

The logo for IAM RoadSmart is displayed on a blue background. The letters 'IAM' are in a large, white, rounded, lowercase font. Below them, the word 'RoadSmart' is written in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font.

iAM
RoadSmart

The text 'Official Provider' is centered on a dark grey, slightly curved background.

Official Provider

Warrington Group of Advanced Motorists

Newsletter

November/December 2016

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As most of you will know, we've just had our AGM and although numbers attending were disappointing, there were some new faces so that was very welcome. Personally, I couldn't attend due to a family holiday in Tenerife, and I'd like to thank all those for who stood in for me for doing such a great job.

I want to welcome three new members to our Committee - Chris Harris, Gill Moore and Tim Bolton. Fresh input is always welcome, and we've already held a Committee meeting and all three have already started to contribute. One thing that did come out of that Committee meeting was the appointment of Tim to Vice Chair - nothing like throwing you in at the deep end Tim!!

I'd like to remind everyone, or inform those who don't already know that as of 8th January (our 1st meet for the car observing in the New Year) we will have a new venue, namely

Fairfield & Howley Neighbourhood Project
Fairfield Street
Warrington
WA1 3AJ

This venue has a car park and a warm room for our associates and observers to wait in prior to allocations, and has the added bonus of having toilet facilities if required.

Since this is the last group newsletter of 2016 I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a safe, joyous and peaceful Christmas and a jovial New Year celebration.

Enough of me, here's your teaser:-

Sherlock Holmes breaks into a crime scene. The victim is the owner who is slumped dead on a chair with a bullet hole in his head. A gun lies on the floor and a cassette recorder is found on the table. On pressing the play button, Sherlock hears the message 'I have committed sins in my life and now I offer my soul to the great Lord....followed by a gunshot.

Sherlock smiles; of course it's a murder.

Why did he think so?

As always, you'll find the answer later in the newsletter.

Keep safe

Andrew Bloomer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hi there

Welcome to new member's Paul Taylor, Louise Froggat and Jim Shaw to the Car section; Stuart Main, Ian Dennett, Ian Campbell and Robin Gartland to the Motorcycle section. Should you have any questions or queries please ask and we will endeavour to resolve them.

WELCOME

Congratulations to Steve Broderick and Tim Bolton on passing the Car 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 me know at distribution@warram.org.uk

TTFN

Ian

WE ARE MOVING

As identified in the Chairman's Chatter piece the Car Section are moving their Sunday morning meeting place. It's not a practice we do that often and the last move was hardly substantial as we transferred from the Aldi car park to our current location when they started Sunday trading.

However, since the sale of the group caravan the vast majority of our normal Sunday's get together's have been in mild and clement weather but with winter quickly approaching we knew something had to be done.

From [Sunday 8th January](#) we will be meeting at
FAIRFIELD & HOWLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT (the old Fairfield School)
FAIRFIELD STREET
WARRINGTON
WA1 3AJ

Entrance to the car park is actually on Harrison Close and you pass the old school on the right. Facilities will include undercover, toilets, seats and a drink if you bring your own condiments (coffee, tea bag, milk & sugar etc)

IAM ROADSMART NEW STANDARDS

We were asked at the AGM to give a brief outline of the new standards that have been introduced by HQ into the observed runs for associates (both car and bikes) and what differences, if any, are there in the course content. I want to keep this fairly brief and not get bogged down into minute detail as it might not be the most interesting read for some!

Firstly, these new standards have been applied so that we have a consistency across the whole country so the associate's log book is supplied and delivered by HQ, and is identical in most respects to the observers log book and the examiners log book. Therefore, we are all working off the same document, no ambiguities as to what is being tested. This does sound very basic, and indeed it is, but you will all probably recall that the associates log book was always produced locally by the individual groups, so varied massively. Now, we don't have that - we have a uniformity of approach.

The associate's log book will replace the "How To Be A Better Driver/Rider" (HTBABD/R) as a tool and reference point for the course - it will contain everything an associate will need to know to pass their advanced test. They can still buy HTBABD/R if they wish to - that is a matter for them.

I can go into more detail if anyone is interested but hopefully this has given you a flavour of why the course has been modified and modernised.

If anyone wants to email me about any of this (bike or cars) please feel free to do so at Andrew.bloomer@warram.org.uk

Andrew Bloomer

THE JACK BELLIS DOUBLE TAKE CAMPAIGN

WAM is supporting the Jack Bellis Double Take campaign in tribute to the former associate who was tragically killed in a motorcycle crash. Jack, 19, passed his IAM Roadsmart advanced bike test in 2011, however he was the innocent victim of a collision a year later. Since Jack's passing, family and friends have vowed to keep his memory alive by launching a new road safety campaign. The Double Take campaign encourages drivers to literally do a "double take" before carrying out a manoeuvre. Family friend Tony Rich, raised a large amount of money for Jack's fund and this money is being used to assist under 30's who sign up for the advanced course with the group by subsidising their course fee by 50%. That's a saving of £74.50.

So pass the message to any riders you may know and further details can be obtained by contracting Gordon Blackshaw on Tel: 01925 860967

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

In the last issue I reflected on insurance arrangements for test cars and it reminded me of a couple of unusual incidents that occurred when I had borrowed test cars. For most of my time at the *Guardian* the motoring section comprised 32 pages, half of them filled with my editorial, and so frequently I would have two or three vehicles on loan so that there was always something fresh to feature.

One particular sunny day in midsummer I had in my drive a Porsche sports car, a Fiat 500 and my own car. I had to drive to my office and arranged the cars so that the sports car was garaged while my own was parked in the drive and I was using the Fiat for transport. I set out on my journey and with little warning the clouds came over and the sky began to grow black. Hailstones bigger than golf balls started to fall and when I returned home I discovered the roof of my Ford Sierra had been completely decimated; the damage couldn't be repaired but simply hidden by a plastic roof. The Porsche, of course, was safe - and amazingly the Fiat had been completely untouched by the hail I had driven through.

On another occasion I had returned home one evening in a borrowed people carrier and because I needed my own car early the next morning I parked it safely on the road while I obtained the keys to back my own car out of the way.

As I walked through our front door I gazed in horror as the people carrier started to move off. My first thought was that it was being stolen; my second was the realisation that no one was at the wheel.

And then I heard a car approaching in its opposite direction. I raced to the middle of the road to stop the oncoming car while the people carrier behind me began to turn in the direction of my brick gateposts. I desperately tried to stop the people carrier by putting my foot on the bumper but failed and it duly toppled one of my gateposts.

Astonishingly, the only damage to the vehicle was a scratch caused by my shoe. And I was relieved that the lady driving the other car hadn't been driving so fast she could not have stopped.

But I could not understand why it had happened when I distinctly remember applying the handbrake which was one of those that are operated electronically from a switch.

Some months later a new version of the people carrier was announced which had a conventional handbrake - and I learned that there had been several cases of the vehicle moving under its own steam because the action of slamming the driver's door reacted on the handbrake switch.

I learned very early to check the condition of a test car when it is delivered so that you don't suffer a sleepless night wondering why the wheel rims have been damaged when you haven't yet driven it - and in the days when excise licenses were affixed to the windscreen there were a couple of occasions when the discs were out of date.

CHAIRMANS CORNER: SOLUTION

How can a dead person rewind back the tape himself?
.....



COMPETITION WINNERS 2016 - CAR SECTION



Presentations were made after the business side of the AGM has been completed recently.

On the car side examiner Steve Belizna was happy to declare this years winner as Fiona Soutar and in the first photograph you can see Fiona being presented with her trophy by fellow competitor Peter Marsland. It is the third victory in the competition by Fiona in the last five years and confirms her excellent driving standards.

The Car Associate of the Year was Mrs Gill Moore and the picture shows her receiving her award from Group treasurer Steve Segar. Gill was selected due to her determination and dedication to pass the test.

Steve Segar was back up again but this time as recipient of the Roy Nelson Car Observer of the Year award which was presented by Group Secretary Jean Carter. Quite a break this time as Steve had last won the award back in 2000.

The John Norsworthy Award is given in recognition of outstanding support to the group and is open to any non-committee member. In 2016 Carol Griffiths was awarded this prestigious trophy as appreciation for her relentless support over a great number of years.

FUNNIES

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says:

"Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?"

Slim says, "I feel just like a newborn baby."

"Really!? Like a newborn baby!?"

"Yep. No hair, no teeth and I think I just wet my pants."

DID YOU KNOW?

July 2015 saw the first conviction for middle-lane hogging. This is where a driver stays in the middle lane of a motorway for an excessive length of time. Middle-lane hoggers are frowned upon by many drivers, and doing so can usually land you with penalty points and a fine. Despite these deterrents, new research reveals that 32% of drivers admit to hogging the middle lane.

Although middle-lane hoggers are considered "selfish" by 51% of drivers, the problem may be caused by a lack of awareness. On-the-spot fines for middle-lane hoggers were introduced in 2013 as part of a wider initiative to tackle "careless driving". Yet only 135 charges of middle-lane hogging have been recorded since then. This may explain why almost two fifths (37%) of drivers aren't aware that middle-lane hogging is even an offence. Furthermore, nearly a fifth (19%) admit that they were never taught about middle-lane hogging in the first place. However, this doesn't excuse the problem. More than one in 10 (11%) drivers have had an accident or near-miss as the result of a middle-lane hogger.

Middle lanes aren't for coasting in, because this practice can cause congestion and dangerous manoeuvres from other drivers. According to research conducted by Confused.com attitudes toward middle-lane hoggers aren't friendly - it comes in as the second-biggest motorway faux-pas (15%). The top five biggest driving annoyances are:

Tailgating	35%
Middle-lane hogging	15%
Not indicating	15%
Congestion	11%
Slow drivers	7%

Ironically, many "careless driving" behaviours come as a direct result of middle-lane hogging. As a response to someone hogging the middle lane, 17% said they have undertaken the offender, and 4% said they have tailgated. Worryingly, 42% said that they have broken the speed limit in order to overtake a middle-lane hogger.

The research also found that one of the biggest misconceptions about motorway driving is that there's a "fast" and a "slow" lane. Two thirds (66%) of drivers believed this to be the case, but in truth there's no such thing. The Highway Code (Rule 264) clearly states that:

"You should always drive in the left-hand lane when the road ahead is clear. If you are overtaking a number of slower-moving vehicles, you should return to the left-hand lane as soon as you are safely past."

Middle lanes aren't for coasting in, because this practice can cause congestion and dangerous manoeuvres from other drivers. Not only could you find yourself with a £100 fine or points, but you could put your own life and others at risk.

[Ack: adapted from a piece on [Confused.com website](#)]

CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS FROM IAM ROADSMART



Our advanced course gift vouchers make attractive, thoughtful presents. Valid for twelve months, our vouchers are sent to the purchaser so that a personal greeting can be added before gifting them.

The voucher pack is presented in a beautiful blue ribbon design envelope. Gift vouchers are available for both our Advanced Driver and Advanced Rider Courses and include everything needed to help any driver or rider gain our advanced qualification. The recipient simply needs to add a dash of commitment to learning and developing new skills with us!

Our gift vouchers are usually £149, however if you order before Christmas then we are offering them at just £134, saving you £15 per voucher. There is no limit to how many can be ordered. Simply use the code **GV10** when ordering online (www.iamroadsmart.com) or by calling **0300 303 1134**.

FUNNIES

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong.

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

LOOKING IS NOT ALWAYS SEEING....

Do you think you always look and see? What about that time your best friend had a haircut and you didn't remark on it, someone in the office started wearing glasses and all you could think was there's something different about them, but could not put your finger on it?

How many of us have arrived home and cannot recall a particular part of the journey? Proof if needed that we may be looking but not always seeing.

For instance with dark mornings and nights, fog and mist. By the way do you know the difference? The density of fog and mist are different. In fog the distance you can see (known as visibility) is less than 1km, but in mist the visibility distance can be 1-2km.

How should we look and what should we look for when driving or riding in fog?

Well a good start would be the people around us; remember side on with no lights even a large vehicle can be hard to see. Pedestrians too can favour fashion over function and blend into the background. Road surface issues can be a problem and the pothole we would normally steer around attracts like a magnet; a major problem on two wheels. Road markings too can disappear, so slow down and be prepared for others to make sudden decisions.

So we really do need to have eyes on main beam and we must engage our brains to look that little bit harder for someone on two wheels and someone on two, even four legs.

Oh and by the way remember to look at the men in your life a little closer because as we hit Movember (www.movember.com) all those moustaches will gradually be appearing....

[Ack: Lesley Upham, IAM RoadSmart commercial director]



COUNTRY ROADS

59% of all fatalities occur on country roads. These roads often have sharp bends and blind bends which can hide unexpected hazards. Stay in control and give yourself time to react because you never know what's around the corner. THINK! Brake before the bend, not on it.

The facts;

Three people die each day on average on country roads

The number of people killed on country roads is nearly 10 times higher than on motorways

In 2015, 10,307 people were killed or seriously injured on country roads in Great Britain

The law

You must not drive faster than the speed limit for the type of road and your type of vehicle. The speed limit is the absolute maximum and it doesn't mean it's safe to drive at this speed in all conditions.

The best drivers/riders read the road ahead and anticipate potential hazards. Look out for upcoming bends, hidden dips, blind summits and concealed entrances.

Country roads often have sharp bends. To stay in control and give yourself time to react to unexpected hazards, brake before the bend, not in it.

Overgrown verges, bushes and trees on country roads can block your view and potentially obscure an oncoming hazard. Always drive at a speed which will allow you to stop in the distance you can see to be clear (double that on a single track road). Allow more time to stop on wet or slippery surfaces.

The speed limit is a limit not a target. The national speed limit on single carriage roads is 60mph, but there will be times you need to drive under that in order to drive correctly for the conditions. In fact most people do on these roads - the average free flow speed is 48mph.

If you get stuck behind a slow moving vehicle be patient. Dips in roads, bends and other junctions joining your road often hide oncoming vehicles, so unless it's absolutely essential, don't overtake.

If passing more vulnerable road users such as horse riders, cyclists and walkers, pass wide and slow.

Even if you're familiar with a country road, never take it for granted as the conditions can be different every time.

[Ack: www.think.direct.gov.uk/country-roads]

FUNNIES

A successful rancher died and left everything to his devoted wife. She was a very good-looking woman and determined to keep the ranch, but knew little about ranching, so she decided to place an ad in the newspaper for a ranch hand. Two cowboys applied for the job. One was gay and the other a drunk. She thought long and hard about it, and when no one else applied she decided to hire the gay guy, figuring it would be safer to have him around the house than the drunk. He proved to be a hard worker who put in long hours every day and knew a lot about ranching. For weeks, the two of them worked, hard and the ranch was doing very well. Then one day, the rancher's widow said to the hired hand, "You have done a really good job, and the ranch looks great. You should go into town and kick up your heels." The hired hand readily agreed and went into town one Saturday night. One o'clock came, however, and he didn't return. Two o'clock and no hired hand. Finally he returned around two-thirty, and upon entering the room, he found the rancher's widow sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine, waiting for him.

She quietly called him over to her. "Unbutton my blouse and take it off," she said.

Trembling, he did as she directed. "Now take off my boots."

He did as she asked, ever so slowly. "Now take off my socks."

He removed each gently and placed them neatly by her boots.

"Now take off my skirt."

He slowly unbuttoned it, constantly watching her eyes in the fire light.

"Now take off my bra." Again, with trembling hands, he did as he was told and dropped it to the floor.

Then she looked at him and said, "If you ever wear my clothes into town again, you're fired..."

JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Contributions to the January / February newsletter are more than welcome. Please send them to: newsletter@warram.org.uk or pass them to any committee member. The deadline for January / February newsletter is Sunday 18th December 2016.



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.



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: distribution@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!



*Last Few At
This Address*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sundays at 10:15: 6 th , 13 th , 20 th 27 th November 4 th , 11 th , 18 th December	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
Sunday 27 th November	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 2 nd November at 20:00	Committee Meeting	St Johns Church Hall, Stockton Heath
Sunday 18 th December	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.