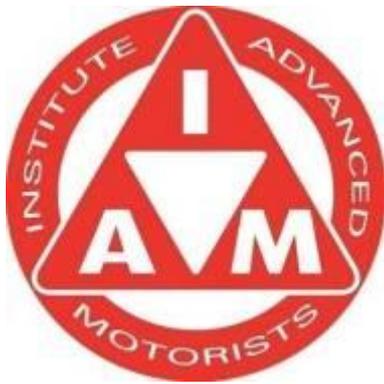
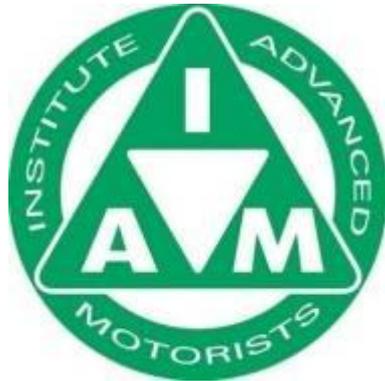


Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists



January / February 2015
Newsletter



ROY NELSON (1939 – 2014)

It is with deepest sorrow that we have to advise the passing of a group stalwart just before the Christmas period.

Roy was born in Newton-le-Willows in 1939 where he lived his entire life and after local schooling he went to Liverpool University graduating with a B.Sc. degree. He went straight into teacher training and then started his rapid ascent in the teaching profession, becoming the youngest Head Teacher in Lancashire when in his early 30's. He remained in the teaching profession his entire career ending up headmaster at Brookfield Comprehensive School in Kirkby, Liverpool before he retired in the 1990's.

Wanting to keep himself busy, he became a Magistrate and as you'd expect it wasn't long before he was Chairman of the Bench before eventually being forced to retire at the age of 70.

Roy also enrolled with the Institute of Advanced Motorists in 1997 and quickly passed his Advanced Test and remained with the Group quickly establishing himself as an integral part of the organization, which he remained until his passing in December 2014. During his time with the Group, Roy held the positions of Chair of Car Training, Group Secretary and Associate Co-Ordinator, the latter of which he held right until the end. He was awarded Car Observer of the Year in 2011 along with the 2013 John Norsworthy Award.

In many respects Roy was an enigma – on the one hand he was a formidable character who commanded respect and loyalty, but on the other he was soft and sympathetic, full of understanding and encouragement for his colleagues and the associates within the Group. He was a long standing Senior Observer and assisted many Associates in passing their test, and in many respects his main strengths lay in helping the young Associates reach the required standard. He never lost his enthusiasm for road safety and this shone through whenever you came into contact with him.

Roy will be sadly missed by both his own family and his IAM family, and that's what we were to him, an extension of his own family. We at Warrington Advanced Motorists have lost our father figure and will never be the same without him – may you rest in peace Roy.



Roy (on the left) receiving the *John Norsworthy Award* from Paul Griffiths in 2013.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Happy New Year to one and all!!

By the time you read this, January will be well upon us and we're already seeing the days slowly extending since the winter solstice back in December. It won't be long before we start to see the spring flowers making an appearance and then the warmer weather starting and if we have a similar summer to last year, we can all look forward to some beautiful weather. That's me being an eternal optimist but always better that the glass is half full rather than half empty!

I'm pleased to report that both sections of the Group (car & bike) remain buoyant with plenty of ongoing Associates being put through their paces in preparation for their test. As always, big thanks go to those observers who willingly give their time and expertise to enable the Group to continue to flourish.

As some of you may be aware, our Staff Examiner, Chris Givvons, has decided to step down from his role to enable him to spend more time with his family. I'm sure that I'm joined by all members of the Group in thanking Chris for his commitment to us as a Group and also a number of us individually that has without doubt made us better at what we do – promoting road safety. We're hopeful that Chris will remain as an examiner so that his considerable skills are not lost to the IAM.

Finally, here's your brain teaser:-

Outside a room there are three light switches. One of the switches is connected to a light bulb inside the room. Each of the three switches can be either 'ON' or 'OFF'.

You are allowed to set each switch the way you want it and then enter the room (note: you can enter the room only once)

Your task is to then determine which switch controls the bulb ??

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

WELCOME

Welcome to new members Matthew Bell, Sophie Bell, Jack Bennett, Thomas Coulter and Murray Tweed to the car section and Duncan Bryce to the Motorcycle section (Triumph Sprint ST). Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

Congratulations to Liam Reily on passing the Car test also to Chris Bunnis, Mick Cook, Stephen Bellamy, Toby Williams and Ian Frost on passing the 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 Peter or myself know.

TTFN

Ian Bell (Membership secretary)

INTERLUDE

THE VICARS FALSE TEETH

A Pastor goes to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he gets his new teeth, he talks for only eight minutes. The second Sunday, he talks for only ten minutes. The following Sunday, he talks for 2 hours and 48 minutes.

The congregation had to mob him to get him down from the pulpit and they asked him what happened.

The Pastor explains the first Sunday his gums hurt so bad he couldn't talk for more than 8 minutes. The second Sunday his gums hurt too much to talk for more than 10 minutes. But, the third Sunday, he put his Wife's' teeth in by mistake and he couldn't shut up...

I KNOW you are smiling!!

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

Most members of the Institute of Advanced Motorists become involved simply because they want to improve the driving skills of themselves and others, thus making our roads safer. Collectively we can certainly claim to have played our part - the number of fatal accidents has fallen from 6,970 when I started driving in 1959-60 (three years after the formation of the IAM) to 1,720 in 2013 despite the number of vehicles on our roads shooting up from seven to 34 million.

Though, as IAM Chairman Alistair Cheyne has frequently observed, if that many were killed each year on the railways there would be a national outcry but I have to confess that my own entry into the world of advanced driving was somewhat stuttering. I was encouraged to attempt the test soon after I had started to drive by one of my newspaper contacts who was one of the first people to proudly display the IAM badge on the front of his car. Tragically, before I could make the time, he was killed in that car - he was hit head-on by a lorry travelling on the wrong side of the road. I covered the inquest here in Warrington.

For me, courtship, marriage and fatherhood followed and it wasn't until motoring became an important part of my working life that I became involved again - and how! Bernard Smith, a tower of IAM strength in South Yorkshire and writer for the Sheffield Telegraph, wanted to establish an advanced motorists' group in Delamere and asked me to publicise an inaugural meeting. I happily did so and then went along to report the meeting but right from the start I found myself in the middle of an astonishing slanging match between the would-be founder members and those of another nearby group, aggrieved at losing potential new members. It would have made quite a story but I decided it wouldn't do any good to write it - in fact it would have done a lot of harm. Bernard was banished and I retired hurt.

He had already arranged for me to take the test at Widnes but there was no availability for any tuition and inevitably I failed miserably. Years later, Warrington Advanced Motorists were formed (I still have the original press release in my files) and I was invited to have another crack at the test as part of a publicity "drive" to boost interest in the group. Thanks to the patience of Veronica Oates and the late Peter Sunderland I was thoroughly prepared for the test though I must confess that it was preceded by the only sleepless night I have ever experienced. Somehow I reached the required standard on the day and my experience was turned into a series of articles for the Guardian newspapers.

While I have never been unable to assist at Sunday morning sessions because of my church commitments I was overwhelmed and very proud, when invited, to become a vice president and then president. And as the years rolled by I was further delighted to accept an accolade to mark 25 years' commitment to road safety and then, ultimately, honorary membership of the group, all of which I am so proud.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: SOLUTION



Set the first switch ON for about 10mins, then turn off and switch on the second switch and then enter the room.

Three cases are possible:-

1. Bulb is on => second switch is the answer.
2. Bulb is off and on touching you will find bulb to be warm => first switch is the answer.
3. Bulb is off and on touching you will find bulb to be normal temperature (not warm) => third switch is the answer.

MARCH / APRIL NEWSLETTER

Contributions to March / April's newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for March / April's newsletter is Sunday 15th February 2015.



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.



GIGGLES:

Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say, "Jesus is watching you." He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on creeping and again heard, "Jesus is watching you." In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesus is watching me" The parrot replied, "Yes." Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot said, "Clarence." The burglar said, "That's a stupid name for a parrot. What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot answered, "The same idiot that named the Rottweiler Jesus."



Teacher: "What is the chemical formula for water?"

Pupil: "HIJKLMNO."

Teacher: "What are you talking about?"

Pupil: "Yesterday you said it's H to O!"



WARRINGTON GROUP



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For further info contact:

Gordon Blackshaw

Mobile: 07767-833106

Home: 01925-860967

E-mail: gordonblackshaw@hotmail.com

www.warram.org.uk

Registered Charity : 1048554

* Contribution of £40 is required towards the Observers fuel costs as he / she will be using their own machines for your observed rides.

RULES & REGULATIONS: Councils apply for greater powers.

Soon Cardiff Council will be able to fine motorists who stop in box junctions or park in front of schools. Other local authorities may follow suit.



Motorists are facing an increased risk of being fined for misdemeanours such as using bus lanes or stopping in yellow box junctions. Cardiff Council has just revealed plans to install a network of fixed and mobile cameras and penalise drivers who commit such offences as much as £70.

Police powers

At the moment in most parts of the UK, only the police are able to take such action. But Cardiff's is the latest move by a local authority to seek greater powers to crack down on minor traffic violations. The council has been granted permission to impose fines by the Welsh government. Cardiff's new system - similar to that which is already in force in London - is due to come into effect in December.

Scheme to be extended

It will apply to unauthorised use of bus lanes, cars which stop in box junctions and parking that blocks access to schools.

A council spokesman said that the powers were likely to be extended to cover offences such as ignoring "no entry" or "no right turn" signs. Cardiff had originally asked for traffic wardens to be given the ability to fine motorists, but the spokesman said the cameras would help provide stronger evidence of any violations. Councillor Ramesh Patel denied that the scheme was being introduced simply to raise money.

'Keep the city moving'

"All revenue obtained from the issuing of penalties will be ring-fenced to cover operating costs with any surplus used for spending on transport schemes," he said.

"These enforcement powers were previously with the South Wales Police and have been transferred to the Council.

"What we intend to do here is enforce the basic principles set out in the Highway Code.

"It is essential that we keep the city moving, so we will be focussing on the main arterial routes into the city and the city centre."

'Risk of abuse'

Jeanette Miller, a motoring lawyer with Geoffrey Miller Solicitors, said she was concerned that such schemes could turn into money-spinners for local authorities.

"I find this development to be of some concern not least because of the problems that seem to be repeatedly highlighted by the media surrounding revenue-raising linked to local authority fine collection," she said. "Of course it makes sense for there to be systems in place to ensure the safe and efficient free flow of traffic. However, I can't help but think this devolution of power to the local authority will carry with it a significant risk of the same abuse that has been seen in London."

Evidence of money-making

"If this is how the rest of the country is likely to go, then I think there needs to be a proper look at regulation of the local authorities who receive these powers. At present, there is no regulation in place."

Last year, a BBC investigation found evidence that some council's in London were discussing financial targets for certain junctions. This is despite the fact that they should be doing all they can to reduce the number of violations.

Outside the capital, some local authorities have been given powers to fine drivers who enter bus lanes but not yet for other offences.

However, the likes of Reading, Bristol and Birmingham have over recent years been lobbying for greater powers like those that have been awarded to Cardiff.

Ack: [Chris Tourney on Confused.com](#)

The tax disc is going from 1 October 2014

From 1 October 2014, you'll still need to tax your vehicle but you won't get a tax disc.

If you have a tax disc with any months left to run after this date, it can be removed from the vehicle and destroyed.

DVLA will also let you pay for your vehicle tax by Direct Debit for tax starting from 1 November 2014.

For more information on how these changes will affect you, go to www.gov.uk/dvla/nomoretaxdisc.

Do you know one of the Two million Drivers?

Many drivers face a fine of £1,000 if they fail to update their photo-card driving Licences, according to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

It started issuing photo-card licences 15 years ago and more than 30 million drivers now have one. These are usually valid for 10 years and there is a legal requirement for drivers to renew the photograph at the same time as they renew their licence.

However, two million drivers have failed to do this. This means they could be fined up to £1,000 should they be pulled over by the police, who then discover that the photo and licence is out of date. Even failing to notify the DVLA that you have changed address could be costly.

Photo-card driving licences are set to become mandatory in 2015.

Victoria Ford from the DVLA believes the reasons for updating the photograph on your licence are clear. "Appearances can change and it is important that photo-card licences are updated every 10 years to ensure the police and other enforcement agencies have the best possible photograph to help them correctly identify whether a driving licence is being used fraudulently," she says. "This helps prevent driving licence impersonation - stopping disqualified and perhaps dangerous drivers taking to our roads." If you change your address or name, you have to tell the DVLA, so that your driving licence and car registration details can be updated. Towards the bottom of the card, you will find the address the authorities have for you. Normally the cost of renewing a licence is £20, but if you are merely updating your address your new licence will be free. Research from LV Car Insurance shows that nearly a fifth of drivers they interviewed had no idea when their licence would run out, even though the expiry date is clearly shown on the front of the licence and one in 10 admitted they had not renewed their licence for more than 10 years. The DVLA says that it sends letters to drivers whose licences are about to expire, but it is concerned that not everyone will check.

Ack: BBC News & Stockport Group

Did You Know?

- Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.
- Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!
- Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.
- Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.
- Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.
- The Swine Flu vaccine in 1976 caused more death and illness than the disease it was intended to prevent.

FACEBOOK

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



NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

To help minimise our costs, why not have the newsletter sent to you by email? It's easy to set up - just send an email to:
 peter.fawcett@warram.org.uk



Please include your name and address in the email to help with the administration side of things. No more waiting for the postman - do it today!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sundays at 10:15: 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th January 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd February	Observed Runs (car) Refresher Runs (car)	Near the ALDI car park, Crossfield Street, Warrington, WA1 1UP
On arrangement with your observer	Observed Runs (bikes)	On arrangement with your observer
Sundays 25 th January and 22 nd February 10:00 (weather permitting)	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 4 th February at 20:00	Committee Meeting	St Johns Church Hall, Stockton Heath
Sunday 15 th February	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.