshire.



Our next Newsletter will feature who they are and what they’re achieving. If you’d like to volunteer your time, talents or suggestions, please let Stella know and she’ll put you in touch with your nearest Coordinator. Your contribution will be invaluable.



Thanks to Dave Shenton

After 14 years with the **IAM**, Dave Shenton has elected to retire from **IAM RoadSmart**.

Over the years with us, Dave has been the Motorcycle Ambassador and the face of their Skills Days operation. He has helped guide and develop the Groups in every aspect of their operation and become the font of knowledge for the organisation.

On your behalf, we sent him this card, signed by several of the Committee and Observers:

“Many thanks from those of us with whom you have worked over so many years.

Personally, as Chairman, Chief Observer and friend, I have found your efforts on our behalf helpful and enabling. Enjoy well-earned freedom in your retirement. Now, on your bike, Dave!”

Calendar: May-October 2018

Date	Activity	Venue	Room	Time
Wednesday May 2	Committee Meeting	Saxon Hall	Meeting Room	7pm - 9pm
Wednesday May 23	Older Driver Refresher Day: Ross	Larrepurz Centre	Ross	10am - 4pm
Saturday June 2	Hereford Fire Station Demonstration	Hereford Fire Station	Hereford	10am - 1pm
Saturday Jun 16	Advanced Driver Course	Saxon Hall	Committee Room	9am - 1pm
Wednesday Jun 20	Committee Meeting	Saxon Hall	Small Hall	7 pm - 9pm
Thursday Jun 28	Annual General Meeting	Wellington Hall	Wellington	6.30pm
Friday Jul 13	Older Driver Refresher Day: Ledbury	Community Centre	Ledbury	10am - 4pm
Saturday Jul 21	Advanced Driver Course	Saxon Hall	Small Hall	9am - 1pm
Sunday Aug 5	Hereford County Fair	Caradoc nr. Hoarwithy	HR2 6QU	All day
Tuesday Sep 4	Committee Meeting	Saxon Hall	Committee Room	7pm - 9pm
Saturday Sep 8	The Skidpan Experience	Castle Combe	Wiltshire	1.30pm - 5pm
Sunday Sep 9	Advanced Driver Course	Saxon Hall	Committee Room	9am - 1pm
Tuesday Sep 11	Older Driver Refresher Day: Leominster	Community Centre	Leominster	10am - 4pm
Saturday Oct 6	Advanced Driver Course	Saxon Hall	Committee Room	9am - 1pm



Colleagues enjoying the Christmas festivities at our Annual dinner held this year at the Hickory Stick near Leominster on Friday 8th December.

Normally when we get together, there is too little time to get to know each other better and informally. So these occasions serve an important part in maintaining the health and welfare of the group.

We missed those who were unable to attend and hope that they will be able to join us next time. Maybe even at a summer event?

Our President, Ted Willmott, presented a Certificate of Commendation to **David Rose**, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Road Safety in Herefordshire from 1982-2017.

Announcing the presentation, David Williams said that David R. had taken well over 200 associates through to pass levels, which was quite an achievement.

Congratulations: Advanced Test passed by:

Members

- **Mark Bradshaw (F1rst)**
- **Stella Chambers (F1rst)**
- **Lesley Hayward (F1rst)**
- **Danielle Opie (F1rst)**
- **Angela Bromfield**
- **Denise Bradley-Lloyd**
- **Anne Hartfield**
- **Susanna Norbury**
- **Christine Patrick**
- **Anna Rover-Parkes**
- **Janet Sanders**
- **Alex Stevens**

Observers

- Nigel Jenkins
- John Baker
- David Williams
- Phil James
- Mike Oliver
- Iain Aird
- Ann Nevelós
- Mike Oliver
- Peter Hodge
- David Williams
- Stella B-C
- Anthony Mansfield

Thanks & congratulations

An extremely surprised **David Rose** was honoured to receive this recognition and felt privileged to have been a member of the group. He had learned a lot and was still learning - but, just as importantly, had met some lovely people and made many good friends.



Nigel Jenkins was also presented with his National Observer certificate. **Congratulations to both of you!**

Mike Oliver suffered a crashing fall which resulted in a new hip joint being fitted on Christmas Eve.

He is hoping to begin driving again fairly soon. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery.

My personal thanks to **Bruce Foster** who continues to submit high-quality feature articles for your Magazine - even though he moved to Rutland several months ago.

His invaluable voluntary contribution has been recognised by being **awarded Honorary Membership**.

A fitting tribute, indeed . . .

Ed.



Who's who?

Committee 2018

President

Maj. Gen. Ted Willmott, CB, OBE

Vice President

Nathan Travis, CFO, Hereford & Worcester FRS

Chairman & Chief Observer

01981 580382

David Williams, MBE, QFSM

chairman@advanced-drivers.org.uk

Events Coordinator

01981 540382

Kath Watts

events@advanced-drivers.org.uk

Membership Secretary

01981 540006

Alan Eastough

members@advanced-drivers.org.uk

Group Secretary

01432 840835

Stella Boyd-Carpenter

secretary@advanced-drivers.org.uk

Group Treasurer

01432 340252

Kieran Lappin

treasurer@advanced-drivers.org.uk

Younger Driver contact

07909 631823

Nerys Palmer

events@advanced-drivers.org.uk

Committee Members

Christine Barlow, Dawn Cox, Ted Hayward,

Wendy Hill, Nigel Jenkins, Ann Nevelos

Marketing

01531 579174

Mike Warnock

marketing@advanced-drivers.org.uk

