

# Sefton Advanced Motorists

Issue: 299

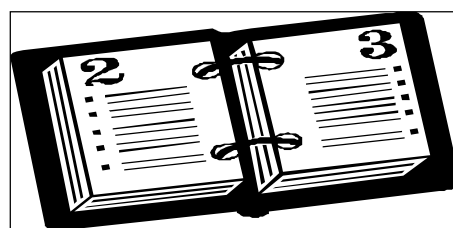
Registered Charity No. 517780

August 2009

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## Forthcoming Attractions



**Monday, August 17th;** there will be no monthly meeting at the Royal Clifton Hotel, but a visit to **News International at Knowsley** has been organised.

**Monday, 14th September;** get all your friends to enrol on the next Advanced Driving Course at this **New Associates Meeting**.

**Monday, September 21st; Jean Hunt,** Senior Officer (Travel Awareness and Safety) at Sefton Council, will be with us and her talk is entitled "**Road Safety and Cycling**".

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.

# Chairman Writes

Hello to you all,

This month sees in a new Chairman for the IAM Alistair Cheyne, I'm sure we wish him all the best in his new role. Thanks also to the outgoing Chair David Kenworthy who has had some tough changes to deal with in his 2 year tenure.



The end of July also saw the release of the 2008 road casualty figures, these showed some improvement on '07. A 14% reduction in road deaths is definitely heading in the right direction. Still plenty to be done though, with almost 50 people a week dying on our roads.

I'll not bore you with further statistics, but if you like looking at pretty graphs then the <http://www.iammotoringfacts.co.uk/> site makes for interesting viewing. We should have a paper copy for your perusal at the monthly meetings. The accident reductions are even more pleasing considering the increase in traffic flow over the last few years. Or maybe it's because we're spending more time stationary.

On to more local matters; Frank Bennett, long time contributor to Sefton's car training team, has highlighted a gap in our associate scheme. Due to changes in how we and the IAM delivered course materials to associates they haven't been provided with an up to date copy of the highway code. As Frank has pointed out advanced riders and drivers should have a firm grasp of the basics as well as the more technical skills.

So from the September courses, all new associates (car and bike) will be provided with an up to date highway code. As many people still have the original copy of the HC they used to get through their L test, some of the later tweaks and additions may have passed them by.

Something that is perhaps missing is a list of changes from previous versions of the HC. Unfortunately my dog-eared copy from my L test is sadly no longer with us for comparison purposes. The latest 2007 version was considerably chunkier than its predecessors, apparently 50% bigger. It offers a few welcome additions notably "Merge in turn" and numerous improvements based around the two wheel fraternity.

Other changes include

- \* smoking behind the wheel is a breach of the rules of the road and could be seen as a 'distraction'
- \* new safety code for novice drivers, which includes 'don't show off or compete with other drivers'
- \* updates on vehicle emissions information
- \* new traffic calming initiatives explained: quiet lanes, high-occupancy vehicle lanes and home zones
- \* advice on the stopping powers of Highway Agency Traffic Officers
- \* an explanation of the law on smoking in company cars

Whilst hunting around for an older copy I did come across this website <http://medical-reports.com/highwaycodesofoldentimes.html> which has copies of the 1931, 46 and 54 editions available. The first edition runs to 21 whole pages (discounting advertising!) Although it is a far cry from the 150 or so page mammoth we have today, it's good to see Frank's Golden Rule was in from the start. "Always have your vehicle under full control and be ready and able to pull up well within the distance you can see to be clear." And as Frank would add 'on your own side of the road'.

Personally I think the opening of the first edition is, if anything a bit less stiff than the current version. "Always be careful and considerate towards others. As a responsible citizen you have a duty to the community not to endanger or impede others in their lawful use of the King's Highway."

No prizes for which version that is.

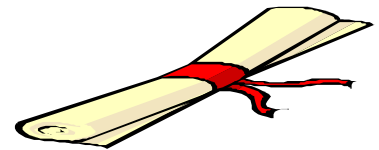
I'll try and fetch a print copy of the above along to September's meeting. If you haven't got the latest HC copy yet, then our group shop is well stocked.

Safe motoring to you all

**Tom O'Malley**

# Test Passes

Hearty congratulations go to



**Simon Hancock** observed by **Kevin McAllister**

## Visit by IAM Chief Examiner

As you will remember, we enjoyed the company of the IAM Chairman (David Kenworthy) at our AGM in May and, it seems, he has been able to encourage another of his colleagues from "headquarters" to make the journey up to the North West of England.

Because, in **November** we will be able to welcome **Peter Rodger, Chief Examiner**, to our monthly meeting at the Royal Clifton Hotel. This will take place on the 16th of that month which means you have plenty of opportunity to keep your diaries free for his visit.

You will also have plenty of chance to question him on all matters of driving and the IAM. So, if anything occurs to you between now and then it may be as well to make a note of it and raise it during the meeting.

## Some other dates for your diaries.

There is nothing more annoying than reading about stuff you would have liked to have gone to, after the event, is there? Well, here are a couple of dates that may be of interest to some, if not all, of you.

### Sunday, 6th September West Lancs Festival of Transport

Organised by the West Lancs MG Owners Club the show takes place at Leisure Lakes, Mere Brow just off the A565.

There are 10 classes of car competing for three prizes in each category.

A 65 mile Classic Run starts and finishes at the show, so if you are in the area you are sure to see plenty of action.

The event runs from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

**NB. Sefton Advanced Motorists will be an exhibitor at this event.**



### Wednesday, 9th September Road Safety Event, Ramada Hotel, Promenade, Southport.

This is an event run by the Merseyside Road Partnership with the themes being particularly of interest to the over 60's.

Sefton Advanced Motorists will be present at the show with an information point and display so let as many people know of the event and turn up to give your support.

The Group has been specifically invited to attend by Jean Hunt of the Sefton Travel Awareness and Safety Team. Jean is, of course, speaking to us at our September meeting on the 21st.



### Remember this handsome chap?

Well, perhaps for those never fortunate to have met him, it is **Mark Revill-Johnson** who left Sefton Advanced Motorists and these shores to settle in New Zealand.

Mark was a very keen and active member of the group and acted as our Chief Senior Observer for many years and was more than instrumental in getting us to where we are today.

Why do I mention this? It is because he is back in the UK during September and, it is rumoured, may be able to make our monthly meeting.

*We certainly hope that the rumour turns out to be fact.*

I was looking through the paper copy of IAM Motoring Facts that Tom, our Chairman, has mentioned in his monthly contribution to the newsletter and have noted the following.

1. As at 2007 there were almost 395,000 kms of public roads in Britain with over 344,000 of them being classified as minor roads.



Construction of a minor road?

2. Also in 2007 all traffic in Britain covered 513.0 billion kilometres across all types of road, but well over half of this total (215.6 billion kms) was travelled on rural/non built-up roads.
3. Of all deaths on Britain's roads easily the highest proportion (1,603 in total) occurred on rural/non built-up roads.
4. FACT: Most rural road crashes causing death or serious injury fall into four broad categories.

Head on collision

Single vehicle running off the road

Crash at a junction

Collision with a pedestrian or cyclist.

*As Advanced Drivers, maybe we should give a thought to how some of these crashes could be avoided. Do any of the principles encouraged on our courses help to lessen the risks?*

5. ANOTHER FACT: At 16, more boys die or are seriously injured while riding a moped than walking, cycling or travelling by car.
6. Of all the 26.8m cars on the roads in 2007 almost 32,000 of them were electric and hybrid vehicles.

FACT: the first hybrid car was built over a hundred years ago. The Porsche 'Mixte' used a gasoline engine to power a generator that ran an electric motor.

## **Insurance**

*Before Stella Owen left for her annual holiday she was kind enough to send the following information that could well be of interest to you.*

Many members have benefited financially from lower car premiums by switching to IAM Surety. Have you thought about getting a quote for your home insurance though?

I hate getting quotes as it is time consuming and you have to have all the relevant details to hand to make sure you are getting the same or better cover. I soon start losing the will to live!

Having been with my present insurer for some time I thought I would give up half an hour and give it a go. I tend to cover everything possible and so it was the upper end of cover.

***I have just saved £350!***

*Enough to cover our fares to the Isles of Scilly!*

The number to ring, if you are interested is 0845 602 9041.

***Stella Owen***

## **Promotion of Advanced Driving & Sefton Group.**

As a Group, Sefton Advanced Motorists is always keen to take advantage of opportunities to promote road safety through IAM Advanced Driving. Opportunities that have occurred in the past have been the Woodvale Rally, local shows, vehicle owners' clubs and Probus meetings, for example.

Another couple of invitations have been received recently that means the Group will be represented at the ***West Lancs Festival of Transport*** on the ***6th September***. See page 4 of this newsletter for fuller details.

On ***October 14th*** Richard Hardie (Vice Chairman) is to attend a meeting of the ***Pre-War Austin 7 Club*** at Briars Hall, Lathom. He will be making a presentation of the work of our group and, no doubt, be more than willing to persuade as many attendees to join Sefton Advanced Motorists as well.

Apart from these fairly formal invitations we all can do our bit to further the cause and ***assist our Publicity Officer, Dave Roscoe, to spread the word***. David is going to produce some A5 posters to send to local firms making them aware of the work of Sefton Group and Advanced Driving. Copies of these very handy posters will be available at monthly meetings for all of us to pick up to place in appropriate locations.

The above can just as easily apply to copies of our newsletter. For instance, I often leave one on the table at my local barber shop. Makes a change from the usual reading matter and may just encourage someone to join us.

***Your support and assistance will be appreciated.***

**SEFTON ADVANCED MOTORISTS  
GROUP No. 5143**

## **NOTICEBOARD**

### **SAM shirts available.**

Polo shirts & sweatshirts are now available embroidered with the IAM logo. The red car roundel is illustrated but there are also green ones for motorcyclists.



Cam Cunningham has arranged the supply and orders can be placed with him at any of the Group's meetings or by ringing him on 01704 892816.



#### **Disclaimer**

The Editor and the Group Council wish to make it clear, that the views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter, are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or the Institute.

#### **Data Protection Act 1984**

Sefton Group will hold details of members and associates names and addresses on computer and paper files, in order to assist with administration. If you do not wish your details to be held, please make your objection known to the Membership Secretary.