

The Borders Observer

Newsletter of the Borders Group of Advanced Motorists

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Office Bearers

Chairman Raymond Black
☎ 01890-882677
✉ Raymond@bordersiam.org.uk

Vice-Chairman Peter Sandison
☎/Fax 01896-758634
✉ Peter@bordersiam.org.uk

Secretary Alistair Dodds
☎ 01361-850269
✉ Alistair@bordersiam.org.uk

Treasurer Martyn Buckley
☎ 01750-21472
✉ Martyntn@bordersiam.org.uk

Committee Members

Courses Charlie Dodds
☎ 01835-822171
✉ Charlie@bordersiam.org.uk

Membership Bob McKendrick
☎ 01896-752540
✉ Bob@bordersiam.org.uk

Events Don Wainwright
☎ 01890-818777

Misc. Iain Guthrie
☎ 01573-228230

Publicity Mary Davison
☎ 01890-820556

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Editor: Peter Sandison

Please address any comments or contribute articles to the Editor. These would be gratefully received!

Group Website 'virtually' ready

The Borders Group has decided to dip its toe into the virtual world and publish a website.

Many IAM Groups have a presence on the Internet, although many of these are in the form of a standard 'template' consisting of one page of basic information.

The Committee decided at a recent meeting to go a little further than this. It was agreed we should register a domain name, www.bordersiam.org.uk, which is now 'live'. We are hoping to have the first pages ready for viewing "offline" at the AGM on May 1st, and publish them shortly thereafter.

form the Committee is now using (see left-hand column of this page), xxx@bordersiam.org.uk.



As well as promoting the site to a wider audience, we hope to use it for better and faster communication with you the membership.

In addition to updated information about our own events and courses, we will be providing links to other bodies and sources of information.

We will be able to offer you a Borders Group email identity, in the

This address can be used as an 'alias' for your current address. In other words, any mail sent to it would be forwarded to your usual address. We will also be able to offer you access to the Web for the price of a local call if you do not already have an Internet Service Provider.

Details will be published on the website, but if you have any queries please get in touch with me.

Advanced Test Passes — Congratulations

to:

Elaine Anderson
Alan Jefferies
Alistair Salmond

Weekend courses

The last course took place on the 16th/17th September 2000, and featured our new course programme, which the Assessors have devised to cover the most important aspects of *Roadcraft* and *Pass Your Advanced Driving Test*.

The next course is scheduled for the weekend of the 19/20th May at the Kingsknowes Hotel in Galashiels. There are still some places left, so if you have any friends, family members, or colleagues who might be interested please encourage them to contact Bob

McKendrick.

It may prove to be a life-saver for them or their passengers! And as well as potentially saving them something on insurance, it will make their driving much more pleasurable!

2001/2002 Programme unveiled

A copy of the 2001/2002 programme is enclosed with the newsletter. It contains the usual blend of practical motoring and general interest items. Don't forget to put the dates in your diary now!

Amongst the **highlights** are visits to:

- **Torness Power Station**, which proved highly illuminating when last on the programme! The Secretary has to have names well in advance, so do get in touch with him now!
- **Clelands of the Borders**, main Volvo dealership for our area. The two dealerships we visited as part of the last programme—Bells of Coldstream (Mercedes) and Glenvarigill

(Chrysler and Suzuki) put on a splendid programme for us, and John Cleland himself (ex British Touring Car Champion) is going to lead us on this visit.

Amongst the Guest Speakers for the coming Year are:

- **Peter Fuller**, Transport Policy Manager of Scottish Borders Council, who is going to tell us about Transport Strategy in our area. Peter, who is an IAM member, is heavily involved in drawing up the Strategy, in the process of which he has consulted with many interest groups in the Borders. It should prove to be an interesting evening!

- **Graham Fraser**, Procurator Fiscal, who will be speaking to us after the May 2002 AGM.
- **Senior Traffic Warden** (name unknown so far—but not for security reasons!) from Edinburgh, from whom we might pick up some fine tips.

It has proved difficult to attract members out to the December and January meetings, so we have left these dates out this time. We also have a spare "slot" which we are leaving open for suggestions at the AGM.

Please support us in our programme of events, and let us know if you have any preferences or ideas for the April 2002 meeting!

'Foot in Mouth!'



A recent survey on recognition of road signs carried out on behalf of the RAC Foundation came up with some interesting results. Three out of five drivers questioned believed that 'beware of cattle' road signs indicated areas infected with foot and mouth disease. [No comment!]. Only 10 per cent recognised the 'Dual carriageway ends' sign and 20 per cent thought that the sign ordering them to 'Give way to oncoming vehicles' meant one-way street

ahead. Five per cent believed the 'Side winds' warning meant 'kite flying area', while a massive 50 per cent failed to recognise the sign indicating an end of a minimum speed limit. More ingenious still were the belief that a 'Migratory toad crossing' warning meant 'French Restaurant' and that the warning of 'Low flying helicopters' meant 'trips around the bay'.

As the French might say, "Plus ça

New 'Observers'

Mike Dall and Colin Graham (pictured on the right), who both passed their respective tests relatively recently, have joined the ranks of 'Observers'. They both have a strong link to driving, as Mike drives a Metrocab in Edinburgh, and Colin drives a BORDOC car some weekends. Colin's main 'hat' is occupational health nursing, which takes in hearing

tests, vision tests [he's presumably good himself at reading number plates!], pre-employment medicals, First Aid, and counselling. In his spare time—if he has any! - he has built his own PC and set up a family website. Obviously a handy person to have on board!

Mike, and modesty forbids him providing us with a photo!, is cur-

rently undergoing advanced motor cycle training, which will make him one of an elite few in our Group to have both 'tests'. Good luck, Mike, in the test, and all the best to you both as Observers!

