



Safer Driving in Summer

**Members' Magazine:
Summer 2019 (issue 197)**

In this issue . . .

Your Summer issue is packed with news and views for those who are passionate, technically-minded or merely curious.

It's a bit later than usual, because we wanted to tell you what happened at an eventful **AGM**, which was headlined by the visit of **Kate Tonge**, *Marketing & Communications Director, IAM RoadSmart*

She announced a raft of new measures to support Groups interactively and build on the successes we have achieved:

- National & Group promotion will be linked more closely in the press and social media
- Open access to online programmes which will add value to the services we deliver

These are scheduled to roll out in time for us to capitalise on our 2020 event promotions.

Finally, to go out on a high this year, **Area South** will be hosting a **Driver Refresher Day** at the **Larruperz Centre, Ross on Wye** on **Wednesday 25 September**.

Please support their team by passing the word around. Wouldn't booking a place for someone make a timely Christmas present? **Read on . .**

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Herefordshire Headlines

Chairman's Report: August 2019

This is my first report as Chairman and I would like to thank all those who elected me, as well as paying tribute to **David Williams** for all his leadership and work both as Chairman and Chief Observer which has resulted in so much success for our Group.

We are extremely fortunate in having a Committee, Observers and other volunteers who combine experience, knowledge and dedication to developing and implementing our various activities aimed at improving safety for all road users in Herefordshire.

David has very kindly agreed to assist us when required in the future which is greatly appreciated; his departure has necessitated a number of changes in responsibilities.

Kath Watts will be responsible for Observer and Associate Liaison. She will Chair meetings of Observers, allocate Observers to Associates who are being mentored for the Advanced Test as well as Members taking Refresher Drives.

Val Allen and Jon Baker will undertake the mentoring and assessment of those wanting to become Local Observers, as well as existing Observers who wish to become National Observers. They have also agreed to advise at Committee and Observers meetings any changes or updates from **IAMRS**.

Tina Lawrence who has been such an excellent and effective presenter at Driver Refresher Days has advised us that she will be unable to continue after the end of this year. Fortunately, **Kath Watts, Val Allen, Martin Thomas and Robert Hall** have all agreed to be Presenters for Advanced Courses and Refresher Days.

Stella Boyd-Carpenter will remain our Group Contact whilst also overseeing Events and **Mike Warnock** will continue to be responsible for Marketing.



Anthony Mansfield is our Young Driver Ambassador and he is considering ways by which we could increase our impact on young drivers including through social media, our website and presentations in schools and colleges.

One key role which remains vacant is that of Membership Secretary. **Alan Eastough** advised the Committee some time ago that he would have to step down and whilst he has very kindly agreed to caretake the position at present, if anyone would be prepared to take on the role, please let me know?

I want to emphasise how much the work and time given to our group by all these individuals is appreciated, as well as that given by other Observers and Members of the Committee.

Member Reassessment Drives

We know how valuable many members find the reassessment drives with an Observer and currently they are offered every three years.

The Committee have decided that members should be eligible for one drive every year, which should become a permanent arrangement, provided we have sufficient Observers to meet the increased demand.

So, if you would like to apply for reassessment, give Kath a ring on 01981 540382 or email her on observer-liaison@advanced-drivers-org.uk

I look forward keenly to working with you all, to build on the progress you have made over so many years.

Please get in touch with me if there are any ideas, suggestions for improvement or issues you want to discuss.



Kath Watts, Observer & Associate Liaison

Following the retirement of David Williams as Chief Observer, I have taken on the part of that role concerning Associates and Observers, with the new email address of observer-liaison@advanced-drivers.org.uk

As I see it, the role will "do as it says on the tin" ie taking calls/messages from anyone seeking to have an Assessment Drive, join us on a Driver Refresher Day or do the full Advanced Course, details of which are passed on directly from [IAM RoadSmart](#) and liaising with Observers to cover the drives.

I like to plan ahead as far as I can and, so far, Observers have been most helpful in letting me know which dates they are available for events on the calendar.

Without our Observers, we could not deliver any of the courses/drives or talks we offer for the people of Herefordshire and beyond, to make driving in the county safer.

I do really appreciate their help. A very big thank you to you all.

Please don't forget that members can have a free assessment drive every three years. It would be good to see this service being taken up more often.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you would like to take advantage of this service or, indeed, one of our Driver Refresher Days

Kind regards,

Kath: 01981 540382

observer-liaison@advanced-drivers.org.uk



Group Scorecard for Herefordshire Advanced Drivers (3027)

Date: Monday, 01 April 2019

IMI

	Group	Region Avg
Total Observers	19	16.9

National Local

	Group	Region Avg	Group	Region Avg
Pass	9	8.7	12	8.4
Referred	0	0.6	0	0.0
OS	1	0.9	0	2.0

Advanced Course Allocated Sales

	Total	Region Avg
Last Month	1	1.9
3 month Avg	2	2.0
Last 12 months	26	27.3

Advanced Course Status

	Group	Region Avg
OS Enrolments	0	3.7
Average Days	0	1250
OS Test Ready	16	33.2
Average Days	181	678

Test Statistics

	12 months	Region Avg
First	6	4.1
Pass	10	12.0
Fail	1	2.5
% Pass	94	87

Advanced Course Statistics

Allocations

	Group	Region Avg
Last Month	1	2.0
3 month Average	2	2.0
Last 12 months	26	26.6

Enrolments

	Group	Average Days	Region Avg	Region Avg Days
Last Month	2	21	2.2	19
3 month Average	2	6	2.0	15
Last 12 months	26	5	26.8	23

Test Ready

	Group	Average Days	Region Avg	Region Avg Days
Last Month	1	60	1.3	176
3 month Average	0	60	1.3	194
Last 12 months	15	111	17.6	212

Development plans for 2019/2020

President **Ted Willmott** chaired a lively, informative session, with nearly 60 members, associates and families packed into Much Birch Community Hall.

The formal business was dealt with swiftly, because copies of the Agenda and Officers' reports had been circulated for study beforehand.

Committee appointments, current and new, were confirmed (see pages 2 & 16)

Our Guest Speaker was **Kate Tonge**, recently appointed **Marketing, Communications and Membership Director, IAM RoadSmart**

Kate has a local background, growing up in Ross-on-Wye, where her parents still live.

She became an Advanced Driver at the age of 20 when back from university and in her first job - for the local paper, The Ross Gazette.

Her observer was Andy Vaughan, also from Ross, who went on to become a local driving instructor. Her dad, Christopher Deane, also passed with the Herefordshire Group.

So, she is familiar with the county roads, the hazards they represent and the opportunities to reach more of the market we plan to serve.

Kate's presentation outlined **IAM RoadSmart's** development and support strategy, which included far more support for Groups, recognising the vital role they play in improving standard of Road Safety, nationally.

Kate then presented Advanced Driver awards to successful recipients (see following page).

Several new initiatives are in progress, with the objective of increasing numbers of Advance Driver/Rider passes by 1,000 to 6,750.

The focus will be on getting to know our markets better for more accurately targeted promotion, by:



- Putting 15 young racing drivers through their Advanced Test in only 2 days – Formula Drivesmart - to find out about young drivers bad habits, rectify them and get car pimped in return
- Reduced insurance: Swinton approached **IAM** to improve road safety - offer 20% off advanced driving courses - planned for May 2020
- Promotions and publicity are hard work - the preview we have just had will allow us to capitalise on this
- Social media is a cost-effective way of promoting ourselves - Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube are available to us and they appeal to the younger driver
- Exemption membership exists because not everyone wants to be a full member, but still wants to be a better, safer driver – simply a matter of proving qualifications
- “Member get Member” – introduce someone to the course = reward for recruiter and discount for candidate

Promotional plans for 2019/2020

- “You said...we did” - help for Groups to promote themselves at a local level – e.g. z-card, promotional branded material, video content, **IAM RoadSmart** press release sent to local press
- “Knowing me, knowing you” - getting to know our market is the key to our success - inspiring all licence holders via 7 "persona" which represent driver types, creating an emotional appeal as in other fields of advertising

Kate Tonge presents . . .

Following her presentation, Kate awarded prizes for Group attainments; Advanced Driver passes, including 6 F1RSTs [their Observers], the Observer's cup (Ted Probert) and the Annual Shield.



Andrew Hadwen
[Martin Thomas]



Mike Allan: F1RST
[Nigel Jenkins]



George Walker
[Iain Aird]



Roger McDonald
[Val Allen]



Raymond Papworth: F1RST
[Ted Hayward]



Celia Lawrence
[Kath Watts]



Anna Ray
[Kath Watts]



Martin Thomas
[Ted Probert Cup]



Kath Watts
[Anniversary Shield]

Test results for those not able to collect their Certificate

Member	Observer	Grade	Member	Observer	Grade
Mike Allen	Nigel Jenkins	First	Callum Hadwen	Martin Thomas	Pass
Adrian Bagg	Kath Watts	First	Claire Morrissey	Linda Harding	First
Adrian Barlow	David Williams	Pass	Andrew Perry	David Williams	Pass
Alan Christopher	Jon Baker	Pass	Matthew Reynolds	Rob Turner	Pass
Chris Clarke	Jon Baker	First	Brian Roby	Iain Aird	First
Terry Draycott	David Williams	Pass	Jake Stiff	David Williams	Pass
Carla Farmer	Val Allen	Pass	John Tallis	David Rose	Pass
Keith Glover	Martin Thomas	Pass	Clifford Williams	Martin Thomas	First

Safer driving in summer

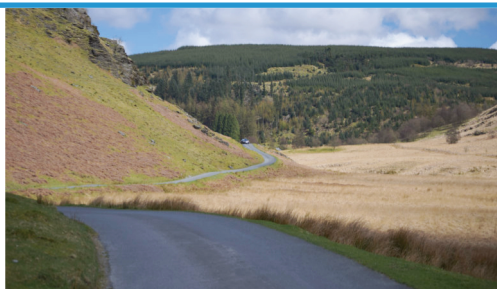
Driving safely in hot conditions

At this time of year, especially when extremes of weather become the norm, lists of helpful “to-do” lists abound.

However, the conditions themselves can affect our own state of mind.

As Advanced Drivers, we know what needs to be done but, particularly on long journeys, other drivers might be in control of the vehicle at times and not so familiar. So these tips could come in handy when planning the journey:

- Driving in hot weather, particularly heat wave conditions, can pose significant challenges and risks to the health and safety of drivers
- Cars left out in the sun can get extremely hot. Try and start your journey with a cool car. Allow a few moments for the interior to cool by opening all the doors and running the air conditioning for a short while. Park in the shade when possible
- Car engines get extremely hot in warm weather, especially in standstill traffic, so ensure your coolant is always topped up
- For cars without stop-start technology, it is a good idea to turn off your engine during traffic hold ups. Contrary to popular belief, restarting your engine will not burn more fuel than if you had you sat with your engine in “idle” for more than 10 seconds
- It is extremely important to keep hydrated when stuck in a long traffic jam under the searing sun. Take plenty of cold water with you before heading out on longer journeys. Investing in insulated drinks bottles is a good way to keep a source of cold water in the car



- Never leave your dog in the car in hot conditions.
- Avoid alcohol; get a lift to the Pub or Restaurant
- Impaired vision from the sun is a common cause of accidents during the summer. Replace worn windscreen wipers to help keep your windscreen clean and use sunglasses and overhead sun visors to help block out the sun from your eyes
- Windscreens also get very dirty in dry weather and marks can amplify sun glare. Plenty of windscreen washer fluid will help you maintain a clear view in the sun – especially when travelling when the sun is low in the sky, typically during your commute
- Drivers have to share the roads with a lot more than just other cars during the summer months. Better weather and longer days attract far more tractors, caravans, horse riders, cyclists and walkers
- Be prepared to adapt your driving style in the event of any sharp changes in weather, as driving through heavy summer storms comes with a totally different set of challenges
- Tyre blowouts are a more common occurrence in hotter weather. Check your tyres regularly for any damage and always check that the pressures are correct
- Some side effects of medication, particularly drowsiness, might be increased by hot and humid conditions. Be aware of this possibility

"A grand day out, Gromit lad!"

On Sat 20th July, the HAD gang of five (Ted, Nigel, Ian, Roy and Andrew) quickly set up our gazebo on a sunny day at the Aymestrey Fête.

Well they were quick, I was struggling on hands and knees to join the back to side zips up. Hearing all the mutterings "Oh gosh!" "Oh my my!" etc, Nigel popped his head out. "It zips from the top down...Mike" Ah!

The public, though, did not flock in saying "Do tell me all about it," so we stood in front of people asking "How many miles do you drive in a year?" which worked well. Taking it from there, everyone took leaflets.



Hopefully, after all the graft of our hard working team, we shall hear from a mixture of Yatton Kingsland and Aymestrey drivers.

There was an HGV Forestry chap, ladies and gentlemen of a certain age and even the Fire Engine Driver! I learned a lot, too.

The memory I treasure was that of an approaching large family, milling around a big man who was all in black, shaved head etc. Looking him straight in the chest "Hello Sir, do you drive many miles a year?". Without slowing, he yelled "I'm BANNED" and strode away! I quickly selected who perhaps did the family driving and during a conversation with her, learned that they had lost someone in car crash.

She was intrigued by what we can offer. Here's hoping . . .

Mike Oliver 7

Keeping in touch

With all the changes we have gone through over recent years, I am aware that many of the group are no longer sure who to talk to.

In my role as **Group Contact**, please regard me as your "go-to" so that I can put you in touch with whoever is best qualified to help.

As Kath is now focusing on Observer and Associate Liaison, I shall be coordinating our Events.

This year, we have certainly had some exciting times:

- our Driver Refresher Days are now better known and we are planning more for next year.
- In March we were in Clehonger – a new location for us – but it is an excellent hall and we had a good turnout
- April/May there were two Refreshers in Area North – Leominster Community Centre and another in Kingsland. Both were well attended, and I am pleased to say a great success.
- June/July we were in Ledbury
- Early in August we were at the Herefordshire Fair where we had a great deal of interest: mothers worrying about their teen-year-olds who were just about or had just, taken their driving tests – yes we can help them and this year we have had really good numbers of young drivers passing the advanced test....
- And we haven't finished yet, we still have our final Refresher for this year at Ross-on-Wye on Wednesday 25th September – so there is still time to book.
- We would really welcome any ideas from our readers – do you want us to fix a Skid Pan Day again or talks/get togethers?
- Just let me know - just call me on 01432 840835

Stella: Group Contact and Events Coordinator

News from the Shire

Building on good, solid foundations, Area-North is on the right track!

Leominster Refresher Day in September 2018 was when we first used our publicity material to good effect and only minor changes have been required for subsequent events, mainly to reflect different venues & dates.

The first Leominster Refresher Day for 2019 was held at Kingsland Coronation Hall on April 25th after making the decision to use a location near, but outside Leominster. An earlier event at Clehonger Village Hall provided some excellent feedback from those attending and suggested a better way of spreading the word more effectively.

The publicity machine went into action in late February when I contacted parish magazines with enquiries about advertising Herefordshire Advanced Driver Refresher Days and the response was overwhelmingly positive. I emailed prepared adverts and, because we are a registered charity promoting road safety, the editors were happy to waive their usual fees.

Starting from Kingsland, posters and flyers were distributed by my excellent team of helpers into the far corners of the area, targeting local businesses, post offices, libraries and public notice boards. Mike Oliver created a lot of interest from his music group and placed posters around the north west area villages of Leintwardine, Bucknell and Wigmore; Martin Thomas & Peter Hodge also did excellent work by spreading the word around the Shropshire border and out towards Bromyard.

The response at first was slow, but after a few weeks I had a steady trickle of emails and phone calls. Not all of the callers were able to take part in the Refresher Day but asked about future events or on behalf of family members or friends. Towards the end of March, 14 people had signed up. A week later, the number had grown to 22 and we had reached the maximum possible with the number of available Observers. One person dropped out due to injury and one elected not to do a drive so, with 2 drives for each Observer, the candidates had a good hour for their drive assessments.



Overall, the venue, accessibility, parking and the course were rated as excellent by the participants, with particular praise reserved for the Observers; every person said that the advice & information they received was of great value and would make them more aware and safer drivers. Several people wrote or emailed their thanks; here is an example:

"I just wanted to say 'thank you' to you and your colleagues for organising and delivering a most interesting Driver Refresher Course. It was very good of everyone to give up their own time to help us improve our driving. I found it very helpful and hope to continue by taking the Advanced Driver course, possibly starting in June or July. I will come back to you on this, when I have looked at other commitments." 4 people were interested in enrolling on the full advanced driver course.

Ann Nevelos was instrumental in helping to organise a further Refresher Day for Leominster on May 7th. Originally, it was to be for members of The Rotary Club/Inner Wheel groups but, due to low numbers, Ann opened it up to the public and we were able to recruit a very creditable 16 people. Again, the feedback from the participants was extremely good with many people commenting on the quality of Observing, content of the presentation and value for money.

Both of the Refresher Days have involved a learning curve and shown us that by limiting the numbers of people taking part to around fifteen or less, it should be easier to engage enough Observers and give each person more time and a better experience.

(more news on page 12)

What's up the road ahead?



Christmas Lunch: 12 December



Our annual lunch will be at the Cider Orchard Restaurant, Hereford & Ludlow College on Thursday 12 December, 12.30 for 1pm

A festive choice menu will be available later for individual selection:

2 Courses - £10.00

3 Courses - £11.50
(including Filter Coffee or Tea)

Only 40 places*** available, so be sure to book your place(s) early.

Call Kath on 01981 540382 or email events@advanced-drivers.org.uk

*** *because Advanced Drivers always plan and prepare well ahead*



Quiz Night: 20 September

This year's **Quiz Night** will be at Wellington Village Hall on Friday, 20th September 7.15pm for 7.30pm prompt

- Light refreshments will be served.
- At least one member of each team must be a member of HAD.
- There will be a charge of £10 per team of 4, payable on the night
- Table numbers are limited, so booking is essential

To book your place(s), please **call Kath no later than Thursday, 12th September** on 01981 540382 or email events@advanced-drivers.org.uk



Events Calendar: August-December 2019

Date	Activity	Venue	Room	Time
Saturday August 24	Advanced Driver Course	Much Birch	Meeting Room	9am – 12noon
Friday Sept 20	Quiz Evening	Wellington	Wellington	6.30 – 10.pm
Wednesday Sep 25	Ross Refresher Day	Larruperz Centre		10am – 3pm (set up 8.30)
Thursday Dec 12	Christmas Luncheon	Cider Orchard Restaurant	Hereford College	12.30 for 1.0

One of my pet hates; Idle Motorists!

Motorists that let their engines idle while parked might face larger fines in a bid to improve air quality in the UK, the Department for Transport warned. It argued that an idling car produces enough exhaust emissions to fill one-hundred and fifty balloons per minute – although clearly there is a lot of variation.

The Department also emphasised that emissions contain pollutants such as cyanide, NOx (nitrogen oxide), and PM2.5 (particulate matter). These substances cause health issues that shorten lives such as heart attacks, lung disease, strokes, plus various cancers.

Chris Grayling, Transport Secretary, said: 'We are determined to crack down on drivers who pollute our communities by leaving their engines running – particularly outside school gates where our children are breathing in the toxic air. Putting a stop to idling is an easy way to drive down dangerously high levels of pollution.'

Highway Code, Rule 123 explains how motorists are expected to behave. It says: 'Generally if the vehicle is stationary and is likely to remain so for more than a couple of minutes, you should apply the parking brake and switch off the engine to reduce emissions and noise pollution.'

However, there are some exceptions:

'It is permissible to leave the engine running if the vehicle is stationary in traffic or for diagnosing faults', the rule confirms.

- Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2002
- The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2002 already enable councils to fine motorists that let engines idle. Wardens can issue £20 Fixed Penalty Notices, for example.



However, enforcement is rare. The Department for Transport, therefore, hopes to 'guide' councils so they can 'enforce the law more effectively'.

Westminster Council is among those that punish motorists. Its Leader, Nickie Aiken, argued: 'We need to change the way people think about engine idling.' She added that her wardens have spoken to thousands of idling drivers and found most 'do so out of habit.'

She further confirmed that explanation rather than punishment is often enough to change behaviour. Once drivers know the damage idling causes most are happy to switch their engines off, she revealed. Many then 'think twice' before they idle again. 'Fines should be a last resort', she suggested. 'We prefer to ask nicely'.

For the sake of our planet and our children, let's hope the new Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps fully supports this most important proposition! It certainly has my support! Consultation is due to take place in summer 2019 with interested parties.

Safe Driving.

Algernon

Editor's scoop



Algernon revealed.

Who is he?

Why is he so often quoted?

Find out on page 15



“Accidents are for other people!

September 2018 - I was convinced they would turn me away. I had arrived 45 minutes late for an evening introductory session run by the Herefordshire Advanced Drivers at a village hall on the far side of Hereford that I had never been to before. Getting there had been a challenge in itself, in more ways than one: I was very apprehensive about the whole thing!

I was welcomed in and given a cup of tea, before joining the small group listening to a presentation by David Williams. Using video he was explaining the 2-second-rule, limit points and the virtues of reverse parking. I found it oddly revelatory – it made so much sense when he was describing it, with such matter-of-fact, calm authority.

Then I was introduced to Nigel Jenkins, who had been assigned to be my Observer. I explained that I had had a fairly serious accident in July 2017, which was why I had signed up, initially for a Refresher Day.

"Advanced drivers have fewer accidents," he said, emphatically, "we leave those for other people!"

I was chastened! "He knows," I thought, "what an awful driver I must be."

So began my "drives" with Nigel. I was terrified. My stress levels during the year following the accident had turned me into the worst passenger alive, and my husband had had to endure my constant anxiety on our journeys together. I felt that driving was a necessary evil, and had trouble controlling my fear that every journey might end in disaster.

This, though, was the very reason I had signed up: I do a lot of driving for work, and living in Herefordshire is very difficult without a car. Something had to change!

At first, I found maintaining the levels of concentration needed for proper observation as well as managing the speed, gears and acceleration really hard. I made many mistakes, and sometimes the stress tipped into overload. Nigel was really patient, and seemed to have an inexhaustible commitment to training me to be a better driver.

With Nigel's help and much repetition, I started to learn how to "read" the road, how to spot road signs early and to look at other drivers. I learnt early on to respect speed limits – being told firmly "You're breaking the law" was salutary! - and effective. I now know how to use my mirrors better, to adjust my road position, and to see other vehicles approaching junctions in a way that I had thought was impossible before. I even find it quite fun – finding a sightline and spotting an oncoming vehicle early, or being able to predict other drivers' behaviour better – these skills have changed me and given me more confidence behind the wheel.

At the time of writing Nigel has judged me to be "test-ready" and I am waiting to take my Advanced test. My driving and confidence have both been considerably improved and I am no longer paralysed by the fear of not seeing what may be coming round the next bend in the road. Whatever the result of the test, though - and if I don't pass first time, I will take it again - I have been totally bowled over by the commitment and professionalism of my Observer, and it is amazing to me that the local Advanced Drivers are all volunteers and give unstintingly of their time and skill. It is a serious enterprise, improving driver behaviour, preventing accidents and saving lives, and deserves to be better known!

Sarah Malpas Swinson: July 2019

News from the Shire

(continued from page 8)

Moving the Leominster Refresher Day to Kingsland, gave us free parking and better facilities at a lower cost, suggesting that holding future Refresher Days in village halls with smaller numbers is the way forward.

Mike Oliver, after taking time out with health issues, has resumed coaching, become actively engaged in the Refresher Days and has completed a couple of public driver assessments.

Martin Thomas has been coaching two Associates, one of whom has recently achieved an excellent First pass on his test, with the other one showing great promise. Martin has now had two Associates receive First's in the past nine months. A great result!

Peter Hodge has an Associate, whom I have recently assessed, and he is now awaiting his test date.

Apart from doing several public and Associate assessments, I have been coaching two Associates; **Mike Allan** passed his test on June 19th with a well-deserved First and Sarah Swinson is ready for test.

Since Area-North was formed, the whole team has worked really well together and with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The team meets up regularly and, as well as exchanging ideas and information, often test our driving & observing skills to see if we can make improvements. We are now starting to reap rewards for hard work and it is very encouraging!

Nigel

Editor's note: Well done, indeed, Area North for pioneering our campaign to reach wider markets and setting the standards for success

Because Adrian and Chris have kindly offered their supporting Area South, only 3 Areas remain vacant Areas: Central | East | West

I'm sure that Nigel's team would be pleased to discuss how they did it, what was involved and how much easier it is when sharing the task.

"A career change?"

Many moons ago, Pauline and I, looked around The New Forest and visited Limington.

Over coffee the Memsahib decide to go in search of an outfit suitable for our daughter's wedding. My presence was not needed nay, forbidden. My knowledge of all things Haute Couture spurned yet again!

Suitably miffed, I put a brave face on things and went to explore and enjoy some people watching.

Admiring the style and colour of a chapel, I noticed a lady hurrying down the line of cars .

"Oh dear, I am in a terrible hurry and my car is blocked in. Are any of these cars yours?"

Shaking my head I said "If you get into your car, open the window wide and listen carefully, we will have a try."

A couple of slow, tight manoeuvres and the job was done.

Expecting a cheery departing wave, I was taken aback when, she stopped and said "I don't know what you do for a living but you would make a very good midwife!"

Dear gentle reader, I was understandably somewhat rocked by this.

Then she added "You have a very nice bedside manner and you are very good at getting things out of confined spaces!" as she waved and roared away.

What *is* a chap to do?

(continued on page 15)

More technology aimed at road safety

Technology will now be used to pick up motorists who continue to endanger other road users by disregarding rules and regulations. Several systems at varying stages are under development, including:

Detection of Alcohol

A new generation of technology is taking shape around systems that prevent cars from operating if the driver is above a specified alcohol limit. Researchers say the new technology is so promising that they compare it to the advent of the seat belt in terms of its potential to save lives.

Several approaches are being used by a number of companies and research organizations:

- **Breath.** A system measures blood alcohol levels from a driver's breath. The levels would be detected from sensors mounted in front of the driver. But the driver wouldn't even need to be aware they are being monitored.
- **Touch.** This method would screen for alcohol when the driver touches the start button, or another designated surface in the car. Alcohol levels would be measured under the skin's surface on a touch-pad with an infrared light scanner.

Detection by facial monitoring system



A camera is mounted on the instrument panel facing the driver to monitor the driver's face. The system is calibrated to monitor the driver's state of consciousness through the blinking of the eyes. When the system detects signs of drowsiness, a voice and message alert is triggered via the navigation system. Additionally, a seat-belt mechanism is activated which tightens around the driver to gain his or her immediate attention.

Detection of mobile phone use

Research shows that you are four times more likely to crash if you are using a mobile phone whilst driving, and reaction times are around 50% slower than a driver not using a mobile phone.

New technology that can spot drivers who are using their mobile phones while behind the wheel is being rolled out by police forces in the UK.

The system uses a sensor that can detect if a driver is using their phone for calling, texting or accessing the internet. If the sensor is triggered, a nearby road sign is lit up, to prompt the driver to stop using their phone.

There are known limitations to the system. For example, while it is able to detect a signal emanating from a mobile phone in a car, it cannot figure out who in the vehicle is using the phone - for example, the warning sign will be triggered if, say, a passenger is making a call rather than the driver.



(continued from previous page)

However, the technology is smart enough to detect if a phone call is being made through the handset itself, or via Bluetooth equipment such as a wireless headset or built-in hands-free system.

EU plans to fit all cars with speed limiters

Under new EU road safety measures which aim to cut deaths from road accidents in Europe by a third, all cars could be fitted with devices that stop them going over 70mph.

The scheme would work either using satellites, which would communicate limits to cars automatically, or using cameras to read road signs. Drivers can be given a warning of the speed limit, or their speed could be controlled automatically under the new measures.

There are other safety issues associated with this system and the UK government position is not clear but could block the move however if the UK leaves the EU it may not apply to the UK roads but might create issues for UK citizens using their cars in Europe if the EU goes ahead.

It seems as though autonomy is inevitable and technology is destined to take more control over us and our vehicles.



Brexit Guidelines

This is the first of a series of articles on the impact of driving road vehicles to and from EU countries.

In the event of a “no-deal” Brexit, the documents you will need to carry if driving in Europe will change:

The UK and EU have agreed an extension to Article 50 until 31 October at the latest, with the option to leave earlier as soon as a deal has been ratified.

So, while no deal remains the legal default at the end of this extension period, it's now unlikely that there will be any changes affecting European travel this summer e.g. you will not need to carry an IDP or insurance green card to drive in an EU country.

If the UK **does** leave without a deal:

- Whether hiring a car or driving your own, it's likely that you will need an Insurance Green Card and an International Driving Permit (IDP)
- If you have a UK Photocard licence, then for shorter visits you won't need an IDP to drive in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, or Switzerland
- If you only have a UK paper licence, then for shorter you won't need an IDP to drive in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland
- You will also have to have at least six months on your passport(excluding months over 10 years added if you renewed it early)
- Always read the latest Government advice - and watch this space . . .

Hot off the press!



Just as we were going to publish, news came through that Sarah Swinson had passed her Advanced Driver test, first time,

(see full story on page 11)

Persistence, patience and professional support

from dedicated observers pays off in ways that cannot be surpassed. Congratulations, Sarah.

Enjoy safer driving and keep us in touch with your progress as you advance further.

Au revoir, Algernon . . .

For some years, **Algernon** has had his say about contentious issues of the day, provoking thoughts about all aspects of improving road safety throughout the county.

Yet, when I volunteered to produce our Magazine, I was sworn to secrecy by my predecessor not to reveal his identity.

Mike Lovelock has agreed at last that I may blow his cover, although it is with mixed feelings that I do.

However, because his health is failing, he has said that he cannot continue.

May I thank you, Mike, on behalf of all our readers - and me as Editor - for your many "must-read" contributions?

We all wish you the better health you deserve.

David's contribution recognised by HQ

To round off the AGM, Kate Tonge presented David Williams, our out-going Chairman and Chief Observer with a Certificate of Appreciation from **IAM RoadSmart** for his outstanding contribution at Group and National level, having dedicated his life to improving health and safety.



- and so said all of us . . .

Members and Associate throughout our Group expressed their admiration and gratitude to David by signing a personal tribute card, presented to him at the AGM by President Ted Willmott



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Sadly no outfit this time, but soon afterwards. I knew you would be worried about it !!!

- and a hat!

Mike Oliver



Who's who?

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