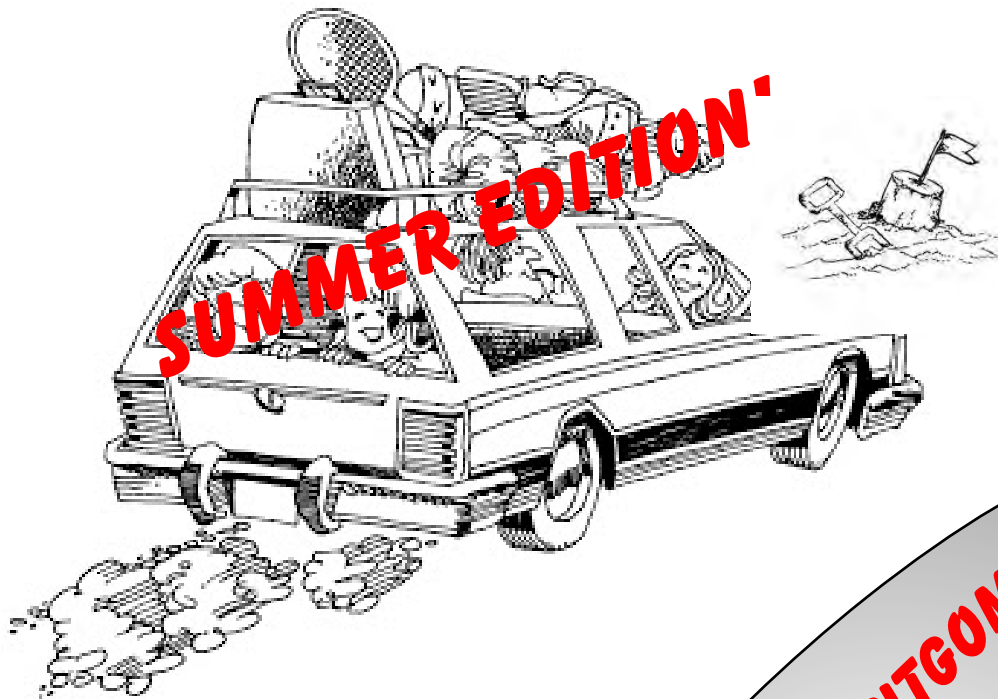




IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

MID WALES MATTERS
Newsletter of Mid Wales Advanced Motorists
Registered charity 1109844 Group 3247
Affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists

Volume 12, Issue 3



**STOP PRESS! MONTGOMERY
CLOVERLAND MOTOR MUSEUM
OVER 1,00 VEHICLES ON SHOW! PAGE 7 & 8**



IN THIS ISSUE!



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How's your memory?

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GROUP NEWS

New Associates

NEW MEMBERS 2015

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following associates who were successful in their IAM Advanced Driving  or Riding Test 

Name	Location	Observer	Date
Alwyn Owen  	Bow Street, Aber.	Rees Thomas	Apr 15
Clive Todman  	Builth Wells	Geoff Smith	Jun 15

Associate Course Dates

Course	Start Date	Day	Times	Location
15/3	12/08/2015	Wednesday	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells
15/4	23/09/2015	Wednesday	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Bracken Trust, Llandrindod Wells

Please note that course 15/3 has been deferred from 22nd July 2015 due to a lack of new associates.

Newsletter Editor (Vacancy)

The role of editor is enjoyable and has reward and satisfaction in seeing ones imagination and efforts tangibly manifest themselves in printed form.

As such, I have enjoyed being involved with the Group in producing the MWAM Newsletter which I endeavoured to make as interesting as I could. Whether I succeeded or not is for you to decide !

However, I have much demand upon my time with other matters and consequently feel it necessary to resign from the role of editor. In doing so I appeal on behalf of the group for a fellow member to take on the task. As such, the editor has access to easy to use desk top publishing software which is of great assistance in the role.

So, if you feel that you can be of assistance please let this be known to a committee member in order that the next quarter newsletter appears on time.

Best Wishes,

Bill Smith.

Alwyn Owen from Bow Street, Aberystwyth is pictured below on the left receiving his IAM certificate from, and being congratulated by, Nigel Godman our Chief Observer at the new associates introduction meeting held at the Bracken Trust on 20th May 2015.

Alwyn was awarded a prestigious grade 1 in his car test which is only given to those associates who achieve a score of 1 in virtually every category. Alwyn joined our first course of this year on 18th March and was observed and advised by Rees Thomas. He completed his test in Carmarthen on 28th April and joins the elite group of nine associates who have achieved this grade.



Clive Todman from Builth Wells has joined Alwyn in obtaining a F1RST grade in his recent car test. Clive has been an IAM Motorcycle member for years and decided to ensure his driving skills were as good as his riding skills by taking the IAM Car test. Clive has now commenced his training to become a Motorcycle Observer with MWAM.



Contributed by Nigel Godman

BBC looking for talented drivers

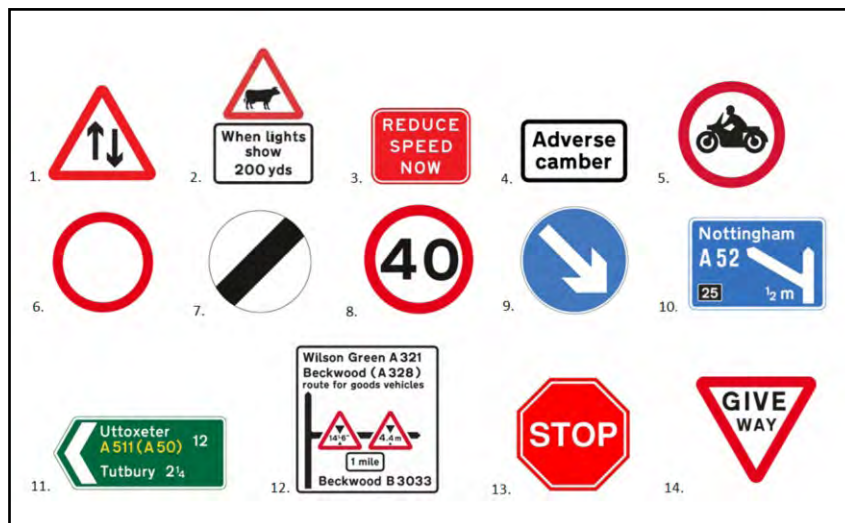
Do you consider yourself talented behind the wheel? If so, the BBC would like to hear from you. They are currently developing a new TV idea and are looking to find the country's best drivers. Whether motoring is part of your job or you're simply an enthusiast, they are looking for people with a sense of fun and adventure. To register your interest please send an email to press.office@iam.org.uk

I woke up on a sunny Wednesday morning (3/6/15) looked in my emails to find IAM Inform and found the BBC has approached the IAM to search for Top Gear replacement presenters. If this is true I will be demanding a TV licence refund - bring back the originals including the Orangutan!

MOTURING TIPS FROM PETER RODGER



These motoring tips from the IAM's head of driving standards Peter Rodger are looking at different traffic signs to make your journey as safe as possible. Here are seven important road signs that all motorists should become familiar with.



1. Triangular traffic signs with a red border warn motorists about potential hazards. Figure 1, for example, warns motorists of two-way traffic straight ahead, while figure 2 warns motorists about cattle potentially crossing in a rural area – be prepared to slow down or stop.
2. Some warning signs appear as red rectangles where a reduction in speed is required (figure 3), or in white rectangles where motorists are approaching a narrow road or bend in the road (figure 4) – keep an eye out for these and slow down if necessary.
3. Circular traffic signs with a red border instruct motorists and prohibit certain types of manoeuvres. For example, figure 5 prohibits solo motorcyclists from travelling in a specific area, while figure 6 prohibits all vehicles except pedal cycles – adhere to these signs to avoid being fined.
4. Maximum speed limits are also displayed in circular traffic signs. Where figure 7 is displayed the national speed limit for the type of road you are travelling on applies. Where figure 8 is shown you must not exceed the displayed speed limit.
5. Circular blue traffic signs give instructions about where to make a turn in the road or get in lane if there is a junction. For example, where a traffic sign similar to figure 9 is shown motorists must keep right.
6. Rectangular boards display important information and give directions. You will often see a blue board on the motorway (figure 10), a green board on primary routes (figure 11), and a white board on non-primary routes that displays both route information and regulatory signs (figure 12). Take note of these to help you progress with your journey.
7. Where traffic signs are shown similar to figure 13 and 14 motorists must adhere to the displayed instructions at all times. Both red octagon-shaped stop signs and inverted triangle give way signs are used at junctions with poor sight lines or where minor roads cross high speed major roads – stop or give way as necessary.

NEW REGIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER



Dear Colleagues

I am very pleased to be appointed as the **IAM Regional Operations Manager for the Central England & Wales areas**. I am excited to be working with such a prestigious organisation as the IAM and I look forward to meeting as many groups and their members as soon as I can.

My first opportunity to meet many of you will be at the forthcoming Forum Meetings in Northamptonshire and West Mercia over the next 2 Saturdays and at the Wales Forum Meeting, when the date is confirmed.

My recent employment was working as an Operations Manager for Victim Support, a National Charity helping victims of crime. I spent 11 years working in the East Midlands, managing and supporting volunteers who delivered tailored support directly to service users. The last 6 months of my time with Victim Support saw me generating performance reports for the Central England & Wales area in readiness for new funding streams and grant bids. Prior to working for Victim Support, I spent over 22 years as a Police Officer in the Royal Air Force, which included basic driver training and later, some enhanced driving skills and

police motorcycle training for Royal Protection duties.

After 26 years away from motorcycles and facing a long and laborious commute to work each day, I bought a Honda NC700 in late 2013 for the journey to work and felt I was in need of refresher training. This led me firstly to my local Bike Safe provider and then in November 2014, I successfully completed the IAM Skills for Life course. I have recently started as a volunteer for the local blood bikes group at weekends, when I can fit duties in.

I am very impressed by the dedication of volunteers and staff of the IAM and I am eager to build relationships with all the groups and members in the Central England & Wales region so that the support you deserve continues to be available.

Please feel free to contact me via email, text or phone; my contact details are:

Ian Firth
Regional Operations Manager (Central England & Wales Region)

NEW TO MONTGOMERY !



CLOVERLAND MODEL CAR MUSEUM!



DON'T MISS IT!

**A UNIQUE EXHIBITION OF OVER 1,000 VEHICLES!
ONLY £2 ENTRANCE FEE**



**FULL REVIEW
OVERLEAF**

THE CLOVERLAND MODEL CAR MUSEUM
MONTGOMERY INSTITUTE, ARTHUR STREET, MONTGOMERY.

This is a lifetime's collection by one lady, Miss Rogers, of Trefnanny near Welshpool. She has collected and assembled a piece of motoring par excellence, since her father gave her two model cars for a birthday present, as a young girl

Marques include Bugatti, Bentley, Mercedes and Rolls-Royce cars together with Grand Prix and World Land Speed Record breakers, buses, trams and vans of every description. Two superstar models - over three feet long – reign over their lesser subjects. One is a Singer Le

Mans – a replica of a car, Miss Rogers owned and drove for forty years until 1998.. The second, Madame Cloette, was probably the forerunner of Brum – a feisty car hero of children's TV in the Nineties.

More than just model cars – Cloverlands is a sublime piece of motoring social history, lovingly compiled by an early motoriste. Miss Rogers not only collected, but built and commissioned, models large and small.



EDITOR'S CARS 1972 - 2015 - CAN YOU REMEMBER YOUR'S ?



DRIVING IN OTHER COUNTRIES – UGANDA

For the last three years my wife and I have travelled to Uganda for a couple of weeks – usually at the end of January and beginning of February, which corresponds to the beginning of the Ugandan academic year. We visit a village near the capital, Kampala, which comprises 200+ children and just a handful of adults. The name of the village is Bulabakulu, which roughly translates to “The place with few adults.” The children are well looked after, having fresh water, a roof over their heads, food, access to a clinic and schooling.



When we first went to the village we found many things very different and this took a great deal of getting used to. With each visit, we have come to love the Ugandan people who are very welcoming and very resourceful.

One thing which we still find ‘interesting’ is the road network and the driving!

The main roads are often surfaced and have deep gullies on each side of the road to cope with the heavy rain when it comes. In many places the speed ramps are frequent, steep and high. Where there are road works the traffic is not diverted or managed in any way and it seems to be left to each driver to choose how he/rarely she will negotiate the challenge. Consequently, when one reaches a roundabout in an urban area, the traffic will go in any direction he thinks best. There are few road markings.



Should a vehicle break down it will be repaired on the side of the road regardless of its size. It is not unusual to see several trucks on their sides in the ditches

where they have had to take evasive action!

One of the ways people get about is to use a ‘Boda Boda’ (a motor bike taxi). My first ride on one was a real education! They are very inventive also about what they can transport on one of these Boda Bodas. We have counted 7 passengers on one bike, 50 live chickens on the handlebars of another and a long clothes rack at 90 degrees which was about as wide as the carriageway.

The police seem not to worry too much about these things but do occasionally use hand-held radar ‘speed guns’ but one we saw being used intrigued us – the policeman was working alone and there was no one to pull offenders over further down the road.



Having said all this we found the people kind, generous and very creative in the way they manage their lives and travelling about. I sometimes smile when back home some drivers complain about a pothole or two!

Colin J Williams

WHAT INTERESTING DRIVES HAVE YOU MADE IN BRITAIN OR ABROAD?



There are always some interesting motoring tales to tell of car, motor cycle, cycling or even walking journeys.

Why not drop us a line, message, photographs etc for inclusion in your newsletter and share the experience, good or bad with group members.



BRAKES 20 MPH CAMPAIGN



What needs to be done?

Brake is part of a broad coalition of charities calling for 20mph limits to become the norm in our cities, towns and villages, making them safer, healthier, more sociable places. Ultimately, we want the government to change the national default urban speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.

In the meantime, we are calling on local authorities to GO 20 by implementing widespread 20mph limits in their own areas.

What do you think? Enforcement? Average speed limits? Encouraging speeding elsewhere?



Let us know!



HARLEY DAVIDSON - PROJECT LIVEWIRE

To the surprise of many, Harley Davidson have gone electric with their Project Livewire electrically powered motor cycle. Generally speaking there has been favourable comment from the two wheeled world for the 55 kW powered machine which has a torque of 70Nm and a restricted top speed of 91 mph.

A charging time of 3.5 hrs currently gives a range of only 53 miles. Electrically powered means instant torque equating to a 4 second 0 - 60 sprint time.

Read more at <http://www.stuff.tv/harley-davidson/livewire/review>



For the second year running, Mid Wales Advanced Motorists (MWAM) and Shropshire Advanced Motorists and Motorcyclists (SAMM) combined to run an IAM event at the air show.

The weather was very kind and apparently the public attendance was up compared to last year. As last year, SAMM brought along their Mobile Display Unit (MDU) which is a very impressive 'piece of kit'. The MDU was positioned in a more central site than last year and quite a few passing 'air show attendees' showed interest in what the IAM had to offer.

Several 'Skill for Life' leaflets were given out and only time will tell if anyone contacts the IAM.

MWAM's thanks go to John Morris (Chairman SAMM) and Les Bell who represented SAMM. Mike Price, Nigel Godman and myself represented MWAM.

Dave Tompsett
MWAM

INTERESTED IN A JAGUAR FACTORY TOUR?



After a refreshing welcome drink, you'll be shown to the brand new Jaguar Land Rover Body In White facility. Here, you'll join the story as aluminium body panels are formed into the XE's unrivalled lightweight architecture.

Next you'll meet Jaguar's robotic army, sealing and welding in perfect sync, with overhead platforms ensuring a first-class view. Then on to the mind-blowing logistics of Trim and Final, where everything comes together.

Glazing gives the XE its exquisite finish, engine and wheels are fitted, and power pulses through the Jaguar for the very first time. Pose your questions to the experts, breathe in the scent of new leather, and get to grips with every inch of the XE's sleek, aerodynamic form.

Cost of the 3 hour tour is £45 per person and includes

- Refreshments & welcome
- Dedicated group tour guide
- Access to privileged areas
- Refreshments & depart

EU AUTOMATE ACCIDENT REPORTS



Within the next three years all new vehicles sold will feature a built-in device that alerts emergency services in the event of an accident.

According to current statistics they believe this new eCall system will allow emergency services to attend accidents quicker, decreasing the number of serious injuries and deaths. Some studies have suggested response times could be slashed by up to half by the device.

This same plan was nearly passed through the European Parliament in 2012, but it was shelved due to fears over privacy. The system will transmit your vehicle type, accident time, location and fuel used when the airbag sensors are set off. The MEP responsible for the scheme assures us that users data will be safeguarded. A guarantee from a politician. We feel so much better now.

There have been calls for the device to be optional, as round the clock connectivity opens users up to being tracked.