



**SWANSEA BAY GROUP  
OF  
ADVANCED MOTORISTS**

**NEWSLETTER**



Greetings everybody,

Welcome to our new quarterly newsletter to be known as "*Overdrive*". It is intended that *Overdrive* will be published at least 4 times a year possibly in February, May, August and November. *Overdrive's* aim will be to provide members of the Swansea Bay Group with news relevant to what is going on within the Group and lots of other exciting news, some even to do with motoring matters!

*Overdrive* is your newsletter. Please support it by submitting anything you may think of as interesting, mail me phone me I don't mind. Even any tips from your holidays will be welcome, or indeed any questions you want answering, *Overdrive* will try to get the answers for you.

Tell us what you would like to see in future issues of *Overdrive* and we will do our best to include it.

*Overdrive* has lots of ideas for future articles such as interviews with Group members, but others will be revealed as we go.

By the time the next edition of *Overdrive* reaches you the Olympics will be well and truly over - let's hope all our UK competitors will have been lucky in the medals table.

We hope you very much enjoy this new newsletter and that you find it informative.

Get your pencils sharpened and drop us a line or an email giving us news that you consider that should be included in the newsletter.

Good or bad all your comments and suggestions will be welcomed. We can only improve the newsletter by receiving feedback from you.

And finally my own thanks to those of you who have contributed to and given me so much support and assistance to get the newsletter up and running.

Very best wishes,

*Editor*

## **WARM WELCOME**

A very warm welcome is extended to our incoming Chairman Mr Gethin Williams.

Gethin is presently a Director with the Stadium Garage Group based in Skewen. He joined Stadium in 1953 and has remained at Stadium throughout except for a 2 year stint of National Service.

Gethin has worked in all areas within Stadium and as a consequence has gained an extensive knowledge of the motor Trade.

Over the years Gethin has been involved with various local and national bodies involved in the economic development of the area together with Training and Education issues.

Gethin is currently Chairman of the Federation of small Businesses (South Wales) and is also Chairman of the Retail Motor Federation for the South Wales and West Country. He also represents the South Wales area on the national board of RMI.

Gethin will no doubt bring a wealth of experience to the Group during his time as Chairman - we wish him every success

## RECENT EVENTS

The Swansea Motor Show held at St Helens ground on 10th & 11<sup>th</sup> July was a real busy but enjoyable weekend for those members who manned our stall at the show. Considerable interest was shown in the Group as was demonstrated by the numbers of people coming on to our stand.

Our thanks to all those who helped make the weekend a great success.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### September 2004 Regional Dexterity event

18<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Visteon Car Plant, Fabian Way

Please note that this event has been **CANCELLED** due to unforeseen circumstances.

### September 2004 Group Dexterity event

The annual Group dexterity challenge takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> September. If any member who has not already volunteered but who would like to help please come along.

<b>Date</b>	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2004
<b>Venue</b>	Asda, Llansamlet (overflow car park)
<b>Time</b>	10.30 am till 3.00 pm
<b>Entry Fee</b>	£ 1.00 per person

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **AGM**

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 28th October at Trallwn Community Centre 7.00 pm prompt.

Nominations for these positions must be made in writing to reach the secretary John Evans, 10 Y Bellan, Cimla, Neath SA11 3YH - 14 days prior to the AGM meeting. Only full member are entitled to make nominations.

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q.** A member has asked if undertaking on the motorway should be allowed as is the case in America.

**A.** In answer to your question, discussions with the Department of Transport suggests that the topic has been looked at several times - however there are no immediate plans to implement any such manoeuvre at the present time.

For your information The Highway Code rule no. 167 states - "Overtake only on the right unless traffic is moving in queues and the queue on your right is moving more slowly than you are. Do not move to a lane on your left to overtake".

Also you must not overtake using the hard shoulder.

Each quarter *Overdrive* gives its opinion on a topic of current interest to us. In this issue we comment on new 20 mph speed limit within school areas and what we expect their overall effect on road safety will be.

-----  
The implementation of 20 mph zones in school areas is set to become the norm. At present they have no statutory or legal rights attached to them. A good idea or not? Well certainly the idea behind them is an excellent one - if they succeed in reducing road accidents in these vulnerable areas they will be a welcome addition to speed reduction.

However if one observes these areas it is clear that most drivers male and female alike are not driving at 20mph, more to the 30mph limit is the case, and we are talking about during normal school hours here. It beggars belief that these same vehicles usually display 'Little person on board' or similar in the rear window, whilst not appearing to observe the limits set down in these areas.

On another occasion it has been observed that a police car travelling in one of these areas during school hours at well over the 20 mph.

Only the implementation of statutory powers will make drivers reduce their speeds in these areas - and just maybe one day it will contribute to a child or its parent not becoming another statistic.

If drivers are not prepared to drive within the limits outlined, then the sooner legislation is brought to the Statute Book the better for all - the next stage is likely to be more speed cameras in these areas.

Only time and statistics will show that these areas will before too long have the speed controls that seem to be proliferating every area of our traffic system.

Members are welcome to respond to the views of *Overdrive* if they wish - replies will be selected at random for publication

## **GROUP WEBSITE**

Our new website is now up and running, so if you have access to the internet the site can be found at [www.sbgam.org](http://www.sbgam.org) or by a link via the IAM main website. Our many thanks to all those involved but a special thanks goes to Mark Whalley who spent many long hours and telephone calls to get it all operational

So professional has our web site been ,that it has now been awarded the coveted IAM Approved Quality Site Award.

Please visit the site - it is an excellent shop window for our Group.

## **CHARITABLE STATUS**

The Group has now been granted Charitable status - once again our many thanks to Mark Whalley for his precious time spent preparing the application and to those of you who scoured the archives of the Group in order to supply the Charity Commissioners requests for information.

The granting of Charitable status will allow the Group to apply for funding through various organisations, the National Lottery being one that comes to mind. More news as we get it on this.

## **OBSERVER NEWS**

In line with proposed IAM guidelines every member wishing to act as an official observer must by definition have undergone a period of official instruction. Peter Shopland, the Groups senior observer is presently providing this tuition to several candidates.

Tom Harry is undergoing the senior observer course. Unfortunately Lloyd Phillips who was doing the advanced observer course has had to drop out.

I (for my sins and being the new kid on the block) am undertaking the observer course.

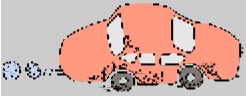
Good luck Tom.

## **GATSO NEWS**

It appears that every day another speed camera becomes operational.

The latest one in our area is situated at the top end of Peniel Green Road, Llansamlet just off Junction 44 westbound - beware it is placed just behind a tree!

Unless anybody can tell us to the contrary that this an accident black spot it smacks of another cash cow for the South Wales Safety partnership.



Each quarter we hope to review at least one car from the leading manufacturers.

It is anticipated that members will be asked to test drive a car and give their opinion on various aspects of the vehicle against a supplied checklist.

Vehicles will be assessed on the following ratings scale :-

**POOR** = ✓      **EXCELLENT** = ✓✓✓✓✓

Any member who would like to take part in a car review , please let us know.

## **NUMBER PLATES**

The first recorded country to use number plates was Holland in 1899. They were introduced to the UK in 1904. The first number - A1 - was acquired by Earl Russell who camped out all night in order to get this number.

The registration system has changed several times over the years to accommodate

## **HUMOUR CORNER**

Two prisoners who escaped from police cells in Argentina felt so bad about it that they left behind a note of apology.

Nazaren Rodrigez and Sebastian Gallardo unscrewed their cell door and ran off into the night, but not before leaving behind a note which read "We love our freedom and can't live locked in "; we're sorry for any inconvenience we might have caused you" They are still at large.

## **GROUP MEETINGS TIMETABLE**

For those of you new to the Group our monthly meetings take place twice a month.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month      Asda car park (overflow car park)  
at 10.00 am

Last Thursday of month      Trallwn Community Centre, Bethel Road  
Llansamlet at 7.00pm

## **ADVANCED DRIVING TESTS**

Please remember to notify John Evans (01639 638123) or Viv Harrison (01792 413481) of your test success. Publishing results encourages those Associates who are about to take the test and also gives an indication of how the Group is performing.



## MEMBER PROFILE

This quarter our member profile is Derek Evans. Derek has been with the Group for 11 years since passing his Advanced driving test and also becoming an Observer. He has also served on the Group's committee for some four years holding a variety of positions and most recently as Observer co-ordinator.

Derek is married to Brenda and they have three grown up sons who have in turn added four granddaughters.

Derek worked for British Steel in Port Talbot, before emigrating to Canada for a number of years. On his return he joined the Visteon plant on Fabian Way. He is currently Predictive maintenance co-ordinator, with responsibility for ensuring the ongoing effectiveness of all plant and machinery.

Derek is also a Justice of the Peace, sitting on the Swansea Magistrates Court bench. In what spare time he has left, Derek is also a race Marshall at the Pembrey race circuit outside Llanelli. This year he was a Marshall on the Network Q Wales rally.

Derek has seen the Group progress from humble beginnings to the present time, where it has recently introduced its own website and more recently obtained Charitable status.

Derek has made many friends within the Group over the years, and for Derek he says his experience within the Group has been 'FUN' - Derek we can only second that comment.

Thank you for submitting yourself to our profile interview.

## MEMBERS DEALS

**Important** - Please note a valid IAM membership card will be required at time of making purchases.

**HARRIS BROS TYRES**, Ystrad Road, Fforestfach, Swansea  
Ask for Mike

Offer up to £10.00 off wheel balancing.  
Their tyres are also the most competitive in the area.

**K & J BRAKES & HOSES**, Alemein Road, Morfa Ind Estate, Swansea

Offer varying Trade discounts to IAM membership cardholders only.

## FOR SALE / WANTED

Members who have items for sale, can if they wish advertise in this section  
- free of charge

## EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Members who feel they would like to contribute an article to the newsletter or our web site please contact, the Editor - Philip O'Mahoney  
Tel. 01792 794260

Contributions to Newsletter Email : [editor@sbgam.org](mailto:editor@sbgam.org)

Contributions to Website Email : [mark.whalley@sbgam.org](mailto:mark.whalley@sbgam.org)

## **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

It is important to us that our membership list is kept up to date. Members move home, get married, obtain email addresses, etc, etc. It also helps us to keep in touch with you, to let you know what is going on within the Group.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a Membership Data form which we would like you to complete and return to Viv Harrison, our Treasurer. His address is on the bottom of the membership data form.

-----

### **Elected Officers**

President	Gethin Williams
Chairperson	David Phillips
Vice Chairperson	Paul Harrison
Secretary	John Evans
Events & Observer Coordinator	Derek Evans
Minute Secretary	Rhian Knuszka
Publicity Officer	Sian Sullivan

### **Committee Members**

Ian Guy  
Martin Sullivan  
Tom Harry

Newsletter Editor	Philip O'Mahoney
Webmaster	Mark Whalley

**Swansea Bay Group of Advanced Motorists  
Charity no. 1103484**

**MEMBER DATA FORM**

Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Initials / Name .....

Surname .....

Addresss .....

.....

.....

Town ..... County .....

Post Code .....

---

Home telephone no. ....

Mobile phone no. ....

Email address .....

Have you passed your  
Advanced Driving test YES / NO

Would you be interested  
in participating in the Group's activities YES / NO / MAYBE

---

**In order to ensure that our membership records are maintained and in order for us to contact you regarding Group newsletters,events,etc - please complete and return this form to :- Mr Viv Harrison, Hon Treasurer, Swansea Bay Group of Advanced Motorists, 17 Pengwern Road, Clase, Swansea SA6 7LJ.**