



# May & June 2019



For your diary  
Sunday Observed Drives

Aldridge Community Centre, on the  
**first Sunday** of each month (unless otherwise stated)  
at Middlemore Lane, Aldridge. WS9 8AN, starting at 9.30am on  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**  
(due to May Bank Holiday closure at Aldridge Community Centre)  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## *The start of your 2019 diary*

Our Events sub-committee (in other words Martin and Chris) are organising the following:

- May 28<sup>th</sup>**      **Talk about Forensic Collision Investigation, presented by Mark Weaver**
- July 7<sup>th</sup>        Visit to Middleton Hall near Tamworth - Motor exhibition
- August         Summer meal, possibly after a Sunday drive session
- September:    Visit to Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes
- October:        Talk about smart motorways
- Autumn:        Quiz Night and supper

## **Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Walsall Group of Advanced Motorists is proud to host an evening on the fascinating subject of

### **FORENSIC COLLISION INVESTIGATION**

Mark Weaver, who many of you will already know as an IAM examiner, is a Forensic Collision Investigator for the Police.

Most incidents he is sent to investigate involve a car and a motorcycle so this is particularly relevant to us. The subject is technical, compelling and fascinating and he will show much insight into how serious and often fatal crashes occurred.

There will be plenty of time for a discussion and a Q&A session on how road users can avoid various collisions. Mark is an entertaining speaker with a wealth of knowledge and I'm certain you will enjoy the evening.

**Something worth keeping in mind even if you can't make it on the evening.....**

**"A fatal accident only proves who is left.....not who was right"**

Log on to our website where you can find back copies of the newsletter and where details of events will be published once confirmed.

[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/walsallam/about-us/our-community](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/walsallam/about-us/our-community)

Since the last newsletter....

**WELL DONE & CONGRATULATIONS  
ON PASSING YOUR TEST TO**

*Phil Compton*

Date:11.03.19 Observer:Simon Arnold Senior:Mike Bentley

*Kevin Jennison*

Date: 11.03.19 Observer:Martin Goad Senior:Simon Arnold

*Andy Pomfrey-Jones*

Date: 26.2.19 Observer Josie Hubbard-Palmer

Senior: Sarah Harrison

*Lee Spindler* (Awarded a F1RST)

Date: 14.02.19 Observer Josie Hubbard-Palmer

Senior: Karl Spooner



## **Chairman`s Chat**

*From Martin Goad*

As I write this, just after the Easter weekend, the weather is more like Spain than Staffordshire with temperatures in the twenties for several days. Hopefully we have a good Summer to come and we can look forward to getting out and about more.

As an observer I am always looking for new routes for runs with associates and a conversation with Josie, our new chief observer, got me thinking about the area east of Tamworth in north Warwickshire. Of course Josie is a biker as well as a driver, and bikers know which roads are fun to ride on as they do go out just for enjoyment and camaraderie, which we drivers rarely do. We did try a treasure hunt on the activities programme for a couple of years but there was little support the second time. So, having a spare morning last week I decided to go for a drive just for fun and it was great. I started in Tamworth and set off south on the A51 to Kingsbury. Just after leaving Kingsbury onto B roads and the fun really starts. First the B 4098 to Furnace End and left onto the B4116 to Atherstone and over the A5 to Twycross. Left onto the A444 and past the Zoo to the last junction on the M42 where you can stop for a coffee, as I did. Then back to Tamworth on the B5493 through No Mans Heath where four counties meet, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

It takes about an hour for the driving, the roads are great with lots of bends, the scenery is beautiful and on the day the traffic was light. This is the sort of driving I equate with rural Wales or Scotland, but here it is on our doorstep. If you want to stop then you have two interesting towns, a battle field, a zoo and a national arboretum a short detour up the A513.

When I was growing up and our family first got a car we would go out on plenty of weekends just for a drive. The roads now are so different because all those other users are filling them up and slowing things down. However it is still possible to enjoy a drive if you do get off the beaten track and seek out the byways. Give my drive a try or let me know about your favourite route.

*Martin*

## QUIZ NIGHT REPORT

Report from organiser Chris Rice and a few observations from quiz participant Editor Sandie



On 17<sup>th</sup> April we held another brain-aching Quiz Night again extremely well organised by Chris Rice. At the start of the evening the twenty one who attended divided themselves into six teams, then the majority of the Quizzers tucked into Fish and Chips supplied by Aldridge Chippy. The teams gave themselves names such as The Abstracts, Jaguar and Girls Aloud. The brain-aching rounds included

- Silver Screen movies associated with colour
- Pot Luck - anything and everything !!!
- TV brain ache - all those tv themes and characters you have watched, however did any information stick in your brain ?
- Pictures of birds (feathered) - well, since all yours truly (Editor Sandie) knows is a Sparrow not much help! Even the Woodpecker didn't turn out to be a Woodpecker !
- More Silver Screen pictures - including some old-time stars (the comments were along the lines of 'who the hell is that?')
- And finally... more General knowledge - anything and everything to dredge up from depths of the brain cells !!!

When all the scores were counted, which was done by Chris's wife Kim (Thank You Kim) it was Girls Aloud that won the day with The Abstracts a close second. Well done Chris, and thank you, great event. Everyone responded that they had enjoyed their evening, so we look forward to other events during the coming year, with maybe another Quiz in the autumn - **Watch this space.**

### A report on our Group's

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

It's that time of the year again - our Annual General Meeting (just where has the last year gone ???). It was great to see everyone at the AGM. Here's a very brief report of the main part of the meeting. The meeting was held at Calderfields Golf Club, lovely venue, lovely room. However very subdued lighting with twinkling lights in the ceiling - was however not much fun or ideal for shorthand note-taking (enough of my moaning!) Here's a quick resume of the formal part of the meeting:

- **Minutes from the previous year** - basically everyone seemed to agree that the minutes were ok and I didn't make them up!
- **Matters arising from the Minutes** - fortunately there were none

- **Chairman's Report**

Martin Goad, our Chairman, gave a brief resume of the Group's activities during the past year. He commenced by welcoming our President, Trevor Poxon, and our guest speakers Lorraine and Geoff from the Midland Freewheeler Blood Biker Group. Martin then thanked everyone within the Group whose dedication and hard work help it to run. Congratulations also to our successful Associates.

The Group's social activities were then reviewed - from the Quiz Nights (which were great), visit to the Leicester Space Centre, to the successful talk on taking your Masters by Robbie Downing. The forthcoming committee changes were reviewed - Karl Spooner is stepping down, after many years, as Treasurer, many thanks to Karl. Martin informed the meeting that this will be his last year as Chairman. Now on to Karl, for his final Treasurer's report:

- **Treasurers Report** - Karl Spooner our out-going Treasurer gave his Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 2018. He informed the meeting that this is the last time he will be standing on the committee as Treasurer, after many years, due to work commitments. The income and expenditure account had been circulated to meeting members prior to the meeting, and Karl commenced by detailing the income received. One of the largest items of income was for £300 - thanks to Lloyds Bank!. Karl explained that this is due to the problems encountered with Lloyds Bank in amending details of our account, so far they have credited us with two amounts of £150 as compensation, therefore the £300 income. Expenditure: the largest amount in expenditure is for room hire, ie Calderfields Golf Club and Aldridge CA. The other large item of expenditure were the shirts and fleeces purchased for Observers. Finally, in summary, Karl informed the meeting that he has been Treasurer since 1993 just after he passed his test. He has enjoyed his time working on the committee. The audience showed their appreciation of Karl with a good round of applause.

- **Election of Group Officers - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer:**

Martin Goad, Josie Hubbard-Palmer and Ann Humble were elected as Chairman, Group Secretary and Treasurer respectively. However, It was emphasized that Martin and Ann are standing as Chairman and Treasurer for one year only, and do not wish to stand again next year.

- **Election of Committee** - Each year a section, usually three, of the current committee stand down and seek re-election: Sandra Wootton, Chris Rice and Sarah Harrison were standing down and seeking re-election, together with the remaining 2018 committee, they were re-elected.

- **Presentation of Awards:** Now on to one of the best bits of the evening - presentation of the awards:

**Associate of the Year:** This was awarded to Brian Clarke. Within the last year not only has he passed his advanced test with a F1srt, he immediately proceeded to train as a Local Observer with enthusiasm and dedication.

**Observer of the Year:** Awarded to Mike Bentley. The meeting was informed that this is to recognise the work Mike has done for the Group as an Observer over the years.

**John Hodgkiss Award for Endeavour:** John is a much missed former group and committee member and this award, which is in his memory, is awarded to someone who has preserved through adversity. This year it was award to Clive Allsopp, who by choice has recently successfully retaken his test and has retrained as an Observer.

**Newsletter Award:** Usually contributors are nominated for their contributions to the newsletter - however this year Sandra (yours truly) was awarded for her work on the newsletter. (Great surprise, certainly didn't expect this, but thanks very much).

### **Presentation by Trevor Poxon - our President**

Trevor told us that he first became associated with the Walsall Group in 1989 when he was a newly appointed IAM examiner. He enjoyed a long career as a Police Officer, mainly on the Traffic Division. Following this he joined the IAM at Chiswick head office for several years before his retirement. He still enjoys his driving, he believes we are introducing people to the finest way of driving.

### **Presentation by Midland Freewheelers Blood Bikers Group:**

Many thanks to Geoff - Fund Raising Manager and Lorraine, Chairman of the Midland Freewheelers Group for coming along and talking to us. Here's a very brief resume of their group and their activities:



**First of all - about their Group and what do they do?** This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their group, over this time they have done over 10,000 jobs. They are all volunteers, with approximately 130 members, drivers and riders. All of their riders and drivers are advanced trained. Our Group Secretary, Josie, is also a member of the Blood Bikers Group. They will transport anything for the NHS that can safely fit it onto a motorcycle. Overall, they save the NHS an incredible amount of money. In addition to the motorbikes, they have two Skoda cars which are used especially at night and when the weather is bad.

They operate 24 / 7, all year, all weather. There are 43 other such groups throughout the country with 100% voluntary membership, without payment. The organisation started in London in 1962 and subsequently evolved throughout the country. There is not an area of the country that is not covered by a Blood Biker group. There is an umbrella group NAB which lobbies the government.

**What they do and transport:** They can relay products via help from co-ordinators throughout the country, linking up with other groups. They do not relay human organs, this is dealt with by the NHS. During the week they deliver breast milk for premature babies which goes to the Womens' Hospital, Birmingham and other areas, including Wales. They have not long commenced a service delivering a chemotherapy drug from Birmingham QE Hospital across to the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. This drug only has a 90min life from production to delivery to the patient. They have three time slots for the safe delivery of this drug.

**Their funding:** They do not receive any funding from the Government or the NHS. They fund raise money from numerous and varied sources. It costs approximately £11 each job that they do. Last year they did just over 3,000 jobs! They do not run any buildings or premises so all the money raised goes towards running costs entirely.

At the end of their presentation Geoff and Lorraine were thanked warmly by our Chairman and audience, who then had the opportunity to admire the motorbike brought along by the Blood Bikers.

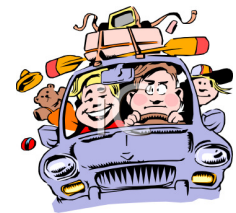
**Contact information:** [info@wgam.org.uk](mailto:info@wgam.org.uk)

## The Holiday season is coming, including Bank Holidays ! so here's some early advice from the IAM

If you're planning a holiday getaway then be sure to read our tips on how you can make your journey a safe and stress-free one. Here's IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman, to help you prepare for your trip. A little preparation goes a long way.

- Take some time to check your vehicle inside and out before you set off. Check the tyre pressure and fluid levels are right and make sure your car ancillaries are working properly.
- Secure your luggage in your boot so it's out of the way and doesn't obstruct your view
- Give yourself plenty of time for the journey and check the news for any traffic updates and roadworks nearby
- If you're travelling during the early hours of the day or late in the evening make sure you take some rest beforehand and eat something light so you don't feel sluggish before you leave
- If you plan on using a sat-nav don't forget to programme in the destination before you leave and check it. Leave plenty of time for the journey so you don't find yourself pushed for time.
- Make sure you take regular rest breaks to split up the journey when driving on a long, boring stretch of a motorway. It's good practise to stop at least every two hours

With so much planning involved in a holiday, many of us forget about the first bit - how we get to our destination. If your journey is a long one, take some time to plan where and when you will be taking a break - just so you can get a little rest and have some water to stay hydrated. Enjoy the journey and more importantly, enjoy the getaway.



### Did you know ???

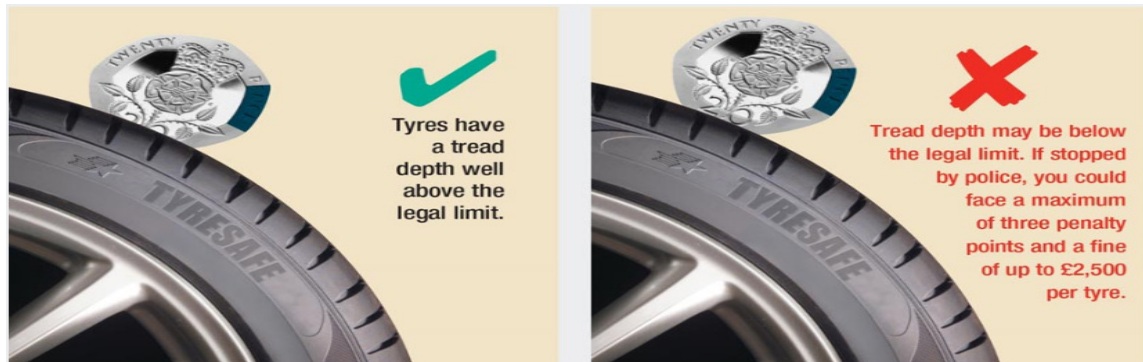
- ❖ The world's first automobile was developed by Carl Benz in 1885. The top speed of the motor car was 16 km per hour. It had a one cylinder four-stroke engine installed horizontally on a specifically designed chassis. It was known as the Benz Patent Motorwagen.
- ❖ First time in America and the world: the world's first electric traffic signal is put into place on the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 105th Street in Cleveland, Ohio, on 5<sup>th</sup> August in 1914. Also, the first center painted dividing line appeared in 1911, in Michigan; the first "No Left Turn" sign would debut in Buffalo, New York, in 1916; and left-hand drive became standard in American cars in 1908.
- ❖ Leonardo da Vinci invented the first car in 1478 on paper. In 2004, a replica of the car was crafted and was kept in the Institute and Museum of the history of Science in Florence, Italy.
- ❖ Did you ever wonder how the names of some of the Volkswagen cars were coined? The company uses the various types of winds for the purpose. For example, the Jetta means "jet stream", the Passat means "trade winds", and the Polo means "Polar Winds."

*With the holiday season approaching, now is also the time for a*

## **Spring Clean - and that includes your car tyres!**

It's important to regularly check your tyres to see if they're fit and healthy to help you get from A to B safely. That's why IAM RoadSmart's Head of Driving and Riding Standards, Richard Gladman, has put together some top tyre tips to help you [stay safe on the road](#):

- Check your tyres regularly. We recommend weekly vehicle checks which include inspecting tyre pressure, tread depth and the overall condition.
- Ensure that your tyre's tread depth is at least 1.6mm for a car (however, we recommend 3mm), and 1mm across  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the width of the tread pattern and with visible tread on the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  for motorcycles over 50cc. If your motorcycle is up to 50cc, all the grooves of the original tread pattern must be clearly visible.
- The 20p test - check your tyre tread with a 20p by placing it into the main groove of your tyre. The outer band of the 20p coin should be obscured when it is inserted.



Make sure your tyres have the correct pressure. You can find this information in the vehicle manufacturers' handbook, on the inside of the fuel filler cap or driver's door sill, and you can get this information when purchasing tyres. You can find out more information by visiting the [TyreSafe](#) website.

### **Group President: Trevor Poxon MBE**

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**Committee Member:** Kath Hawker

**Committee Member:**  
Karl Spooner

**Group Secretary:** Josie Hubbard-Palmer

**Chief Observer:** Josie Hubbard-Palmer

**Treasurer - Ann Humble**

**Committee Member:**  
Alison Kimberley

**Assoc Co-ordinator:** Mike Bentley

**Committee member:** Sarah Harrison

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**Committee Member:** Chris Rice

Group Registered Charity no. 1082326

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