

KENDAL & SOUTH

LAKES GROUP

**ADVANCED**



**MOTORISTS**

## **KASLAM NEWS No. 1**

**Winter 2008**

Welcome to our 4th information bulletin which in future will be known as "KASLAM NEWS"..

For those of you who receive this by post please consider letting us have an e-mail contact address, if you have one, as it will be a lot cheaper and quicker to forward information to you.

Please note that all contact details on hand will **only** be used for group matters and **will not** be passed on to anyone else.

### **WEB SITE:**

The group web site ([www.kaslam.org.uk](http://www.kaslam.org.uk)) is up and running, please take time to visit the site and feed back any comments (good or bad). There is an events calendar for you to keep an eye on what's on and also e-mail facilities on the site to contact group officials. For the full e-mail addresses now in use see our who's who page towards the end of this information bulletin.

[So don't forget, log this site in your favourites box for easy access to keep up to date on any amendments that will be added.](#)

### **FUTURE DRIVE DATES:**

December 7<sup>th</sup>

This will be our final drive this year, We will re-commence on January 18<sup>th</sup> 09, and continue fortnightly from then on:-

February 1<sup>st</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

March 1<sup>st</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>

April 12<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>

All these sessions will continue to meet at Castle Park School, Sedbergh Drive, Kendal LA9 6BJ at 9.30 or 10.30 am (candidates will be advised on times when arrangements are made).

All our observers give up their time voluntarily, therefore it is essential that any pre-booked drives are attended on time.

Depending on the availability of observers it may well be possible to arrange other days or times that may be more suitable to candidates and observers. However, the initial meet will continue to be on the dates listed.

## **GROUP NEWS**

Another "Meet the Examiner/Observer evening was held at 7.30 pm September 8 2008 at Crooklands Hotel, Kendal. The meeting was a great success.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations go to the following for successfully passing their IAM test through the Kendal & South Lakes Group:-

**Ed Bryan, John Gill, Mark Nattrass, Mary-Clare Scragg, Tom Seddon, Jamie Twaites, John Walsh**

## **MEET THE TEAM:**

### **Who's Who:**

#### Chairman:

Dave Petty - Tel: 015395 64804

#### Drive Co-ordinator & Secretary:

Eddie Harrison - Tel: 01539 724410

#### Membership Secretary:

Terry Simpkin - Tel: 015242 71276

#### Information Bulletin Editor:

Mike Wolfenden - Tel: 01539 568919 .

#### Committee:

Jan Dawson - Tel: 01539 725379

John Dixon - Tel: 015395 33534

The last Information Bulletin included pieces by Mike Wolfenden (Information Bulletin Editor) and David Jackson (Observer), to continue what is hoped to be a series of introductions to team members in the Kendal & South Lakes Group of Advanced Motorists (KASLAM).

## **Barry Edwards, Group Observer.**

I first started driving when I was 18 and eagerly yearned for the freedom and independence I knew it would bring. My first car was a Ford Cortina (I had started to learn in one anyway) 2.3 V6, moving onto Rovers and eventually Honda's, of which I have had three.

It wasn't until I had to commute some distance to work in my current job, that I really thought about improving my driving and I initially only enquired about the IAM in the late 90's, out of curiosity really, but never did anything about it. It wasn't until late 2006 / early 2007 that I thought I should follow up this curiosity and commit to going down the IAM road to actually preparing for my IAM test.

It didn't cost me a penny as my wife, Angela bought me the Skill for Life pack in February 2007 and I passed my advanced test in May 2007.

I enjoyed the whole experience of preparing with the observers (which are excellent by the way) and going on to passing my test that much, that I just couldn't leave it there and, although sometime after my test completed my observer training so that I can help others to improve their driving and go on to passing their advanced test.

I enjoy being part of Kendal and South Lakes advanced Motorists and would recommend anyone to stay on after their test to offer anything they can to the group.

## **OPERATION ORWELL.**

Following the tragic death of a local young driver Cumbria Police set up Operation Orwell. The aim is to primarily target the 16—25 year old driver / rider. Police patrols cars stop and ask drivers to drive to where the operation is set up. At this point their cars/documents are checked for legality, and appropriate action taken if necessary, The drivers are then shown a variety of hard hitting short videos by Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> event this year was run at on the Promenade at Bowness on Windermere in the beautiful Lake District and ran from 7pm to 11pm on Thursday 13th November 2008. **It rained!**

The agencies involved in this operation are Cumbria Police, Cumbria Fire Service, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) South Lakeland District Council Environmental Health Dept & Kendal & South Lakes Advanced Motorist Group

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service had 14 young people view their splendid DVD's & receive road safety advice.

VOSA issued 5 prohibitions - 1 delayed for an excessively noisy exhaust & 4 immediate for tinted windows allowing less than 30% light through them.

SLDC Environmental Health came along again with their noise monitoring equipment for exhaust testing.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> event also saw the first inclusion of the Institute of Advanced Motorists to the partnership. Eddie Harrison & Dave Petty from the group spoke with the young drivers stopped, & handed out leaflets about the advanced driver training available. We were extremely impressed with the results said Eddie; as it is a rare opportunity interact with young motorists. We are keen to be involved in future events.

A reporter from Radio Cumbria was also present and he was extremely keen to promote our aims and objectives in relation to Orwell. He spent the first couple of hours with the team, interviewed Police Officers and various partners, and left with sufficient material to give all concerned some good publicity.

The Operation also seemed to be well received by the local youngsters with various references to their friend's death and a clear level understanding of the purpose of our visit...\_

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting took place in the Windermere Hydro Hotel on Friday November 14 2008, chaired by Dave Petty and attended by a total of 28 members of the Kendal & South Lakes Group of Advanced Motorists.

1. Reports by the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Information Bulletin Editor were read out.
2. Members of the group already holding offices were proposed for re-election and returned unopposed:

Chairman .. Dave Petty; Secretary ... Eddie Harrison; Treasurer .. Terry Simpkin;  
Membership Secretary: .. Terry Simpkin; Information Bulletin Editor ..Mike Wolfenden

3. The date for the next Annual General Meeting was set for Friday November 20 2009.
4. Our guest speaker The Chief Constable was called away to another meeting. Inspector Richard Vernon of the South Cumbria Roads Policing Unit and gave an interesting talk on various aspects of road safety and he answered many questions from the floor.

## **DRIVING TIPS**

Driving Tip No.33

08.08.08

### **FLASH FLOODS – ADVICE FOR DRIVERS**

With so much rain this summer, there is a possibility of flash floods which could pose problems for drivers, says the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists). The IAM has issued advice to motorists who may have to handle torrential rain, poor driving visibility, difficult car control, slippery road surfaces and increased stopping distances.

The IAM advice for motorists considering driving in flood conditions is:

Make the journey only if it is unavoidable

Don't drive through deep water: consider an alternative route

If you have to drive through deep water, drive in the highest section of the road and don't set off if a vehicle is travelling in the opposite direction. Leave time and space for each other, so you don't swamp someone else. Drive slowly and keep going once you have started - make sure you have a clear run, keep the revs high by "slipping the clutch" (which means the clutch is not fully engaged) all the time you are in the water.

Under no circumstances take your foot off the accelerator, as this could allow water to travel up the exhaust pipe.

Once you're out the water, dry the brakes before you need them - the best way is to lightly apply the brake as you drive along for a few seconds. This is particularly important if your car has drum brakes.

When roads are slippery it will take longer to stop. So drop your speed and give yourself more time to slow down.

Don't forget to close your windows!

**During heavy rain visibility will be lower, make a point of turning on your headlights whenever you need to use your windscreen wipers.**

Driving Tip No.45

07.11.08

### **LEAVE IT OUT THIS AUTUMN**

Leaves decorating the streets in an array of colour may be an autumn delight to some, but for many motorists they lead to frustrating breakdowns and expensive repairs. When autumn leaves start to fall they don't just disrupt trains - they can have a devastating effect on the electronics of many modern cars warns the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists), as well as creating additional hazards for motorcyclists.

Most modern cars have one or two chambers known as a plenum chamber at the back of the engine bay where the windscreen meets the bonnet and the heating system draws in air. These chambers have a drain-hole so water can run off the windscreen into the chamber and then into a tube which carries water safely to the ground. At this time of year it's quite common for leaves to accumulate in the chambers, blocking the drains and causing them to fill with water when it rains. The water then leaks into areas that should be protected from the elements, such as the computers which control the engine, braking systems and other expensive electronic equipment. Trapped water can also make the windows constantly mist up, impairing visibility and reducing safety.

So the next time the bonnet is up, perhaps when checking the oil or topping up the windscreen washer, have a look at these chambers and clear out the leaves and any accumulated grime.

Autumn can also take its toll on car batteries as the first frost settles, but some basic maintenance can help to prolong battery life.

The top of a battery must be clean and dry, the terminals must be tight and free from corrosion and the battery itself must be mounted securely in its tray. Modern batteries need be kept fully charged by the car's alternator. A loud screeching for the first few seconds after the engine starts, is a sure sign that the drive belt needs tightening and if this is left, a flat battery will inevitably follow, probably accompanied by a broken belt later in the year. And, if a battery is more than three years old, it is worth having it checked now to save many a frustrating start to an autumn morning.

**WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR KIDS START TO DRIVE**

New drivers, particularly the under 20s, are most at risk in the early weeks and months after they pass their driving test.

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has produced top tips to help parents encourage responsible driving in the crucial first few months – and to encourage safer, more responsible drivers.

*Parental involvement* is one of the sections in the IAM Motoring Trust report [Younger Drivers, where and when they are unsafe.](#)

The IAM recommends the following tips on how parents can help their new novice drivers:

- Use a professional instructor to teach them do drive whilst giving them extra practice
- Teach by example: always use a seat belt and keep to the speed limit restrictions
- Take them on routes they are likely to drive on regularly and talk to them about where the risks are
- Help them to practice driving in various conditions, such as night time, in poor visibility and if possible on rural roads
- Educate them on the potential risks (i.e. lack of concentration, showing off) and the distractions that can follow having their friends in the car for the first time
- Help them to further develop their driving skills by proactively encouraging them to continue developing their driving by undertaking further training, such as an advanced driving course.

More help is available at the IAM website, [iam.org.uk](http://iam.org.uk).

**INFORMATION:**

Please encourage friends and family with the following Christmas Present idea -

***IAM SKILL FOR LIFE CHRISTMAS PACK***

The pack contains:

IAM driving or riding manual  
Skill for Life Gift Card  
A Skill for Life enrolment form  
A list with details of local IAM groups  
Instructions on how to book onto the programme  
IAM branded gift wrapping

**Car packs £99**

**Motorcyclist Packs£109**

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### **Drive Check:**

Why not take advantage of a drive check assessment, no test, just a run out with an observer to see what bad habits you have gained (*and we all do have some*). Could be useful and maybe you will enjoy it enough to go on to advanced driving.

The cost of drive check is £25

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### **Skill for Life:**

The fee is now £99 but can be paid in 2 instalments if wished.

This includes the Test, first year Membership, a Demonstration Drive and all drives out in your own vehicle. Contact Eddie for further information or, if preferred, go on line at [www.iam.org.uk](http://www.iam.org.uk)

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### **Adelaide Insurance Services Ltd:**

Register your insurance renewal date and they will contact you with a quote, 0845 603 1355 or [www.iamsurety.com](http://www.iamsurety.com)

Lots of extras and maybe cheaper insurance. They also sell House Insurance.

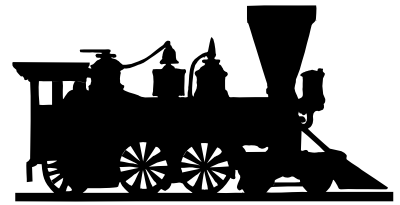
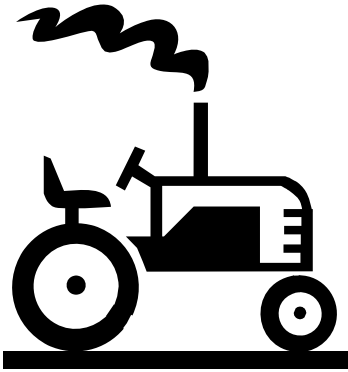
### **Interested/Bored/Time to Spare?**

We can always do with help to make the committee's workload easier and if you have useful skills, such as computing, writing or event organising, why not come forward. Please contact any Group Official (contact details are on page 2 of this bulletin).



# KENDAL & SOUTH LAKES Advanced Motorists

To all members



**WHAT EVER YOU DRIVE**

KEEP CALM --- DRIVE SAFELY AND  
HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS &  
NEW YEAR



