

Chair's Hello

I have travelled a fair few miles over the summer with work and leisure, the usual trips round the south west of England with work and a holiday in France for the first time in a few years. I enjoyed driving France although sometimes a challenge, there are so many great driving roads with a fraction of the traffic that we see in the south west during the summer months.

My stable of cars has reduced, as my BMW Z3 has been drafted in for commuting duties, to assist my son, hopefully I will get my Zed back soon...!

The price of fuel has been on drivers' minds over the last few months but hopefully we are starting to see a reduction in prices, so if you can get out and about keep your advanced skills up to date. As always, I'm keen to encourage Members to become Fellows, have a look at the IAM Road Smart website.

We have a special Members evening coming up' with Howards Group at Priorswood hosting an evening of the latest electrical vehicles on offer from Citroen, Hyundai and Peugeot. Details on a separate flyer or contact me for details.

We have the AGM coming up and we have committee members retiring after sterling service for the Group.

We are looking for Members to join the committee and help continue to make the group successful, roles on offer include Events Coordinator, Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Membership Secretary, Web Master or whatever you would like to bring to the committee. The one role that we need to fill is that of Secretary for legal reasons, so I would very much welcome a volunteer, please contact me.

I hate to flag this to the Membership, if we do not get more Members on the committee the Group will close by the end of the year! So please consider a role on the committee or giving your time to assist. I hope it will not come to closure but it is a real possibility.

On a more positive note, Chris Ashton has become at National Observer and will join the WAM training team, congratulations Chris.

Look forward to seeing you at events over the coming months.

Mark

Chair WAM

Editorial

We STILL have no newsletter editor so here is another bulletin to keep you informed and make another plea for someone to come forward and compile the various contributions into one document. I find it hard to believe that there is not a single person within our membership of over 100 who can spare an hour or so four times a year to put a few items together.

David

Associate Co-ordinator Report

All of our Observers are now working with Associates but despite this the number of new Associates continues to grow. Welcome to William How, Jacque Scrivem, John Staples, Nick Hall, Robert Browning, Stephen Ward, Philip Comer, John Emery and Jack Cochrane who have all joined WAM recently. Please be assured that you will be out on the road as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Christopher Hooper for passing his test; Chris was observed by Andrew Griffiths.

Events

Hello everyone. Following on from our successful March and April events, our May event was equally successful. Somerset Road Safety Partnership sent Martin Surrey along to present a most informative evening on the new Highway Code implications regarding the "hierarchy" system for all road users. Many questions were answered with the help of videos and Q & A input. Martin also highlighted the effects of ageing on driving with regard to diminished reaction times and concentration levels. We all went away not so much older, but wiser!

The June event was our ever-popular Skills Evening, where members and committee tested their abilities with a number of challenges including cockpit drill, powdery drill, reverse parking, reversing round a corner, parallel parking, and bay parking. Despite a rather low attendance this was a most enjoyable event with our illustrious chairman Mark Stephenson winning again! It would be great to have more people entering as it's great fun.

As to July, this would normally have been the Classic Vehicle event, but due to time constraints it became the Show and Tell evening! Again, this was a most entertaining evening held at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster, who laid on a sandwich and chips buffet for us afterwards. There was a most interesting and diverse collection of vehicles whose owners were given two minutes to present their cars giving as much information as possible in the time allowed. The one who gained the most votes would be the winner, and this was Richard Board with his immaculate Morris Marina. Richard has done so much work on this car himself including converting it from a left-hand drive to right-hand drive. Truly remarkable!

So on to our upcoming events – on Wednesday 21st September there is a visit to Hyundai, Taunton, for a presentation on the latest EV's (Electric Vehicles) at their dealership. Details to follow soon.

On 19th October at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall, one of our members, Keith Hayman, will present a talk on statistics – OK, does that sound boring? Not if Keith has anything to do with it! This promises to be a very entertaining and humorous evening, not to be sniffed at, so please join us and enjoy it plus the usual warm welcome and free refreshments.

Finally, on 16th November at Hatch Beauchamp will be our AGM, so do please come along and support our group and our committee. We hope to have a speaker from IAM HQ, so again, this will be a great social evening once the business is done.

Serena Lonton

Events.



IAM RoadSmart new chief executive

Antony Kildare was appointed as interim Chief Executive on 9th February 2022 and after six months it has been announced that he will become the permanent post holder and will continue therefore leading the strategic direction and development of the organisation.

Driving Test Pass Rates

The Department for Transport (DfT) has published the official driving test statistics for the period 1st January to 31st March 2022.

The data shows that 425,900 car driving tests were carried out in this period (up 14% compared to the same period in 2020).

The pass rate for car driving tests has reduced to 47.1% – down from 48.1% between October and December 2021.



Photo Credit: Imgur/Fishbong

If you're old enough to own a car, you should be old enough to know that putting a dashboard decoration made of jelly on the inside of your car in the summer is not going to end well.

CALENDAR

SEPTMEBER

7	Wed	7:30 pm	WAM Committee Meeting
21	Wed	6:45 pm	Members' Evening – Visit to Howards, Priorswood Road, to see their Citroen, Hyundai and Peugeot EVs

OCTOBER

19	Wed	7:30 pm	Members' Evening – Keith Hayman will give a talk entitled “Lies, damned lies and statistics”
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NOVEMBER

2	Wed	7:30 pm	WAM Committee Meeting
16	Wed	7:30 pm	Annual General Meeting – venue to be announced

DECEMBER

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Meetings held at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

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