

GWENT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1067486

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The above Committee will meet at 7:00pm at the Road Safety Centre, Hartridge Farm Road, Hartridge, off Ringland Way. For details of the next meeting please contact Mike Lahert.

Any Group Member or Associate Member wishing to address the Committee may do so in writing or in person by attending one of the Committee Meetings. All are welcome.

If you wish to speak on a motorcycle issue and do not wish to approach the main committee, then you should contact Andrew Lamb.

The editorial committee of the Gwent Group of Advanced Motorists wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newsletter and on the Group Website, are not necessarily those of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. They are purely the Individual views and opinions of the contributors and some may be controversial. It is, however, felt that only by complete and uninhibited discussion can any impact be made of the road safety problems.

FREE EXPRESSION WILL PROMOTE DISCUSSION

YOUR COMMITTEE (Bike Section)

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Members wishing to be on our e-mail mailing list should send their request to steven.williams5@ntlworld.com or call Steve on 07832 378346. Members are contacted when last minute event or special occasions arise.

WHAT MAKES THE PERFECT RIDER ?
PRACTISE MAKES PERFECT, WELL ALMOST !

A Warm Welcome to All New Members

Name	Area	Observer
Michelle Dunstall	Monmouth	Graham Edwards
Blake Doe	Pontypool	Ray Spencer
Patricia Edwards	Monmouth	Doug Hall
Peter Cooke	Abergavenny	Mike Lahert
Anne Lewis	Newport	Mike Lahert
Brian Duggan	Chepstow	Mike Lahert
Andrew Milton	Pontypridd	Mike Lahert
Michelle Rotter	Newport	Ray Spencer
Janet Chaplin	Abergavenny	Mike Lahert
Robert Davies	Abergavenny	B James
Rohan Lewis	Abergavenny	B James
Jim Clarke	Pontypool	Mervyn Thomas
Katherine Hopkins	Monmouth	Graham Edmunds
Peter Cooke	Abergavenny	TBD
Andrew Milton	Pontypridd	Mike Lahert
Anne Lewis	Newport	Mike Lahert
Brian Duggan	Chepstow	Mike Lahert

Congratulations on Passing the I.A.M. Test

Name	Area	Observer
Tara Knights	Chepstow	Mike Lahert
Tony Rowley	xxx	Doug Hall

Chairman's Annual Report

In the opening of my last annual report I spent some time talking about our new Mobile Display Unit (M.D.U.). Since then we have visited many sites such as town centres and county events, such as the Steam Rally, Abergavenny; The Balloon Festival, Blackwood; The Agricultural Show, Chepsow; also BikeSafe events, Abergavenny. The M.D.U. did attract many enquiries at these locations two of our riders parked their classy motorbikes at the front of the MDU. This helped to attract many enquiries as to what the IAM had to offer and from that did come new members interested in taking the IAM test. I'm sure that if we were as to put a classic car in front of the MDU that would attract many interested motorists. Well it's worth a try - perhaps some members who are classic car enthusiasts could oblige and lend us a car to exhibit to attract attention to the cause.

I would like to thank all those that help out with MDU during the past year, some long days were endured and their assistance was much appreciated. We were disappointed when we went to John Frost Square with the MDU as they charged us £100 to connect us to their electricity supply. Our long standing member, Jim Kirkwood, tried his utmost to get Newport City Council to waive this, but they would not relent saying it was their policy - Charity or no Charity. In Cwmbran Shopping Area there was no charge and they gave us a press release - what a difference a few miles make. One thing for sure, we won't be going back to John Frost Square again in a hurry. I ask members or associates if they know of a event taking place in their area that would be of interest to the group please contact Mervyn Thomas on 01291-672880 or Mobile 07885-225965.

My sincere thanks to Carol Shergold, Chief Observer and her group of Observers for their efforts in progressing new associates to taking the test. At a recent regional forum that we attended, the spokesperson for the IAM highlighted an increase in enquiries through Skill For Life package. They were concerned as to how groups would cope with the demand should the demand become greater. At the moment we are coping – although more Observers is the answer. Hopefully full members could have rethink about becoming Observers perhaps retired Observers might like to return to the fold and help us with our Observer scheme. *[Remember you should achieve a minimum of 10 hours observing per year to remain an active Observer – Ed.]* We need you have a rethink contact Derrick Hodge. Derrick recently informed the group that two new Observer had joined the Observer team.

Two courses of Advanced Driving Lectures took place during the year. The first one, at Abergavenny, was taken by the remarkable Frank Smith - a number from that class joined the group and are now in preparing to take the test. Our sincere thanks to Frank for his contribution to the group. The second course was at Edlogan Way, Cwmbran. These lectures were carried out by Steve Schanzer using the Power Point system - an entirely new method of lecturing on Advanced Driving. This was a full class of 26 to start, with most nights' attendance averaging 20. On both occasions there were the usual Sunday runs by our Group Observers and traffic officers with police cars to demonstrate their advanced methods. Also thanks to Steve and Jan Jackson for their contribution with the first

aid evenings - their efforts were much appreciated by all. Our thanks to Steve Schanzer for his efforts with the Power Point system - we will be reviewing the feedback from the class and presentation.

Our Treasurer, Ron Palmer, has been busy with his two roles of Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Earlier this year he investigated the Gift Aid scheme, which allowed him to claim some money back from the taxman, as we are a Registered Charity. The first thing he did was circulated all members and associates with Gift Aid forms for them to complete and return so that they might be processed. Ron, at the AGM, will give you all a detailed account as to where we stand with this project on which I know he has spent many hours. He has also, over the past year, kept our membership files up to date and collected the group fees. Well done Ron we all appreciate your efforts. Our Secretary, Edwin Marsh, has applied to the Awards To All Wales for a sum of £2,000 to buy some equipment - an up to date Power Point system plus other bits and pieces such as a screen. This is to replace the Power Point system we borrowed for the recent lecture and I, for one, was not happy with its presentation. Recently we've been told that we have been successful in our application and we are grateful to Edwin for his contribution towards obtaining this award. I'm sure it will give the group a more modern outlook. As Secretary of the group he has shown us much quality and responsibility which he does year-in and year-out. Edwin, we are lucky to have you as secretary, many thanks.

Mervyn Thomas, our events secretary, has been trying to identify new ideas for events to increase attendance - a difficult task. His aim for the coming year is to get some events that will attract people and I know that he has some interesting items on the horizon. I hope you all will be able to come along and support Mervyn with these diary of events, your presence will be much appreciated. If you have been to any other events which you think might be of interest to members please let Mervyn know - the more the merrier. Hopefully over the coming months we can get a good social calendar on the move. Next year 2006 will be the 50th anniversary of the IAM. We been asked by the IAM to lay on something interesting to involve the general public. We would like to hear your suggestions to help us mark the occasion - we all want Mervyn to succeed. Many thanks Mervyn.

Newsletter Editor

We are very grateful to David Williams for taking on the task of editor of the newsletter during the past year. He has done a marvellous job with our newsletter since taking command. What about the grand new cover? The new design definitely improves the image and encourages you to read it. He is very prompt in preparing the master copy for publication. He would like to get a lot more material from the car drivers - they seem to be a little slow coming forward with the live material that's needed. Well folks, dig it out and send it in. Contact details for David at the front of the newsletter. Many thanks to David for his Fleet Street tabloid.

Many thanks also to Mervyn Thomas and Tony Blane who helped me co-ordinate the mailing.

Group Shop Manager

Tony Blane, our group shop manager, has been carrying around a number of IAM items for sale to full members - you will be surprised what he carries in that case. Many thanks, Tony, for taking on the responsibility of looking after the group shop.

Bob Phelps, our Publications Relations Officer (PRO), resigned this year. We would like to thank Bob for his contribution to the group over the years very much appreciated by the committee.

Webmaster

The group has a web site, fully approved by the IAM. The web site, created by Dave Elger, was designed the website for both bikes and cars. Through his efforts we have achieved IAM Approved Quality Site 2005 Award - this is very much appreciated and we are grateful to David for his professionalism in receiving this award.

Steve Williams, as Webmaster, has now the task of updating the website from time to time.

Many thanks to Steve for his willingness to carry it on.

Motorcycle section

This section has, during the year, revised its committee and responsibilities for 2005. They have again set themselves a very interesting calendar of events/activities and have produced such a variety of destinations to visit (the car drivers have a lot to learn from them about socialising). They deserve great credit for their contributions in creating interest amongst the public I'm sure they will be encouraging many new members to the group. I know that they will have a very enjoyable biking season ahead. They also recently brought on some new blood to their observer team. I wish them well in their efforts in promoting road safety amongst other riders that they meet from time to times. I also know they will make good use of the MDU with their promotions. I would like to thank David Elger for his long-time efforts in arousing interest amongst the bikers to get the ball rolling. David is now taking a back-seat role but will be still around, mostly helping with the Observer side of the group. We offer, once again, our sincere thanks for his efforts in promoting the bike section.

Now a word of thanks to our President, Supt. Nigel Russell, for his contribution to the group since joining us earlier this year. Having him as President has given us a much closer links with the police. Supt. Russell has, from the beginning, assured us that it is his intention that we get the attention we deserve in promoting road safety matters. Once again, may I thank you Mr. President for your support. Much appreciated.

P.S. I would like to thank Tony Blane our vice-chairman for his continued support to the MegaDrive programme in the Gwent Comprehensive Schools where 15 - 17 year olds are looking forward to becoming drivers one day. The programme consists of a series of seminars set out by Road Safety Gwent Consultancy and Gwent Police and supported by the Gwent Group of Advanced Motorists - where Tony represents the GGAM. We are most grateful to Tony for his contribution.

Mike
Lahert.

The number of people killed on Britain's roads increased last year, according to government figures.

Article taken from BBC News Web Page.

The Department for Transport said 3,508 people died in road accidents in 2003 - 77 (2%) more people than in 2002. Road safety minister David Jamieson said child and pedestrian casualties had been cut - but there had been a big jump in motorcycle deaths.

Road safety charity Brake accused the government of prioritising rhetoric over real funding to make roads safer. The news comes less than two weeks after Prime Minister Tony Blair told MPs speed cameras in accident hotspots prevented about 900 deaths and serious injuries a year.

Despite the rise in deaths, the figures show a 6% fall in the overall number of people killed or seriously injured in 2003. The total number of casualties, including minor injuries, was 290,607 - a 4% drop compared to 2002.

Mr Jamieson said the government needed to find out why more people were being killed despite a fall in the number of casualties overall. He said: "Deaths have gone up particularly on minor and non-built up roads.

Motorcycle campaign

"We need to look carefully at what is causing these accidents, and particularly at why the results are so severe, so that we can work more effectively to address the root causes."

Mr Jamieson said a motorcycling safety campaign would run later this month with the aim of reducing the number of motorcyclists killed. The fatality rate rose by 14% in 2003 compared to the previous year while motorcycle journeys increased by 6%. He welcomed drops of 8% and 6% respectively in the total numbers of child and pedestrian casualties. The number of children killed in 2003 was 171, down 4% on the year before.

Mary Williams, chief executive of Brake, blamed "woeful" under-funding by the government for more than 10 deaths a day on Britain's roads. "There is far too little money spent on traffic policing, road safety TV advertising and engineering measures," she said. "The horrendous loss of life should make road safety a political priority but instead it is always on the back burner with lots of rhetoric but far too little funding. "If this number of people died in plane disasters there would be national outcry and urgent action taken."

Edmund King, executive director of Roadwatch, urged the government to reverse a decline in traffic police and concentrate on "visible and effective enforcement and education".

ROAD DEATHS IN 2003
Motorcyclists: 693 deaths - a 14% rise from 2002
Car users: 1,769 deaths - a 1% increase
Pedestrians: 774 killed - no significant change

Children: 171 fatalities - a 4% fall from 2002
Pedal cyclists: 114 deaths - a 12% drop

New Motorcycle Observers

Over the past few months training has been undertaken by five group members with a view to becoming observers.

They are Peter Skelton, Mark Jones, Greg Sullivan, Steve Williams and Steve Brand.

They all underwent the somewhat harrowing theory training which over a number of months put them through their paces on public speaking on a previously unknown subject, never an easy thing, as well as delivering a presentation on a researched subject. These are useful exercises as practice for the time when they will have to speak to people they don't know with calm assurance, professionalism tact and authority. They also had to study the various books to achieve an in depth knowledge of Roadcraft, The Highway Code and Admin and Documentation in preparation for the written exams.

All of them passed those exams and were looking forward to their practical test so that if successful they would soon be Observers.

Unfortunately due to a combination of circumstance these tests were delayed for a few months, through no fault of their own.

Each and every one of them showed remarkable tolerance during what must have been a very frustrating period for them. They all showed great commitment by continuing to practice their new found skills amongst themselves, with the assistance, I know, of other Observers within the Group.

The fateful weekend finally arrived when the practical tests were carried out.

All were successful and are now fully fledged Observers.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to them all through the pages of the newsletter, so that others can see the fine example set by these five, which exemplifies the tradition of the IAM whereby people wish to pass on to others the skills they have worked so hard to achieve for themselves.

Well Done all of you.

Andy Lamb
Senior Observer

Driving Test Tales

The driving test has just turned 70 years old, and its status as one of the most nerve-wracking rites of passage is unparalleled. And as many Magazine readers have been sharing, the potential for something to go wrong is as great as ever.

Of course none of the embarrassing things would happen during driving tests if we weren't so nervous. But despite the introduction of written tests, there's no joy of coursework for learner drivers - it's the practical driving skills on the day that the examiner is looking for.

This chap thought he was doing well when he spotted that his examiner hadn't put his seat belt on. "I thought he was testing me, so I firmly asked him to do so."

Big mistake. "He said that as we were still on the private ground of the test centre car park, he was not required to do so. He hated me from that moment on," he writes.

And then there's the joy of emergency stops.

"Geordie Driver" wrote that he had been warned by the instructor that it was "highly likely" that the emergency stop would be required on a particular road. "On going down that road the examiner looked back behind to see if there was anything behind us. At that moment, a child on a tricycle rolled out of a driveway, and I had to make an emergency stop. The examiner hit his head on the windscreen. His comment on seeing the child and feeling his bump was: 'OK you've passed. Take me back to the test centre, my bump hurts.'"

Events

PLEASE NOTE:

THE WEBSITE IS UPDATED FREQUENTLY AND HAS DETAILS OF ALL UPCOMING RIDES AND ADDITIONAL RIDES.

IF ANY GROUP MEMBER HAS ANY IDEAS OF A PLACE TO VISIT, PLEASE CONTACT STEVE VIA THE WEBSITE OR BY PHONE.

Unless otherwise stated :

- Sunday rides (May to September) leave RSC, Edlogan Way at 9:00am
All other Sunday rides leave at 10:00am
- Wednesday evening rides at 7:30pm

Additional Information

Approximate mileages have been added against each Sunday rideout, in order to provide some idea of the duration.

Events Calendar for 2005

Month	Day	Destination / Activity
April	Sunday 10th	Broadway - (160 miles) Departure time 10:00am at Edlogan Way Through the Forest of Dean to enjoy lunch at this delightful Wiltshire village. Return via Tewkesbury and Ledbury.
	Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th	BikeSafe Weekend Workshop 9:00am to 5:00pm Based at Road Safety Centre, Edlogan Way, Cwmbran.
	Wednesday 27th	Skenfrith Liquid refreshments at the Bell Inn.
	Sunday 30th	Chepstow 9:00am to 4:00pm MDU Visit to Welsh Street Car Park See page 33 for more details.
May	Tuesday 3rd	Morgan Car Factory Anyone interested in attending please contact Mervyn Thomas See page 16 for more details.
	Sunday 8th	Gaydon - (200 miles) Departure time 9:00am at Edlogan Way Head for the motor museum via some of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds / Wiltshire.
	Wednesday 11th	Slow Riding Sort out the slow speed wobbles with some practice. ----- Group AGM and Presentation To be held at the function room at Green Meadows Golf Club. See page 16 for more details.
	Wednesday 25th	Porthcawl Fish and Chips, the traditional cuisine at Butty Bay.

May (cont'd)	Sunday 29th & Monday 30th	Steam Rally, Bailey Park, Abergavenny MDU Visit See page 33 for more details.
	Monday 30th	Royal Gwent & St. Woolos Hospital Cardiology Fun Run See page 17 for more details.
June	Wednesday 8th	5 Bridges (III) A bit of everything and always a favourite.
	Sunday 12th	Cardigan Coast - (200 miles) Departure time 9:00am at Edlogan Way Aberaeron up to Aberystwyth, returning via Devils Bridge and the Elan Valley. ----- Police Open Day, Police Headquarters MDU Visit See page 33 for more details.
	Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th	BikeSafe Weekend Workshop 9:00am to 5:00pm Based at Road Safety Centre, Edlogan Way, Cwmbran.
	Wednesday 29th	Brecon and the reservoirs Off to Brecon again but then heading back another way?
July	Sunday 10th	Lake Vyrnwy - (230 miles) Departure time 9:00am at Edlogan Way Via Rhayader, Llyn Clywedog, Wales's highest road pass and on to Lake Vyrnwy for lunch. Return via Newtown
	Wednesday 13th	BBQ - All welcome. Tony Parsons hosts the group at the Anchor Inn in the shadows of Tintern Abbey.
	Wednesday 27th	Treasure Hunt - All welcome. Thinking caps on for this one. More details to follow nearer the date. See page 17 for more details.
August	Wednesday 10th	Local Peaks Superb views all within easy reach.
	Saturday 13th	Chepstow Agricultural Show MDU Visit See page 34 for more details.

August (cont'd)	Sunday 14th	Stratford Upon Avon - (200 miles) Departure time 9:00am at Edlogan Way Shakespeare's birthplace in rural Warwickshire.
	Wednesday 31st	Forest of Dean and Ross on Wye Getting there will be good with Stow Hill to look forward to.
September	Sunday 11th	Worcester Triangle - (160 miles) Departure time 9:00am at Edlogan Way An excellent route taking in some great roads.
	Wednesday 14th	Llangorse Talgarth sure to be in there somewhere.
	Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th	BikeSafe Weekend Workshop 9:00am to 5:00pm Based at Road Safety Centre, Edlogan Way, Cwmbran.
	Wednesday 28th	Wye Valley Why? Roads, scenery, pub, what more could you wish for!
October	Sunday 9th	Cheddar & Brean Sands - (140 miles) Departure time 10:00am at Edlogan Way Britain's largest gorge and on to Bridgewater bay.
	Wednesday 26th	Bowling Newport mega bowl.
November	Sunday 13th	Castle Coombe - (120 miles) Departure time 10:00am at Edlogan Way Arguably the prettiest village in England.
	Wednesday 30th	Quiz – All welcome. Andy Lamb steps in to run this annual event.
December	Sunday 11th	Llandovery - (100 miles) Departure time 10:00am at Edlogan Way Battery run. Another chance to charge those batteries!
	TBD	Christmas Functions

Future Bikesafe Events

There will be three workshops, which will be held between 9am and 5pm on the following weekends: 23/24 April, 18/19 June and 17/18 September. They will be based at the Road Safety Resource Centre, Edlogan Way, Cwmbran. Please be advised that there are only a limited number of places available.

Tuesday, 3rd May 2005

Morgan Car Factory visit

A visit to the Morgan Car factory has been arranged for Tuesday 3rd May 2005. Anyone who is interested in attending this event to contact Mervyn Thomas as soon as possible.

Mervyn Thomas - 01291-672880

Wednesday 11th May 2005

Our AGM and presentation evening will be held in the function room Green Meadows Golf Club, Treherbert Road, Cwmbran on Wednesday 11th May. Arrival 7:15 for a 7:30pm start.

Recipients for the presentation will be invited by letter some two weeks before. Please make every effort to attend, as this will show your appreciation of the observers' efforts in preparing you for the test. After the presentations there will be photographs followed by tea and coffee.

The AGM will take place to elect the 2005 committee and to discuss any matters arising. The committee requests those present to wait for the AGM affairs. Your presence will be much appreciated as we would like more people to participate in group committee affairs as the group needs new blood. Please put your name forward for election at the AGM. Please advise Mike Lahert if you are interested either in writing or by phone.

The Group Shop will be present.

The Certificate presentation will be at the AGM so those members both car and bike that passed the test in the last year who wish a formal presentation and photos please bring they're certificates with them.

Royal Gwent & St. Woolos Hospital Cardiology Fun Run

Monday 30th May 11:00am at Civil Service Club, Bettws

They are looking for participants to raise some money for their well deserving fund. I'm sure there are members willing to take part - please contact Josie Brett (details below) for an application form. We will be requesting the help of members to act as marshalls and to monitor the route on motorbikes. If you can help, contact me, Mike Lahert, on 01633-857028.

Josie Brett contact info

- Phone 01633-234307, or
- Answer phone 01633-234308, or
- Fax 01633-255448.

Treasure Hunt – Wednesday 27th July

Map, clue sheet, pencil supplied.

On the clue sheet you will find three points which you have to visit to collect information. From this information you will discover the final meeting point.

Hint: this is likely to be a pub somewhere in the region.

More details and help on map reading using six-figure references will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Please note - this event is open to both cars and bikes.

In fact, it will probably be easier in the car!!

Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts

Many people may have seen a number of members wearing polo shirts and sweatshirts bearing the IAM logo together with the Group's name. An addition to these logos is your name below it – either in full or just first name.

If you would like to have one of these items, then please contact Steve Williams. Details can be found on page 4.

The current colour (which seems to be the most popular) is black. The writing on the shirt is in white.

These items are available for both Car and Motorcycle members.

When ordering, please provide your IAM Membership card.

MOTORCYCLE SECTION SUMMER TOUR 2005

A tour to the Lake District is being arranged for
September 2005
from the 9th to 12th.

The outline plan
to travel up Friday
tour the Lake District on Saturday and Sunday
travel back via North Wales on the Monday.

The cost for accommodation will depend on the number of riders
going.

Interested?

Then let Steve Williams know:

steve@gwent-advanced-motorists.org or

phone 07832 378346,

I will need to know if you are going by the end of May
and a deposit by the end of June.

CONTINENTAL SUMMER TOUR 2006

A 7 to 8 day Continental tour has been suggested for 2006,
at the moment no location has been agreed upon and
your comments are welcome.

The preferred dates for a tour would be outside of the school holidays,
the reason for this is to try and avoid the price hike that all travel
companies like to apply when the little darlings are off.

September seems the logical choice
but please feel free to contact

Steve Williams - steve@gwent-advanced-motorists.org or
phone 07832 378346

and let me know of any opinions you may have.

Past Events

Presentation by Tony Morgan on Touring

Wednesday, 23rd February 2005

Tony gave an excellent presentation on touring. This included his many journeys abroad including his visit to Croatia, which has been covered in the newsletter.

What I didn't realise, was that if you're well prepared, then 'the world is your oyster'.

The main points to bear in mind when organising to travel abroad are as follows:

- Ensure your bike is up to date with its servicing
- Ensure you have the correct documents
- Passport
- Driving licence
- E111
- Breakdown cover
- Insurance documentation (Green Card)
- Is there enough tyre tread
- Consider sacrificing a half-worn tyre for a new one – especially if the planned journey will exceed the remaining life of the tyre. You don't want to necessarily replace it en-route.

A suggestion was to scan in important documents, set up a 'web based email account' and send the scanned documents to this account. This means that if any of them are lost while on holiday, you will be able to print them off again in order to help you on your way.

Packing and loading of the panniers

Pack the heavy things into the side panniers. Try to keep the centre of gravity as low as possible and to keep the weight evenly balanced between the two panniers. If using a top box, then it is useful to keep documents and maps in here for ease of access when at border checkpoints.

Remember to pack light – always leave space for any items you'll buy while away. Clothing – try to take small compact items, be prepared to do some washing while away. T-shirts and underwear can be easily washed and hung up to dry on a make-shift clothes line. Useful to take a length of cord with you for this very job. Like the Scouts motto – "Be Prepared".

A tank bag is useful for maps but not essential. It is sometimes difficult to follow a map while driving, so you may consider just writing the major towns you'll be travelling through. If you do need to study the map, then stop (in a safe place of course !! – Ed.) and take time to sort out your route. If necessary amend your place names list. Remember to take enough paper with you for this purpose.

The beauty of travelling on a bike is that you will feel the freedom of the road. This is especially the case if you have not organised the accommodation along the route. It is useful to book ferry crossings and possibly the first and last nights'

accommodation but leave the nights in-between free and flexible. Perhaps you'll arrive at a place that requires more time to be spent there in order to explore it fully.

Sometimes it may be an idea to have a base to explore from. In this case, you may wish to book this accommodation before hand. Then make your way to this location so that you can spend time exploring the locality.

Occasionally there may be the push to travel great distances at the expense of not really seeing the countryside and villages you're travelling through. Remember that this is supposed to be a holiday and not a marathon to see how many miles you can cover each day. It may be necessary to spend a few days to reach your destination as quickly as possible but then after that you will want to 'take it easy'.

Tony has been touring and using his main holiday as one on the bike for many years. Tony then provided many examples of places he visited. One of his memorable trips was his one to Croatia. So much so, that he intends to return there again... but this time, instead of taking the long way there (via the 'boot of Italy'), will take a more direct route.

At the end of the presentation I (and I'm sure everyone else) felt that the summer was already here and we could go off on a touring holiday.

Thank you Tony for a great presentation.

Road Traffic Accident Investigation

9th March 2005, Road Safety Resource Centre, Edlogan Way, Cwmbran

Presentation by Chris Goddard, Senior Collision Investigator with the Gwent Police

Chris gave a very interesting presentation to us on his work relating to the investigation into the causes of mainly serious road traffic accidents particularly where personal injuries and/or fatalities are involved.

Beginning with a potted history of when and how the very first accidents occurred on our roads, he went on to describe and illustrate the very detailed work involved in determining the cause of these accidents. Some of the pictures shown were pretty horrific, though, fortunately, not too gory!

We were told that, from the final positions of the vehicles involved, the evidence available at the scene (skid marks, debris, etc.) plus possible witnesses accounts, the cause and main contribution to the accident happening can almost always be determined.

About thirty people attended this event, including those participating in the current Advanced Driving Course which is due to finish on the 14th March.

At the end of the evening a short vote of thanks to Chris Goddard was given by Tony Blane on behalf of the group. I would like to thank Chris Goddard again for making the evening a most informative and enjoyable one, to Mervyn Thomas for arranging the event, to Madeline Thomas for arranging the raffle and her help with

the refreshments, to Phillipa Norris, Road Safety Officer for Torfaen for the use of the Resource Centre and especially to those members/friends who attended.

To those members who didn't attend - you missed a good 'un !!

Tony Blane

Rideout Report: Weston-Super-Mare

Date: 13th January 2005

Duration: 10:00hrs –15:00hrs

Distance: 140mls

Conditions: Extremely windy

Rider.	Bike	
Dave Elger.....	BMW GS1200	(Ride Leader)
Dave Williams.....	Honda Deauville 650	(Back Marker – thanks Dave)
Greg Sullivan.....	Triumph Sprint ST	
Mark Jones.....	Honda VFR 800 Vtec	
Steve Williams.....	Yamaha Fzs 1000	
Lee Clarke.....	Honda VFR 800 Vtec	
Courtney Purnell.....	Triumph Sprint ST	
Tony Curtis.....	Honda Pan 1300	
Wayne Lewis.....	Honda Blackbird	

As it was trying to snow when I started out I was pleasantly surprised that 9 riders turned out all seeming to say the same thing, "I nearly didn't bother today." Dave Elger led the group as he knows the area very well after living there for a few years; come to think of it he seems to know the area wherever we go. With the brief briefing completed and having identified Dave Williams as the tail end rider we were soon on our way.

Heading off towards the M4 and Steve passed everyone pulling over the lead rider and the rest of the group into a lay-by, it turned out that he had spotted a screw in Courtney's rear tyre. Now I know we are all using advanced observations but it is quite exceptional the way Steve performs "roadworthiness checks" for other riders whilst on the move.

Courtney turned for home and the group headed for the bridge. Traffic volumes were very high so it gave us all a chance to make slow speed progress along the M4, filtering through the congestion with ease and heading off on the M49. We then avoided all traffic by working our way along "A" and "B" roads through Portland, Failand, Flax Bourton, Brockley Combe, Lulsgate, Redhill, and Burrington.

Throughout the route we often made way for horse riders and it should be said that they too must have their own code of conduct because they never fail to indicate a big thanks for us pulling over and being so considerate.

Then it was on to the cliff road down into Cheddar Gorge. Cheddar is unique, its distinguishing feature is the natural phenomenon of Britain's largest gorge, the Cheddar Yeo in Gough's Cave is Britain's biggest underground river, and the Gorge Cliffs are Britain's highest inland limestone cliffs.

Riding through the gorge there seemed to be a lot of people hanging around, on the cliff face off ropes in fact. Riding past I couldn't help but look up and think that they must be mad but perhaps they were looking down and thinking the same thing.

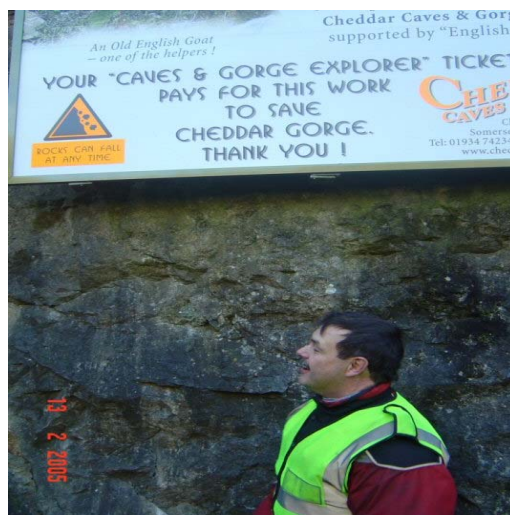
Parking is always a problem in the gorge but we were able to squeeze all eight bikes into a small area not suitable for cars.

Dave E then tried to take a picture of his GS Adventure but had to settle for all of us in the frame – apologies for spoiling a good picture Dave.



Mark, Dave W, Tony, Greg, Lee, Steve, Wayne and Dave E behind the camera

At this point our most observant rider stopped using his advanced observations, after impressing us by spotting a tyre defect he then removed his helmet under the sign "Rocks can fall at any time". Nothing in the Highway Code or Roadcraft that says you must not do that!



We then moved on through Winscombe, Locking and into Weston following the diverted route into the Motorcycle parking area, I wish all towns were so considerate.

Time for a good break with a hearty breakfast at the seafront café sat around two tables with our jackets, helmets etc stacked up in the corner.

There was something special to celebrate, actually a day late, but nevertheless Mark had a surprise when he was presented with a Mr Kipling birthday cake with one candle and a rendition of “happy birthday” with only the Welsh singing I might add.

With the formalities over we sped home via the M5 in what turned out to be very severe winds, which were particularly difficult when side-on. Eventually we crossed over the Severn Bridge and through the tolls with a friendly toll operator waving as through in pairs and Riders dispersing at their convenience at what was the end of the ride.

Another good Rideout, with a wise choice of destination for this time of year, thanks to the two Daves for a good day.

Greg Sullivan

Something for the grey cells...

Ox and Plough

A farmer is ploughing a field with his ox and plough. The field is 250 metres wide by 100 metres long. The furrows are two and a half metres wide and run in parallel strips lengthways across the field.

As it pulls the plough, the Ox can cover approximately one metre with each stride.

Question

How many hoof prints does the Ox leave in the entire field?

The Hungry Bookworm

I have a 2-volume encyclopaedia arranged from A to M and from N to Z. When I took them down from the bookshelf I discovered that a bookworm had eaten all the way from Aardvark to Zulu.

Question

Given that the pages constitute a thickness of about 10 cm in each volume and the individual covers are 1 mm thick how far in total had the bookworm munched?

Answers on page 32.

Rideout Report: Bath**Date:** 13th March 2005**Duration:** 10:00hrs –15:00hrs ish**Distance:** 120mls**Conditions:** Grey and overcast and a bit nippy

Rider	Bike	
Mike Odelet	Honda Blackbird	(Ride Leader First Half, Back Marker Second Half)
Mark Jones	Honda VFR 800 Vtec	(Back Marker First Half, Ride Leader Second Half)
Steve Williams	Yamaha FZS 1000	
Greg Sullivan	Triumph Sprint ST	
Courtney Purnell	Triumph Sprint ST	
Peter Skelton	BMW GS650	
Mark Gorniki	Suzuki Bandit 650	
Tony Curtis	Honda Pan 1300	
John Parry-Jones	BMW K750	

A good turn out with 9 riders meeting at the R.S.C Edlogan Way for the run to Bath.

There was a look of surprise on a few faces when I announced that we were not going to use the drop off system, I thought that with a small number of riders and they had all been on this run before it would not be necessary, although there were no problems and we were making good progress I regret not using the drop off system I won't make that mistake again.

At the start John Parry-Jones informed us that he would be leaving us at Chepstow as he had work to finish before going of to France for a holiday (poor chap)

For a change I decided not to go the lanes way and go into Caerleon via Pontir before going on to Usk and then onto the Old Chepstow Road to Chepstow and true to his word John waved us goodbye to go and prepare for his hols.

The first stop of the day was going to be Fowlers in Bristol over the old bridge down the M32 (boring) for a cup of something and then onto Bath for another cup of something and food, we all arrived safely at Fowlers and went in for a drink and to my surprise riders started to look at bikes, strange that. A couple of the group had there eyes on the new Triumph Sprint ST, guess who ?

We left Fowlers with Mark leading with me as Back Marker, as he knows his way around Bath and could remember the Island we parked on at the last visit, we hadn't gone far when we had to stop at traffic lights as you do, when one of the riders pulled of onto the forecourt of a local store naturally we all followed all wondering why and the reason was that the oil light on Peters BMW had come on, there was plenty of oil in it but Peter was naturally concerned and decided to call BMW Assist and get them out to have a look at this point Steve volunteered to

stay with Peter until BMW Assist had been contacted and hopefully catch us up somewhere along the way.

They did turn up by which time the oil light had extinguished itself, as there was plenty of oil in the bike Peter decided to make his way back home rather than wait for the recovery vehicle as this could be several hours before it could get to him. Steve decided to ride home with Peter just in case there were any further problems, fortunately there wasn't and Peter got the bike home safe, well done to Steve. (What went wrong with BMW build quality then?)

Mark took us in to Bath and located the Island where we parked (all 6 of us) and led us to a nice little eatery in one of the side streets, he seems to know a lot of little streets in Bath I wonder why, anyway there was 2 tables and 6 chairs outside the eatery and we all enjoyed a drink and some food, during conversations while waiting for the food to come one of the group decided that he will leave us when we got to the top of the hill out of Bath as we were turning left to Wick and back into Bristol and home as this would not be quick enough for him so he decided to go home the motorway to get home in time to watch some game with a funny shaped ball "strange man" hope he enjoyed the game

This left 5 of us to wind our way through Wick and onto Bristol on our way we had a snow shower followed by hailstones luckily this didn't last long and was over by the time we got back onto the M32 then M4 and home.

Many thanks to all who turned out and look forward to seeing you all on the Broadway Rideout.

Mike Odelet

General Information

Gwent Advanced Motorists Group gets Second Lottery Award

In May 2003 the Gwent Group of Advanced Motorists was awarded £5000 by the "Awards for all Wales" programme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This was used as the major contribution towards buying a Mobile Display Unit to advertise the group and its activities throughout Gwent.

A second application to the fund has resulted in further success as "Awards for all Wales" has granted £2090 to the group to be used for the purchase of a laptop computer, LCD projector, lectern and screen for use in the groups twice yearly series of Advanced Driving Lectures to potential members of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

The group has over 400 members in Gwent and is credited with contributing to an improved standard of driving in the area.

Thanks are due to "Awards for all Wales" for continuing to support the group.

Ron Palmer

Notes of Regional Liaison Forum Meeting Held in Launceston on Saturday 19th February 2005

Lona Williams has taken over the role of Region Co-ordinator for Region 1 as of 1st February 2005.

Helen Scofield was the regional co-ordinator for five years. Within that time two new groups were formed within the region. These being Barnstaple and North Devon.

Two new groups will be going solo in April 2005. These are Plymouth and WaBAM (Wilts and Bath Advanced Motorcyclists).

Test applications increase every year but this past year there have been a large increase. This is a surprise to many people, as it was felt that the introduction of the 'Skill for Life' package may have deterred people from applying – the requirement to spend £85 up-front. Obviously this is not the case.

At the Spring meeting (to be held in Bristol on Saturday 23rd April, 2005) a talk on 'Gift Aid' will be given by the Gwent Group.

The subject of points on your licence and the validity of remaining members of the association was mentioned once again. It was pointed out that Bryan Lunn currently receives 40 letters a day regarding speeding offences. The point being that a new member cannot join the group if they have more than 9 points on their licence and that if a current member incurs points on their licence, then they should (in theory) also not be able to continue as members of the group.

Test length issue (raised as a concern at the previous meeting)

The response from John Taylor was that the test should typically take 90 minutes. This to include the de-brief.

Rob Downing (Motorcycle examiner) tailors his test for around 1 hour. The de-brief can go on for a while depending on the associate under test but he aims to complete the whole process within the 90 minutes. His opinion is that it is unreasonable to have an associate under test for more than 60 minutes as it can be un-nerving to have someone following you, watching every move you make for more than an hour. After this time, it is felt that the concentration level of the associate may drop.

Bryan Davies – How to encourage more Observers into groups

The idea is to increase the number of observers this year. On a regional basis to see how the individual groups can increase their observer base.

In Region 3 a process has been adopted where a seminar has been offered for prospective observers. The seminar will cover the theory side, the briefing and de-briefing and also cover the case where you have an argumentative associate. This may be applicable to region 1 depending on the success of this programme.

Bryan Davies, Tim Soper and Dave Shenton - their idea is to have an 'Observer Training Group' which will be a cluster of groups for Region 1. This is due to the overall size of the region.

Questions that have been collected and are available on the members side of the web page will be put onto a CD. Once a member passes the test, the idea is to give them this CD to encourage them to become observers.

The question of points on licences was raised once again.

The rules state that if you have 9 or more points then you can become an associate but cannot take the test until the points total reduces to 6 points. If the associate receives more points then they cease to be an associate.

The idea behind allow these people to join, is that this will help their driving. Perhaps it is felt that it is due to poor driving that they have collected the points in the first place.

If this occurs in our group, then we should sell them the Skill for Life package, on the condition that we inform Lona Williams or IAM House that they are unable to take the test because of the points and they will waive the 12 month rule until the points have expired and they can take the test. These people need to be signed up to a group so that the observer is covered by insurance.

A general statement by Bryan Davies - there are more IAM members than that of RoSPA.

Bike and Car sections split for their own meetings

This was led by Tim Soper and Rob Downing.

There are currently 550 paid up new associates within the motorbike section. These new recruits were as a result of the NEC and recent Ally Pally bike shows.

There will be an IAM Members Day on Sunday 12th June at Sammy Miller's Museum.

IAM will be taking over the museum for the day. The cost for each member attending will be £5. The idea is for individual groups to make it a rideout with the destination being the museum. The hope is that this will turn into an annual event.

[Note: this clashes with the Cardigan Run.]

Motorcycle (in Avon & Somerset) fatalities rate for 2004 was a 91% increase over the previous year. This equates to 21 motorcyclists died in 2004. These riders were in the 25-50 age group and typically were single bike collisions. Unfortunately, this is in line with the natural trend for accidents.

Rob Downing is the Senior Observer tester for his region.

The failure rate for Senior Observers was relatively high.

To overcome this, John Taylor (Staff Examiner) put together a list of points that a Senior Observer should know for the test - they should have a good theory knowledge of PYAMT, the Highway Code and Roadcraft.

The test is in two parts:

1. The Senior Observer to be, takes out an associate with the examiner following behind.
2. Demonstration ride on a route of our choice.

In order to pass the test you must be riding at a level much higher than that of the IAM Test.

[Greg Sullivan has since obtained a copy of this list from Rob Downing.]

David Williams

[These are my notes of the meeting]

Newsletter in Electronic Form (PDF)

If people would like to receive or access a PDF copy of the Newsletter then this is available via the new website. Access is restricted to members only, contact Steve Williams on steven.williams5@ntlworld.com for more details.

Advantages of having an electronic copy of the newsletter - you will be see the pictures in better detail and in colour too!

In Addition . . .

Why not subscribe to our e-mail list, you will be updated of any last minute events or relevant News Releases as they occur.

Your e-mail address is secure and not viewable by other parties.

You can un-subscribe at any time.

Visit www.gwent-advanced-motorists.org/mail_list1.htm

Whilst you're on the site why not sign our guestbook - it can be found at the top of every page.

Comments from Mike Lahert

Group Web Site

The Gwent group web site has recently received the IAM Group Approved Quality Award for 2005 for both Car & Bike. This has come about from the hard work that David Elger has put into the project to include presentation and quality. The group committee is most grateful to Steve Williams for taking on the role of 'Webmaster' ensuring the web site is kept up to date. Steve has submitted some guidelines on how a group can set up its own web site. Many thanks to Steve and David for their efforts.

Motorcycle Observers

We now have five new bike Observers who have passed after been tested by Andy Lamb, Senior Observer. Congratulations to these new Observers: Peter Skelton, Greg Sullivan, Mark Jones, Steve Brand and Steve Williams. Also, many thanks to the others who helped Andy Lamb on the day: Tony Morgan, Dave Elger, David Williams and Mike Odelet. Their efforts have made the motorcycle section a much stronger unit going into 2005. That was real teamwork, well done everyone.

Car Section Observers

Recently, two members have become car Observers. Congratulations to Linda Floyd and Richard Bennett. Many thanks to Derek Hodges for his time and effort in preparing Linda and Richard to become Observers. We still require many more observers to swell our ranks. Don't wait, come and join us, we have a space and time. Give us a call on 01633-857028.

Advanced Driving Classes

The current Advanced Driving Class is now coming to a close and it seems that many have indicated that they wish to take on the practical side. We can't yet say how many of them will actually join our ranks although, on a show of hands, it looks encouraging. Our thanks to Steve Schanzer for introducing the Power Point system to us. Hopefully we will review the system once all the feedback has been collected. Our thanks to our President, Supt. Nigel Russell, for the opening and the closing of the course with presentation of certificates. Our thanks also to the following for their involvement:

- P.C. Jeff Brimble and P.C. Andy Wiltshire for their contribution to their motorway evening,
- Steve and Jan Jackson for their contribution to the First Aid evening which went down well with the class,
- Mervyn Thomas, Tony Blane and Mike Lahert for their assistance,
- The gallant observers that took the class on that Sunday run which everyone concerned enjoyed : Derek Hodges, Carol Shergold, Brendan James, Roy Jones, Mervyn Thomas, Richard Bennett, Ray Spencer, Graham Edmunds and Mike Lahert, and finally,
- P.C. Jeff Brimble and P.C. John War for taking out the class in Police cars to give them the opportunity to see advanced driving done for real. The class said that this was the highlight of the course.

Mike Lahert

IAM News Articles

IAM Fleet Appoints Simon Elstow as Training Manager

Issued: 3 February 2005

IAM Fleet, the commercial training division of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), has appointed Simon Elstow as Training Manager, responsible for the induction, training and monitoring of IAM Fleet's trainers. Other responsibilities include developing a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for IAM Fleet.

With over 15 years of experience in the driver training industry, Simon has a wealth of knowledge in the areas of off-road skills and fleet driver training, in addition to running vehicle launch events and the education of driver trainers to the ADI Instructor standard.

Commenting on the new appointment, Mark Edwards, IAM Fleet's Head of Training, said: "Simon brings a sound industry background which will help ensure that IAM Fleet continues to set the standard for high quality driver training programmes."

For more information, visit www.iamfleet.com, email enquiries@iamfleet.com or call 0845 3108311.

IAM Starts the Search for a 2005 "Road Safety Champion"

Issued: 22 February 2005

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) has started the 2005 search for the individual who at some point has made a significant contribution to saving the lives of young drivers and riders. The Dominic Fox Award seeks to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding road safety work that has benefited, directly or indirectly, young road users.

Statistics show that younger drivers and riders are consistently the UK's most vulnerable road users. One in three crashes involves young men under the age of 20. And 18 year old drivers have twice as many crashes as 50 year olds doing the same mileage.*

"Of all our awards, the Fox Award is the most prestigious. Once again, our ideal candidate is likely to be a bit of a 'champion' - somebody with a history in road safety, and whose contribution may have already been recognised," said IAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock.

The Dominic Fox Award is named after the IAM's youngest Council member, who died unexpectedly in 2000, at just 32.

"This is the fourth year of the award. Dominic Fox brought a fresh eye to the promotion of safer driving for younger drivers and motorcyclists," said Mr Bullock. The winner will receive a trophy and a monetary award.

The 2004 winner was Sam Geddis, from Northern Ireland, who spearheaded the "Roadwise" scheme for younger drivers.

Nomination forms for this year's award can be downloaded from the IAM website, www.iam.org.uk (in PDF File format for printing)

The deadline for nominations is 31 July 2005.

Now It's "White Van Woman" As Well, Warns IAM

Issued: 14 March 2005

Studies of young drivers in America and Japan have revealed that females are now just as aggressive as males and display similar levels of competitiveness and sensations seeking behind the wheel.

According to the latest edition of Advanced Driving, the magazine of the IAM, this trend is beginning to affect UK roads too. Advanced Driving quotes latest Home Office figures stating that although men still account for the vast majority of motoring offences, the number of women getting traffic convictions, particularly speeding, has risen by 50 per cent in the last eight years.

Commentators attribute the rise in female lawlessness to women's changing social roles and greater independence, as well as the fact that more women are driving big, powerful cars which give them an exaggerated feeling of personal security and lead to a less cautious approach on the road.

"Bad driving by either sex is a cause for concern. We don't need the lad-ette culture putting our safety at risk. I know that 'White Van Woman' may not actually be in a Transit but she could have attitudes that can create problems for the rest of us on the road," said Christopher Bullock, IAM Chief Executive.

Also in the spring edition of Advanced Driving:

- Automatic Pilot : how emerging car technology could lead to driver "underload";
 - Give it a spin: Radio One DJs line up to take the Max Power assessment
 - Graduated Fixed Penalties: could the new Road Safety Bill mean a more flexible approach to fines and penalty points for drivers?
 - Colour vision: we ask if some car colours really safer than others.
-

Drive & Survive Acquired by the IAM

Issued 16th March 2005

The business and assets of leading fleet risk management provider Drive & Survive have been acquired by the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists).

"We are pleased to be part of Drive & Survive's future," said Christopher Bullock, IAM Chief Executive. "It has a deserved reputation for innovative and highly effective risk management solutions, and fits comfortably with our new strategy and objectives. Drive & Survive already makes a major contribution to road safety as one of the leading providers of risk management and driver training for those who drive as part of their work."

Though under the IAM umbrella, Drive & Survive will continue to operate as an autonomous business from new premises in Oxfordshire.

"The acquisition of Drive & Survive also includes all the equipment to deliver its specialist off road driver training courses," Christopher Bullock continued. "In fact, now that Drive & Survive is part of the IAM, there will be the flexibility to deliver these in a number of locations in the UK."

Drive & Survive has been providing qualified driver training since 1985, and now provides fleet safety audits, online risk assessments, E-Learning, group seminars, on-road advanced driver training and all the supporting materials needed to assist fleets in reducing their exposure to road risk.

The company has won Fleet Excellence Awards for Fleet Driver Training on eight occasions in the past 11 years, is Driving Standards Agency approved and has Investors in People accreditation.

Grey cell activity – answers

Ox and Plough
Answer: None

The Hungry Bookworm
Answer: 2 mm

Another puzzle...if you enjoyed the others.

ELEVEN

Eleven plus two = twelve plus one
In what non-mathematical way does this equation make sense?

Answer on page 33.

Mobile Display Unit (M.D.U.)

Future Visits for the Mobile Display Unit

Saturday 2nd April 2005 - Monmouth Cattle Market Car Park

This is located at the bottom end of the town near Waitrose, between 9:30am and 4:30pm. The main purpose of the visit is recruitment and to promote road safety. We ask members and associates to encourage their friends to come along and meet us and hopefully become new members. We need volunteers to help on the day.

Saturday 30th April 2005 - Chepstow

We will be located in the Welsh Street Car Park adjacent to the library between 9:00am and 4:00pm. The main purpose is to promote road safety and to encourage both car drivers and bikers to become members, and associates of the group to get their friends to come along and join us. There will be a News Release in local papers supporting our visit. Any members who can help on the day will be much appreciated.

Sunday and Monday 29/30th May 2005 9:00am - 5:00pm Steam Rally, Bailey Park, Abergavenny

The group have a space booked for the MDU at the above show. The main purpose is to promote road safety and to recruit new members for both cars and bikes.

This is a well-run rally organised by the Rotary Club. Why not come along and have a browse around those old time exhibits of steam, also farm tractors. This is always a good day. New members very welcome - encourage your friends.

Sunday 12th June 12:00pm - 5:00pm Police Open Day, Police Headquarters, Croesyceiliog

The police have allowed a space for our MDU at this event. Again the main purpose of the visit is to promote road safety and encourage new members

Come along and view the crime fighting exhibits on display, which include helicopter pad, dogs, drugs, etc.

ELEVEN answer:

"Eleven plus two" is an anagram of "twelve plus one".

Saturday 13th August**Chepstow Agricultural Show, Broadwell Farm, Crick**

More information to follow closer to the date.

Mobile Display Unit

If there is anyone who has any events taking place near them in the foreseeable future, and they think a visit from the M.D.U. would be beneficial, please contact Mervyn Thomas or any member of the committee.

Members' comments**MORE GOOD GATSO NEWS**

It sounds like a speeders' nightmare. A speed camera accurate up to 50mph concealed in a road stud as small as a cat's eye. Yes it is true.

The camera is just 130 mm in diameter, and can protrude from the surface by just 5mm and is linked to a computer that can read and decode number plates written in both italic and cursive scripts.

The idea is that it would be used in the approach to areas with lower speed limits. The camera will look at each oncoming vehicle and measure its speed. Then you will have illuminated road studs that will light up on the approach to a pedestrian crossing, say, and a sign could light up to display the registration number of the vehicle, telling the driver to slow down.

The camera is currently on trial with the Scottish Office in Motherwell.

Steve Schanzer

Wanted! Volunteers!

If you wish to lecture or assist in the lectures please contact Steve Schanzer.

If you wish to assist in the running or Administration of these courses please contact Steve Schanzer or Mike Lahert.

If you wish to assist at displays with the Mobile Display Unit please contact Mike Lahert or Mervyn Thomas.

If you wish to join your committee please contact any committee member.

No experience needed for any of these tasks. Full mentoring will be provided.

Contact details at the front of this newsletter.

Steve Schanzer

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Cost per Issue	12.50	10.00	9.17	8.75	8.50	8.33

Advertisers should send a copy of the required advert, indicating whether full or half page is required, to the Editor. A printout of the advert as it will appear will be supplied to the advertiser with a request for payment.

Cheques for payment at the appropriate rate should be made payable to Gwent Group of Advanced Motorists and be sent to the Group Treasurer, Ron Palmer, 8 Maple Close, Llanmartin, Newport NP18 2ET at least 7 days before the first day of the month of issue.

Small 'For Sale' type ads, from members only, will be accepted free of charge up to a maximum of 30 words. Please send a copy of the wording to the Editor.

Whether you are just starting out or wish to improve and develop your riding skills, RiderSystems.com has a uniquely tailored Course for you.



Qualified, patient instructors provide training seven days a week on sites in South Wales

- ✓ CBT: Gets you on the road – Safely. The South Wales
- ✓ DAS: Pass this test and ride larger bikes. Motorcycle Safety Centre
- ✓ Take a holiday and pass your test in a week whilst enjoying the scenery of Mid Wales meeting with other bikers. Bunkhouse accommodation. Corporation Road
Newport
- ✓ Rusty Rider: Be safe and brush up your skills – Welcome back. Tel: 07000 125 500
- ✓ Advanced Rider: Achieve your potential www.ridersystems.com

NOTICE TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

IF AN OBSERVER HAS NOT CONTACTED YOU WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF JOINING THE GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHIEF OBSERVER (DETAILS ON PAGES 2 & 4 OF THIS NEWSLETTER).

IN ORDER THAT THE GROUP MEMBERSHIP RECORDS ARE CORRECT AND UP TO DATE, PLEASE

INFORM YOUR OBSERVER OF THE DATE OF YOUR ADVANCED DRIVING TEST AS SOON AS YOU ARE NOTIFIED OF THIS.

WHEN YOU HAVE THE RESULT OF THE TEST, PLEASE INFORM YOUR OBSERVER.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, PLEASE INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY OF THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER OF THE IAM WHICH YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE INSTITUTE.