

Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 275

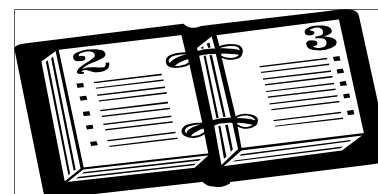
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Forthcoming Attractions



Monday, 16th July; instead of the usual seated meeting the July gathering will get out and about on a **Treasure Hunt**. Meet at the front of the Royal Clifton from 7.45 pm.

Saturday and Sunday, 5th/6th August; Woodvale Rally where Sefton residents can sign up for the Advanced Driving course at a discounted rate.

August; no monthly meeting.

Monday, 17th September; speaker and topic to be confirmed.

Please make a note of these events in your diary and try to come along and support our guest speakers who give up their free time to come and speak to us. All meetings are at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, unless otherwise stated, and start at 8 pm.

From the Chair

As I mentioned in my first Chair's report last month, this is second time around for me! First time being in 1984.

I passed my test with the Merseyside Group in 1975 as Associate number 64. Sefton Group still has the Newsletters and minutes of meetings from 1984 thanks to Ron Clare who was our secretary then and is now our President.



Each month, as I write this piece, I will look back to the same month in that year to see what I was writing about. It appears that I was asking for ideas to publicise the Group and volunteers to help with events.

That is still what we need. Jan West was publicity officer at that time. Now it is Dave Roscoe and he would love to hear from you if you have any ideas.

Volunteers are also sought. Then it was for an open day in Southport and now it is Tom O'Malley drawing up a rota for Woodvale. So keep the ideas and support coming and we will last another 23 years and more!

Stella Owen
(Chair)
Sefton Advanced Motorists

Bernard Bowden

It is with sadness we are told of the death of Bernard Bowden who passed away last month. His funeral took place at Rufford on Wednesday, 27th June.

Anyone who met Bernard will have been struck by his amiable and good natured sense of humour, but most of all by the sincerity of his greeting.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Test Passes

Hearty congratulations go to

Jon Morgan

observed by

Peter Comfort

Greg Litherland

observed by

Tim Starkey

Ian Thoroughgood

observed by

Arthur Heighway



Congratulations



Robert Lathom receiving his Advanced Driving Certificate from David Williams, his observer, at the June meeting.



Our Publicity Officer, Dave Roscoe, has prepared the following Press Release for the local papers. Please watch out for it and save a copy for our archives. Also, tell as many of your friends and family, etc that it is an event not to be missed.

News Release **From Sefton Advanced Motorists**

Sefton Advanced Motorist plan major presence **at the acclaimed Woodvale Rally**

Sefton Advanced Motorists will be attending the Woodvale Rally on August 5th and 6th with their Publicity trailer and will be maintaining a major presence throughout the acclaimed two day event. They will be promoting the IAM "Skill for Life" Programme and the "Drive Check" Programme.

The "Skill for Life" Programme includes theory and on road coaching by IAM qualified advanced driving observers and works towards taking the Advanced Driving Test. The Programme usually takes about three months.

With the right preparation advanced driving is not as difficult as many people suppose and is within the reach of most drivers. But, as with any form of further education and skills training, it's up to the individual to get the most from the Programme.

Drivers who have qualified as full IAM members have been shown to be 70 per cent less likely to be involved in collisions and less likely to incur penalty points for bad driving.

For the two days of the Rally, Sefton Advanced Motorists will be offering a special discount of £25 for any Sefton resident signing up for the Skill for Life Programme.

Driving experts from Sefton Advanced Motorists will be on hand to talk to visitors about improving driving skills and how to go about it. Many people believe that they are good drivers but passing the Advanced Driving Test of the IAM confirms good driving ability.

Ends

It has to go!

In fact, this rather appealing Escort RS 1600 can go rather quickly! However, for those of you who know the driveway of the editor's house it can get rather crowded, especially when all residents are in residence, the caravan is not in store and all of this co-inciding with hosting a Training Team meeting.



So, if anyone has got £3,000 burning a hole in their pocket they could be the new owner. For further information of the car's heritage contact either Jon or Anna on 07746 127683 or 07739 111222.

Visit to Toyota Factory, Burnaston, Derby.

Tuesday 5th June 2007

When Peter Comfort announced at the AGM in May that he had a spare seat for the trip he had arranged to the Toyota factory, near Derby, I jumped at the chance and bagged the place. Only then did Peter let me know that we were to be in Derby for 9.30 a.m. so would have to leave Ainsdale at 7 a.m.!!

The party duly assembled at that early hour with Richard Hardie, Philip Kelly and Alan Granby making up the 5 places in Peter's car. Peter put his advanced skills to the test with 3 observers in the car – not something that everyone would want to do. Non-member Alan was challenged afterwards to take the test – we may have him on board when he retires next year!

The 100 mile trip took us just short of 2 hours and with no hold ups on the motorway, we arrived with half an hour to spare at the massive 580 acre factory. The Japanese are well known for their efficiency and we were just wondering whether we would have to participate in the morning exercises with the workers when the doors opened promptly on the dot of 9.30 a.m.

We were shown into the entrance hall of the new visitor centre and greeted with tea and coffee. This was followed by a half hour video presentation showing all areas of the factory. This was necessary as we would not be able to see all parts of the production process. Following this we were allocated to our tour vehicle which was an open electric "train" and were provided with safety helmets and glasses.

We were not able to visit the press, plastic moulding and paint shops, presumably for health and safety reasons, but the video had given us a flavour of those areas. Our train proceeded, with the driver giving us an excellent running commentary, through the panel welding department and we quickly noticed why we were told to have covered arms and legs as well as wearing the safety glasses – the sparks from the robot welders were leaping 10 metres into the air and sometimes over the transparent screens. Watching huge machines move automatically was spectacular as the panels gradually took the shape of recognisable car parts. Some of the welding is done by humans as the machines are not able to get into confined areas and with about 2500 welds on the new Auris model and over 4000 on the Avensis, it is just as well that the robots take most of the work to an accuracy of 0.1 of a millimetre. As part of Toyota's "green" credentials in zero waste, even the weld "splatter" is swept up and recycled.



From l to r: Peter Comfort, Phil Kelly, Cam Cunningham and Richard Hardie.

We then went on to the assembly plant where the panels we saw being welded are put together after having been treated against corrosion and then painted to order to the required

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colour. The assembly is mostly done by humans with each part being fastened together before moving on to the next section. What was clever was that the doors, bumpers and bonnet were first removed to make access easier and avoid damaging them. These, then, met up with the completed car later at the end of the line; and all the colours amazingly matched up with the correct car.

All too soon the tour was over and we met back at the visitor's centre to ask any questions and fill in the questionnaires. It was here we found out more of the Japanese eye for accuracy. The day shift works from 7.30 a.m. until 3.48 p.m. (not 3.45 or 3.50!!).

Over half the parts for the two models made in the factory are sourced in the UK with rest coming from their four other plants in Europe. The Auris is even exported back to Japan – so they can be classed as much a British car as a Jaguar or Land Rover! A pity we didn't see all the processes but it was still a fascinating trip. Many thanks to Peter for organising it.

Cam Cunningham

Dave Williams prepares for another epic walk

Many of you will already know Dave Williams, one of our Qualified Observers, who annually takes on a charity walk of almost marathon proportions. Well, he is doing it again.

The event takes place on Sunday 29th July and is in aid of the Southport Kidney Fund (Charity No. 510320). I am sure David would enjoy your company on the 18 miles walk from Waterloo, along the coast and back to Birkdale. But if existing commitments prevent you from taking part I am sure he will accept a donation from you at our next meeting in July.



It sounds like a very well organized fundraiser with refreshments and entertainment laid on afterwards at the Birkdale Labour Club. Even a celebrity from Dune FM to present medals to all the finishers!

I am told the organiser Colin Jones, is still inviting walkers to take part and he can be contacted on 01704 547580 for fuller details.

Your generosity will be appreciated.

Question:

Do marathon runners with badly fitting shoes suffer the agony of de feet?

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