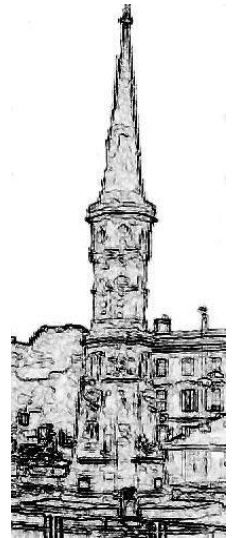




The not so major communication from

Banbury Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity Number 1088338



Important Notice

As part of the ongoing process of amalgamation of OAGAM and BAM to form the new Oxfordshire Advanced Drivers (OAD) it is the intention of the committee to share your contact details with our colleagues at Oxford in order to create the new OAD mailing list.

Once the new group is formed a further GDPR clearance request will be sent in the name of OAD.

If you have previously responded to a GDPR clearance request, that response will remain in force until the new request, in the name of OAD, is sent. If your previous response indicated that you were happy for us to hold your information, but not to use your name in publicity, that request will be respected. Please be aware that if you opt out from the mail list, you will receive no further newsletters until you re-apply with your GDPR clearance.

As the timescale for this process is quite short, we will assume that if we do not receive an indication from you to the contrary, you are content for us to share the information on the basis above.

Objections should be sent to me before 7 July.

Peta Simmons

BAM Vice Chairman.

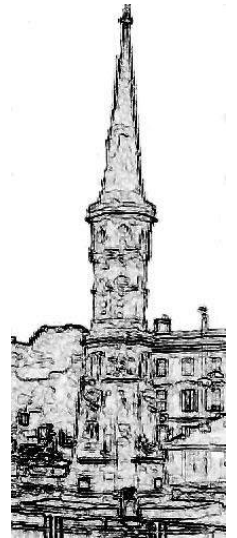
42 Lewis Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5JS

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Affiliated to IAM RoadSmart Group No. 2126





Byway

The not so major communication from

Banbury Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity Number 1088338

29 June 2019

Dear All,

It's time to bring you up to date with progress towards the merger of our group with our colleagues at Oxford. That and a few other things too.

First, you will see the attached notice. It really is important that you read and inwardly digest the contents. We have to do these things to be legal. Unfortunately, we shall have to do it again once the new group is formed, as we shall have to ask you to give permission for OAD to hold the data.

Talking of OAD, yes, that's the new mnemonic. The new group will be called Oxfordshire Advanced Drivers. More of that at the AGM on 2 October, and about who suggested it.

Progress on the merge is slow at present, but will speed up shortly. We're waiting for the bank to set up the new account and we have to wait until 7th July (see the Important Notice) before we can start merging the membership details. Once that's done we should be able to set up a new membership payments system and address lists so we can keep in touch with everyone.

There will be a need for anyone paying by Standing Order, to cancel their existing one and make arrangements for payment to the new account. We are hoping that these will all be made by Direct Debit as this will make things easier for everyone, including the members. If this happens, you will be supplied with a prepared mandate form to complete and send to your bank. Don't take that as read yet though and don't panic about cheques, we will still accept them but would find Direct Debit easier. There is still some way to go on this one though, so watch this space.

In the mean time, things continue as normal. David Pettinger is our latest 'IAM First' achiever, and he has written about his experience below.

Social and publicity exercises are a little lacking this year, mainly due to the involvement of the committee in the merger arrangements. However, there are three events I must mention.

The first is on Sunday 22 September and for this we need volunteers to help. Banbury Cherwell Rotary in conjunction with BAM (yes it will still be BAM) is setting up a 'Driving Skills Challenge' in Banbury



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Market Place This will involve all the usual, slow speed skills, along with, perhaps some quizzes and a collection of stalls selling motoring associated products. Rotary members are willing and able to do much of the groundwork, but we will still need many marshals on the day. This is where you come in. Please volunteer to help us with measuring and scoring of participants. We need to be assured of adequate staff before we can go ahead. Our colleagues from Oxford have also been asked to join in. **Please let me know** as soon as possible, if you are able to help. It may be for all day (09:00 to 16:30) or for a short shift, say a couple of hours, during the day. Please help us to promote safe driving, and to recruit new members.

The next event will be the inaugural AGM of the new group. This is planned for October 2nd. Formal notices containing details of location and time, will be sent out at the appropriate time ahead of the event. It will be in the evening. Please mark your diaries as this will be an important event.

The third event should be fun. We are planning, indeed I have it already prepared, a 'Signpost Scatter' on the 13th October. This is a Sunday and we are arranging it so that you can have breakfast at the start point if you wish, and lunch at the finish. It is a good event, designed to test your map reading and navigational skills. You don't need any equipment except a 1:50,000 OS map – number 164. Details of this will be sent out nearer the time but please mark this in your diaries too, as it will be the first social event for the new group.

The new group is planning to hold a social event every two months, and at present the idea is to move the locations around the county so that everyone gets a fair crack at not travelling too far. The 'Scatter' as above will start at The Old Shed, near Charlbury.

I think that's all from me now, but I reproduce below, David Pettinger's thoughts.

Perspectives of a recent test pass (D. Pettinger)

"Oh bother", I thought to myself. Suffice it to say that the language I was thinking of was slightly fruitier than is acceptable for publication. This was the moment while on the run back to Banbury, about a mile from finishing my test, when the traffic lights on the junction ahead changed a fraction of a second after the optimum deceleration point to comfortably brake to a stop. "This is going to cost", I thought to myself when I'd brought the car to rest. Needless to say, having to do a reasonably harsh stop with your examiner sat next to you is not ideal...

Let's roll back a few months. I had just signed up with IAM RoadSmart, and within a day or so of joining I had a pleasant conversation with a local observer, John Riches, with whom I had been matched, who offered to take me out. Great start. 10 minutes into the session and I felt I was doing reasonably well. Of course, this is not always the case... A few pointers later, and a couple of additional sessions, I was ready to go off to the Chief Observer, Kromer, for 'polishing', as John put it. After the observation with Kromer he pronounced that I was test ready! "Wow! that was quicker than I expected". A couple of days later, I was contacted by my examiner, Jim, to arrange a mutually agreeable date and time. After a few emails, we arranged the start point at Banbury Tesco.

After the date was set, time seemed to fly by, and the test day crept up on me. I'll confess that it snuck up on me to the point I had very little time to practise the low speed manoeuvres. Knowing my previous experience with driving tests, I was a sack of nerves on the day. Fortunately in my case I was able to do a morning's work to help keep the mind distracted from the impending test. It also gave me a chance to keep all the skills at the forefront when mooching up and down the M40 and around Banbury.



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Arriving at Tesco on the day, I remembered from the talk Jim gave earlier in the year about enforcement of speed limits in private areas, so I kept the speed to walking pace. My ears were also ringing from Kromer about performing a good bay park before the test had even started to make a good impression. No pressure then. After arriving and introducing ourselves, I felt a lot more at ease. A quick lights and tyre check and we were ready to go. The assessment itself went by particularly quickly. A couple of interesting turns later (including having to find a parking space in Deddington market square- not an easy task on a good day!), we reached the end of the assessment. The first words out of Jim's mouth put me immediately at ease; "You've passed". "Get in!", I thought to myself. The next words that Jim said struck fear in to me "How did you find that? Is that your normal style of driving?" "Ah, a chance to reflect on how I've just performed in the last hour", I surmised in my head. This I felt was an opportunity to reflect more on the 'warts' of the drive, including that particular incident described earlier and a couple of other minor blemishes along the way. After a reasonable critique of my own performance in the previous hour, we agreed that it was a reasonably good drive, and worthy of a good grade. Reflecting on the experience overall, it was actually quite fun! The skills I've picked up have helped me to become a better, safer driver, and I am able to put into practise the skills I've learnt, including the observation skills and recognition of the important hazards in the environment. Putting into action the skills learnt during the process really does emphasise the need for practising those learnt in everyday situations so they become habitual. This is the greater challenge in all of this, and making sure that the safer habits win out in some of the more challenging situations.

Well done David. Can I add my own observation that, whilst I passed my IAM test in 1986 and had continued to 'more or less' drive in the approved manner, when I joined the committee and started regularly attending meetings, something in the back of my mind clicked in, and I started trying harder to drive as I had been taught. We all slip back into old habits too easily, but it seems that, even if you don't take a refresher, continuing association with the group and its activities has the effect of tightening up your skills.

With that thought in mind, I'll leave you for now.

If you need any questions about the merger dealt with, the BAM members of the merger committee are myself, Kromer, Michael, Peter and Karen. Any of us will be able to help you.

Peta Simmons

BAM Vice Chairman. 42 Lewis Riad, Chipping Norton, OX7 5JS. 01608 643377. bamcttee@gmail.com

Important Information:

A few committee posts:

Chairman: Michael Bishop: 01280 705528 md.bishop@live.co.uk

Chief Observers: Kromer Rogers: 01295 720804 cmkromer@outlook.com, Chris Milner: 01327 876342 chris42milner@gmail.com

Treasurer: Karen Liddle: 01295 711685 karenliddle@fsmail.net

Secretary: Peter Willcocks: 01327 260760 pwillcocks975.5@gmail.com

Associates Officer: George Findlay: 01295 811682 geofin1@tiscali.co.uk

There are other very active members of the committee but not enough room to list them here in the brief details.



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