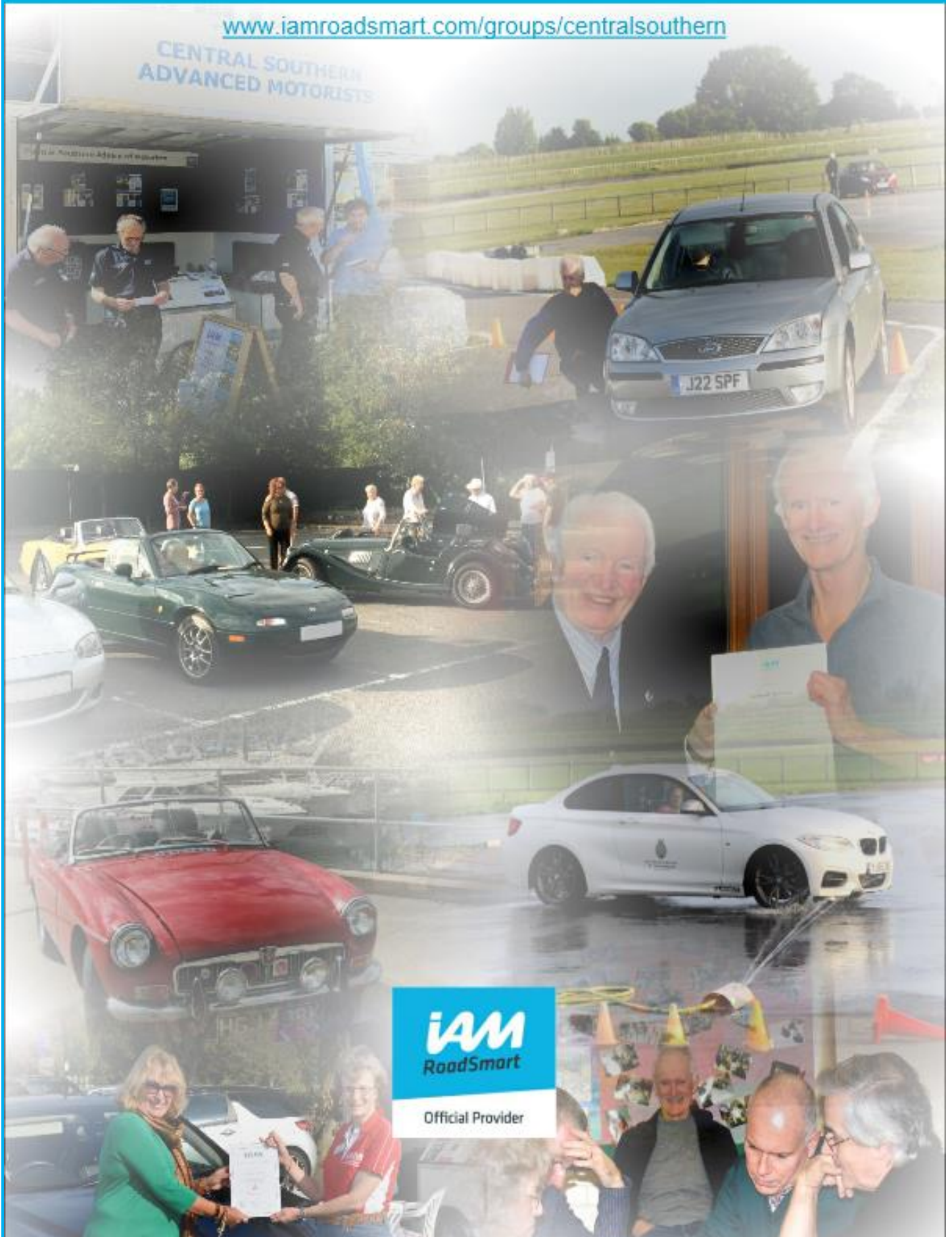


# Autumn Newsletter 2021

## CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/centralsouthern](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/centralsouthern)



# CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

## PRESIDENT

Dennis Clement

## CSAM COMMITTEE

Chairman	David Mesquita-Morris
07483 233740 (evenings & weekends only)	<a href="mailto:chair@csam.org.uk">chair@csam.org.uk</a>
Vice Chairman	THIS IS A VACANT POST  <a href="mailto:vice.chair@csam.org.uk">vice.chair@csam.org.uk</a>
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01403 250293	<a href="mailto:secretary@csam.org.uk">secretary@csam.org.uk</a>
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02392 595817	<a href="mailto:membership@csam.org.uk">membership@csam.org.uk</a>
Associate Liaison	John France
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**Please note the email addresses above stay with the post not the individual.**



Registered address 31 Shepherds Walk, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8ED

Registered Charity No. 1079142

## From the Editor



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter for 2021.

As I put this edition to bed we are experiencing problems with the delivery of fuel at a rate to replace the fuel purchased by all drivers following warnings of a shortage. It was these very warnings which resulted in panic buying by large numbers of motorists and so the warnings of a shortage became self-fulfilling as the percentage of motorists driving with full tanks soared to record heights.

As I rode my motorcycle to it's annual appointment for a MOT test I was passing long queues waiting to enter fuel stations. One queue when I returned had gone completely but this was only due to the service station running dry and closing until they received their next delivery. Because the bike is fifteen years old and relies on carburettors instead of fuel injection I will now be using super grade petrol which is E5 (5% ethanol) to avoid any problems with the E10 (10% ethanol) fuel which is now in the pumps as standard as part of this government's attempts to be greener and which is degrading the rubber items in older fuel systems. I hope that all members with older vehicles are aware of the potential problems and have checked the suitability for their vehicle. If you are unsure the government website to check your vehicle is here <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-e10-petrol> .

I hope that our members managed to obtain the fuel that they needed in these trying times and that things are back to some sort of normal before our Observer Training Day which, for me, is a 98 mile round trip before we even start on training runs. Our last full scale training day was a full two years ago because of Covid, and I would hate to have to miss the next due to fuel shortages.

For my wife Karen's birthday we went to spend a few nights in London and to catch a show. We decided to travel up by coach and rely on TfL whilst in the city. I was once again surprised at how much more you notice when you can look around and ignore the need to concentrate on the driving or the observing. The buildings, people and street furniture become items to be taken in for their own points of interest instead of just registering as a hazard which you are aware of but not the full detail because you are already looking for next hazard.

I was pleased to be able to attend the meeting where we said goodbye to Sally and Gary, as they both move right away from our area, and to thank them for all they had done for CSAM and Chichester Group before that. I also passed on the good wishes of those who had contacted me with messages because they were unable to attend.

**I am always looking for articles for this newsletter, if you have anything to say which you think our members would appreciate please forward a copy to me. Contributors, both old and new, would you please forward your work to my newsletter email address, [editor@csam.org.uk](mailto:editor@csam.org.uk).**

Andy Wilson,

Newsletter and Website Editor

# CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

## Forthcoming CSAM Events

Members are advised to check the Events page of the CSAM website before setting out in case of last minute changes. Please click on the links on the website to find maps showing approximate location of venues.

Unless otherwise indicated, events and activities are open to all Members; everyone is encouraged to come along and, if they wish, to bring a guest or family member(s).

[CSAM Events Page Link](#)

Date	Event	Location
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 19:30	Better Driving Course, this course is open to all members of the public who wish to improve their driving. The course will be held over five consecutive Tuesdays, the first date being 28th September.	AFH
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> October From 9:30am	Free Observed Runs for Associates and members of the public with one of our highly qualified Observers. Full Members are also encouraged to book a refresher drive. See website for other dates, then please contact our Chief Observer Phil Coleman to book. Contact details on page one.	NCP
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 9:00am	Observer Training Day	BC
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> of October 7:30pm	CSAM Annual General Meeting; Guest Speaker IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive Tony Greenidge	BC
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm	A talk by Lester Parsons, "My Life as a Traffic Roads Policing Officer"	AFH
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November From 9:30am	Free Observed Runs for Associates and members of the public with one of our highly qualified Observers. Full Members are also encouraged to book a refresher drive. See website for other dates, then please contact our Chief Observer Phil Coleman to book. Contact details on page one.	NCP
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December From 9:30am	Free Observed Runs for Associates and members of the public with one of our highly qualified Observers. Full Members are also encouraged to book a refresher drive. See website for other dates, then please contact our Chief Observer Phil Coleman to book. Contact details on page one.	NCP

BC: Billingshurst Centre, Roman Way, Billingshurst, RH14 9EW

NCP: Northgate Car Park, Chichester (entrance on eastern side of large roundabout)

AFH: Allan Fletcher Hall, Offington Park Methodist Church, South Farm Road, Worthing, BN14 7TN (entrance to the car park is in Broomfield Avenue)

## From Our Chairman



Back on the road again...

How pleased I am to get back on the road in an Observing capacity. While I've not taken out a regular Associate yet, I have performed a couple of runs with other Observers to see if we've still got it. As it turns out, we never lost it. I'm also helping someone along with a little extra Masters coaching which I find very fulfilling.

Whenever I'm sat in a car with someone, it always reminds me of our core mission, to help people become better drivers. All the activity behind the scenes required to run a group becomes worthwhile when you see the penny drop and an improvement made, no matter how great or small.

I hear that with the COVID pandemic and the reduced use of public transport, there are currently more cars on the road than this time two years ago. Not only is the density of traffic increased (something I can attest to having spent more time parked on the M25 recently than usual), but the mix of driving abilities is a little more diverse requiring a sharper focus in our observation. This makes our mission even more important than before.

Coming back to the "activity behind the scenes", in addition to our Observer corps, we are very grateful to a small team of volunteers who form the CSAM Committee, each taking a vital role in the smooth running of the group. As we enter September, the forthcoming AGM is on my mind and the inevitable changing hands of a few Committee roles.

The cycling of roles across the group membership is an incredibly healthy way for an IAM RoadSmart group to operate, allowing fresh ideas to keep making their way into the way the group is run. It also limits the burden placed on a small number of individuals for the benefit of all members. CSAM is a leading group in this respect, with individuals typically holding a particular role for between 3 and 4 years. This is enough time for someone to become established and make a positive contribution and move the group forward a little, but not so long that they become stale in their role. We really have the first CSAM committee to thank for establishing this very positive culture that I'm honoured to now be a part of.

However, good things rarely come for free, and this operating model needs a supply of willing new volunteers drawn from the membership.

If you have a few hours a week that you'd like to give to this good cause and help the continuity of the group, please do let me know, as we have a few open roles that need filling.

We are very glad to be planning the AGM as an in-person event this year and I look forward to meeting a few more of you in person. We have Tony Greenidge, Chief Executive of IAM RoadSmart, coming to talk to us, so I urge you to attend. I hope to be able to live-stream the AGM for those who find it too far to travel or those who are still taking COVID related precautions; if this looks technically feasible, we'll send details.

Keep safe, on and off the road,

David.

Chairman, Central Southern Advanced Motorists

## Chief Observer's Corner



This will be my final Newsletter article as Chief Observer. After four years I'm standing down from the role of Chief Observer, a new Chief Observer will be confirmed at the AGM. I have enjoyed my time in the role and have learnt lots, hopefully I have been able to pass on a lot of what I have gained to the Observer Team. When I first took on the role I had lots of help from my predecessor Gary Smith, thanks Gary for all your help and advice. I'd also like to thank Sally Franks who has helped keep me on the straight and narrow, her knowledge and particularly her advice regarding our process documentation has been invaluable. The biggest thanks goes to the Observer Team, I am proud of their achievements in helping a huge number of people pass their Advanced Driver Course and I know they will continue to deliver in the future. Their commitment and passion for what they do is the reason that CSAM and the IAM is so successful.

### To business

We have now return to normal observed runs. We do still follow the Covid prevention guidelines and we keep the guidelines under review, they will be changed when we are advised.

Currently we have 35 Observers, including 2 Trainee Observer. Since my last Newsletter article Gary Smith and Brain Tompsett have stood down, we thank them for their service to IAM RoadSmart and CSAM during their time as Observers, we will miss them. We still have a number of Observers who have declared that they will not be able to restart just yet. As a result of the changes within the Observer team we are still reassigning some Associates. I'm happy to say, thanks to John France's hard work, our Associate waiting list has been moving in the right direction. If you have been put on the waiting list please bear with us, you will be assigned a new Observer as soon as one is available. You may be asked if you are prepared to travel to meet an Observer, if you can this will help us and may mean that you can restart a little quicker.

We are always looking for new Observers, so if you would like to join our Observer training program please let us know, we are especially interested in members from the Brighton area. If you have spoken to me in the past and you are still interested my successor will be very happy to hear from you.

Many Associates memberships have been extended due to the time that has been lost because of the lockdown, if you are unsure regarding your membership status please ask our Associate Liaison, John France.

### Restarting Chichester Northgate Runs

We restarted the Chichester Northgate Sunday morning sessions. We were in the car park in July, August and September. Our next session is Sunday 10th of October and the following one will be Sunday 21st of November. If you would like to book a run please let me know so that I can book you in. We run two sessions 9:30 and 10:45, please include your preference when you contact me and I will try to accommodate your preference. The sessions are open to Associates, CSAM members, IAM members and members of the public.

### The Emsworth Show

# CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

We attended the Emsworth Show on the August bank holiday Monday. We spoke to a lot of people and invited them for a free taster drive at Chichester. Our hope and expectation is that over the next few months they will book a session.

Phil Coleman

Chief Observer

## Membership Mumbblings!



I hope you are all still keeping well. For now we seem to have some respite from the pandemic but I think as the schools go back and we approach the winter months whether we truly have "learned to live with the virus". Working into and out of lockdown I have seen many changes, and recovery has brought about some more challenges. Recovery is one of these challenges and the surges post pandemic in both my full time work and the voluntary work I do for the local CSAM group. It has been a juggling act and quite hard to respond as quickly to queries from group members and those interested in joining the group. The best way to contact at the moment is via email and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

It has been great to get back into the passenger seat observing once more and enjoying the Sunday mornings driving in and around what the South Downs has to offer and facing the old and some of the new challenges that have appeared on the road with the increased number of vehicles of road users. The satisfaction from the first drive with your associate, watching the improvement to some of the last drives before the test where it is a pleasure to be the passenger and they are also picking up areas of improvement is so rewarding. It is great to see associates taking their advanced test and becoming full members and it will also be great when more of the social aspects of this group can happen again.

How are you finding the roads? Although busier I feel the volume of traffic on the roads has become more predictable and the usual rush hours previously experienced are starting to return. Most drivers seem more confident behind the wheels once more but I still see the impatience on the road and a lot more pulling out of side streets without concern of the approaching driver or the traffic behind them. My advance driving skills certainly helped the other day approaching a mini roundabout in Worthing and noticed the car approaching from my first exit had not made eye contact or altered speed. I am so grateful for the notion of "planning to stop, looking to go" as I was able to stop and wait for them to drive straight over and continue their journey.

With a new Highway Code expected later this year and the new E10 petrol at the pumps there are a number of changes happening on the roads to keep up to date with. The update to the Highway Code will be the first changes in a decade which will see pedestrians and cyclists have higher priority on the road over cars and motorbikes. It is worth saying that not all petrol cars will be able to use the new fuel but there is helpful guidance on gov.uk. I did like the disclaimer that "This only applies to petrol vehicles. Diesel and electric vehicles cannot use E10 petrol". I guess we all take for granted what we know as advanced drivers but I would certainly check compatibility if you are unsure, especially if you have a classic car.

I have really enjoyed my time as membership secretary, and gain great satisfaction supporting members developing their driving skills. Members that have passed their advanced driving test, I really recommend you think about becoming a Fellow. It is so easy for bad habits to sneak back into driving and the opportunity to re-sit your advanced driving test every three years ensures that you maintain your advanced driving to a high standard. Those that are looking to push themselves further and obtain the highest civilian standard, I cannot recommend the Masters enough. It was one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences I have done behind the wheel. Achieving a Masters Distinction in my 5 year retest at the end of 2019 was one of the proudest moments as a driver. I obtained my advanced test on 14th March 2019, but it was CSAM that truly developed me into the driver I am today. Unfortunately this will be the last newsletter I write as membership secretary of the group as I will be standing down at the AGM. With a second child due in November and the pressures at work, I need to take a back seat for a few years but will be involved in the group as an observer and will be willing to take on committee roles in the future when I have more capacity again. Hopefully I will see many of you at the AGM and at future events held by CSAM

Matt

Membership Secretary

## Associates' News



We Now that restrictions have officially ended, Observed Runs have restarted in earnest and several Associates are close to Test Ready with two already passing with a F1rst.

Nine Associates have joined us since June. Our Waiting List is increasing in areas where we are short of active Observers. Additionally, Associates who have been "On Hold" or were reluctant to start have also begun to come forward to enquire if Observers are available.

Our Waiting List is a concern and I would like to ask every Observer to look closely at their current workload to see if they have space for another Associate and if so, please let me know.

## IMPORTANT

**A 3-month extension to Associate membership is being offered by IAM to Associates who fit the following criteria:**

- **Purchased their course after 30 June 2019**
- **Receive their renewal invitation on or before 30 September 2021**
- **Have been unable to complete their coaching and test within their first 12 months of membership.**

If an Associate wishes to extend, they must contact the Customer Care Team to request an extension. The Customer Care Team can be contacted on 0300 303 1134 between 8.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday or by emailing support@iam.org.uk.



Just to remind you that IAM have produced online training modules for Associates. Hopefully, these modules will help support your course work and encourage everyone to improve their driving skills.

John France

Associate Liaison

## **GB stickers no longer valid for driving abroad**

Drivers travelling abroad will have to display UK stickers instead of GB ones

Anyone taking their car abroad will have to display a UK sticker rather than a GB one. The change is rumoured to be a sign of solidarity with Northern Ireland from Westminster in the face of post-Brexit trade tensions.

The GB sticker has been in use for 111 years, but while it is technically valid for Northern Irish cars taken abroad, that country is not part of the geographical island of Great Britain, a detail that has irked some Northern Irish residents over the years.

But in the face of issues such as the 'sausage wars', the UK Government has written to the United Nations to effect the change, stating: "The United Kingdom is changing the distinguishing sign that it had previously selected for display in international traffic on vehicles registered in the United Kingdom, from "GB" to "UK"...this change took effect on 28 September 2021."

The switch from GB to UK stickers comes just months after ministers unveiled a new GB number plate with a Union Flag. This replaced the previous 'Euro' plate, which showed the stars of the European Union with the letters GB.

But the switch to UK signifiers, while being inclusive of Northern Ireland, means drivers with the new GB plates will have to either change their plates, or affix an additional UK sticker to their cars from September.

Unlike the now invalid GB plates, which were heralded by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps in January, the switch to UK signifiers was not formally announced by the Government. Instead it was spotted as a footnote in UN regulations by the AA, which says it has 50,000 items of stock it will now need to change.

[\(Source Hugo Griffiths in Auto Express 5 Jul 2021\)](#)

Current rules for flags, symbols and identifiers

You can display one of the following flags with identifying letters on the left-hand side of the number plate:

Union flag (also known as the Union Jack)

Cross of St George

Cross of St Andrew - also known as the Saltire

Red Dragon of Wales

The letters, or national identifiers, you can have are:

UNITED KINGDOM, United Kingdom or UK

GREAT BRITAIN, Great Britain or GB

CYMRU, Cymru, CYM or Cym

ENGLAND, England, ENG, Eng

SCOTLAND, Scotland, SCO or Sco

WALES or Wales

The flag must be above the identifier. You cannot have the flag or letters on the number plate margin, and neither can be more than 50 millimetres wide.

Driving outside the UK

If your number plate includes the UK identifier with the Union flag (also known as the Union Jack), you do not need a UK sticker.

However, you will need to display a UK sticker clearly on the rear of your vehicle if your number plate has any of the following:

- a GB identifier with the Union flag
- a Euro symbol
- a national flag of England, Scotland or Wales
- numbers and letters only - no flag or identifier

If you're in Spain, Cyprus or Malta, you must display a UK sticker no matter what is on your number plate.

If you have a GB sticker, cover or remove it before driving outside the UK.

You do not need a UK sticker or number plate to drive in Ireland.

[\(Source Government Website\)](#)



Husband: "Honey, the neighbour is washing the car with his son again!"

Wife: "Poor kid! Go over there and tell him to use a sponge instead."

## **For Members Who Tow, Changes to the Law on Towing, New rules for towing a trailer or caravan with a car from autumn 2021**

What you're currently allowed to tow

Licences issued before 1 January 1997

You will not be affected by the changes if you passed your car driving test before 1 January 1997.

You're usually allowed to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8,250kg maximum authorised mass (MAM). View your driving licence information to check.

You're also allowed to drive a minibus with a trailer over 750kg MAM.

MAM is the limit on how much the vehicle can weigh when it's loaded.

Licences issued from 1 January 1997 to 18 January 2013

If you passed your car driving test from 1 January 1997 to 18 January 2013, you can currently drive either of the following:

- a car or van up to 3,500kg MAM towing a trailer of up to 750kg MAM (up to 4,250kg in total)

- a trailer over 750kg MAM, as long as it is no more than the unladen weight of the towing vehicle (up to 3,500kg in total)

You've had to pass a car and trailer driving test if you want to tow anything heavier.

Licences issued from 19 January 2013

If you passed your car driving test from 19 January 2013, you can currently drive either of the following:

- a car or van up to 3,500kg MAM towing a trailer of up to 750kg MAM (up to 4,250kg in total)

- a trailer over 750kg MAM as long as the combined MAM of the trailer and towing vehicle is no more than 3,500kg

You've had to pass a car and trailer driving test if you want to tow anything heavier.

What will change later in 2021

If you passed your car driving test from 1 January 1997, you'll be allowed to tow trailers up to 3,500kg MAM when the law changes.

DVLA will update your driving licence record to show that you're allowed to tow trailers. You'll get category BE added to your driving licence when you get a new photocard driving licence.

You do not need to contact DVLA for this to happen. It will be done automatically.

The date the law will change has not yet been confirmed. Sign up for email alerts to be told when the law changes.

Car and trailer driving tests stopping from 20 September 2021

Car and trailer driving tests are stopping before the law changes.

You can no longer book or take a car and trailer driving test from 20 September 2021. However, the law will not change until later in 2021.

What you can do until the law changes

Until the law changes later in autumn 2021, you must continue to follow the current rules about what you're allowed to tow based on when you passed your car driving test.

You can be fined up to £1,000, be banned from driving and get up to 6 penalty points on your driving licence if you tow anything heavier before the law changes.

You're only allowed to tow anything heavier if you're being supervised. When you're being supervised, you must:

- display L plates to the front of the car and the rear of the trailer

- be accompanied by a person who's at least 21 years old and has had category BE on their driving licence for at least 3 years.

Driving a car and trailer for the first time

It's best to take training from a driving instructor if you want to start driving a car and trailer.

The 'National standard for driving cars and light vans' tells you about the skills, knowledge and understanding you need to tow a trailer or caravan.

You can also read about why learning to tow is important and safety checks you should do when you're towing a trailer or caravan with a car

If you'd booked a car and trailer driving test

Your car and trailer driving test will not go ahead if it was due to take place on or after 20 September 2021.

If you booked the test yourself, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency has automatically cancelled it for you. You'll get a full refund within 5 working days.

If your driving instructor booked your test for you, talk to them about what happens next.

You cannot get a refund or compensation for any training that you've taken to help you prepare to take the test.

If you had previously passed a car and trailer driving test

You cannot get a refund or compensation for any training that you took to help you prepare to take a car and trailer driving test. You also cannot get a refund for any tests you took.

[\(Source Government Website\)](#)

A bus driver was called into court for killing 24 children and 6 adults.

The judge asks the bus driver "why did you kill all those innocent people?"

The bus driver, looking a little sad, says "I didn't mean too, It was by mistake!"

"How did it happen?" Asks the judge.

"Well-" said the bus driver, "I was driving to a bus station but suddenly, on the road, I saw a rabbit.

I swerved into the woods and hit a tree. I managed to escape but all the other people just didn't make it in time and the bus exploded. Everyone but me perished."

"Why did you not just run over the rabbit?" Asks the judge.

"I tried!" Says the bus driver, "But it ran into the woods!"



## SKITTLES 2021

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged a skittles evening for Tuesday 7 December 2021 at The Spur in Slindon, BN18 ONE.

This is something that the Worthing Group which is now part of CSAM, have done for many years. If you have not been before this is a very informal evening involving skittles and a one or two course meal which has to be ordered and paid for in advance. You do not have to play skittles if you do not want to but come and join in the evening anyway - it is a lovely opportunity just to socialise with like-minded people.

Partners are welcome but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so you do need to book early. If you would like to reserve a place please complete and return the menu order form. Orders and payment must be received by 27 November but please confirm the place(s) you require before making payment in case we are full!



# CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

**Central Southern Advanced Motorists**  
**Menu for Christmas Skittles Evening**  
 From 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 7 December 2021  
 at The Spur, Slindon, BN18 ONE (Tel: 01243 814216)

		M/G	Skittles
Name of Diner 1			
Name of Diner 2 (if applicable)			

Please indicate whether each diner is a CSAM Member or a Guest (M or G) and whether they will be participating in the games of Skittles in the table above.

<b>Please tick your choice of meal</b>	Diner 1	Diner 2
<b>Chicken &amp; Ham Pie</b> , served with new potatoes and vegetables and gravy		
<b>Steak &amp; Kidney Pie</b> , served with new potatoes and vegetables and gravy		
<b>Chicken Curry</b> , Basmati rice and Naan bread		
<b>Poached Fillet of Salmon</b> , served with new potatoes, vegetables and Hollandaise Sauce (GF)		
<b>Mediterranean Vegetable Tart</b> , served with new potatoes, vegetables and gravy (V/Ve)		
<b>Vegetable Curry</b> , served with rice and Naan bread (V/GF no naan)		
<b>Macaroni cheese</b> topped with sliced tomato served with Garlic Bread (V)		
<b>DESSERTS</b>		
<b>Crème Brûlée glazed and served with a shortbread biscuit</b>		
<b>Steamed sponge pudding with jam served with custard*</b>		
<b>Steamed sponge pudding with syrup served with custard*</b>		
<b>Cheesecake of the day</b>		
<b>Sticky toffee pudding served with custard*</b>		
<b>Cheese and biscuits</b> , Brie, Stilton and Cheddar cheeses served with a biscuit selection, grapes, celery, apple slices and spiced chutney ( <b>£2.50 supplement</b> )		

\*Please state if you would prefer ice cream rather than custard

Drinks and coffee to be ordered and paid for separately on the night.

Cost per person:	One course	£15.50
(inc. service)	Two courses	£22.00
	Two courses including cheese and biscuits	£24.50

# CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

## Payment should be made via BACS

Bank: CAF Bank  
Account name: Central Southern Group of Advanced Motorists  
Sort code: 40-52-40 (this may show as a HSBC code as they operate bank services for CAF Bank)  
Account number: 00023883

## PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. Please complete an additional menu form if there are more than two diners.**
- 2. Please indicate below if you are a vegetarian or have any food allergies that the kitchen should be aware of.**
- 3. The Spur cannot guarantee that products on this menu do not contain nuts or nut derivatives or that fish products do not contain bones.**

Name of any vegetarian diner(s)	
Allergies:	

If you need to know anything else, or have any problems, please email Sally Holmes at [worthing@csam.org.uk](mailto:worthing@csam.org.uk) or telephone 07752 755599

## **Volunteer Minibus Drivers Needed – Guild Care, Worthing**

When I semi-retired a couple of years ago I decided that I'd like to do some charity work, and I wanted to give something back to my local community. I enjoy driving, and helping people, so what better way to combine these by volunteering as a minibus driver.

Guild Care, a charity local to me in Worthing, discussed the role with me first. I was keen to proceed so a quick driving assessment was next, with my IAM skills to the fore luckily I passed, and I've been driving for them ever since, usually a couple of times a week. The beauty of this role is that I'm not committed to a fixed shift or fixed number of hours, they are extremely flexible and of course very grateful for any time I can give. If I want to go away on holiday, no problem.

It's hugely rewarding, the clients now know me and give me a big smile. It's fantastic to think that this charity provides a day care centre for the elderly who would otherwise live "home alone", and a specialist day care centre for dementia patients to give their carers some respite. And other services too.

So that's my role, to pick up clients from their home\* in the minibus and drop them to the day centre, or back again. Each shift is up to 2 hours max.

We're looking for new drivers all the time, so if you'd like to find out more here's the link...

<https://www.guildcare.org/minibus-drivers>

If you'd like to chat to me about it before you contact Guild Care please feel free to email me at [roberttennent@email.com](mailto:roberttennent@email.com).

Many thanks.

Robert Tennent



\*For transport of dementia patients you are accompanied by a trained dementia carer



# CENTRAL SOUTHERN ADVANCED MOTORISTS

USEFUL RESOURCES AS HYPERLINKS (Click or tap on the darker blue text)

[CSAM website Homepage](#)

[CSAM Newsletter page](#)

[IAM website homepage](#)

Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency, sign up for [Highway Code email alerts](#)

[Operation Crackdown](#), operated by **Sussex Police**, or [Hants SNAP](#) operated by **Hampshire Police** where drivers can report illegal/unsafe driving. For Nation Wide reporting by submitting dashcam footage website use the portal of dashcam maker [Nextbase](#) your camera does not have to be a Nextbase to be able to use this portal.

[Online Highway Code](#)

(There are some other interesting links here, too)

[Online pdf of Highway Code to download](#)

Searching depends on the device and the pdf reader in use

Hard copies of the [Highway Code](#) may be purchased here but this is printed on dead trees and has no search facility

For anyone who may be interested in [becoming an Observer](#)

If you are interested in taking a current version of a [Theory Test](#)

Suggested Advanced Driving videos, anything by [Reg Local](#) or [Chris Gilbert](#) on YouTube, both have worked as advanced police driving instructors.

## PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter is 30th of November 2021

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