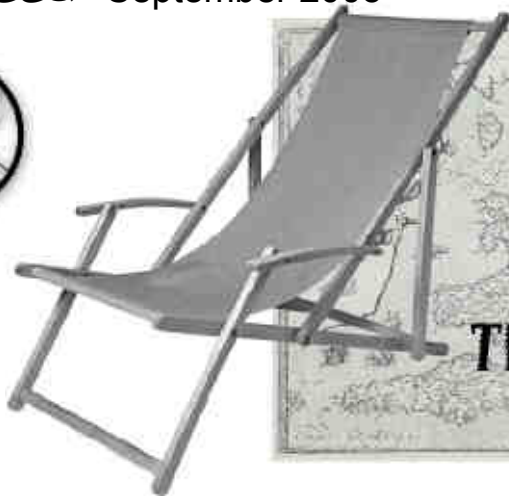


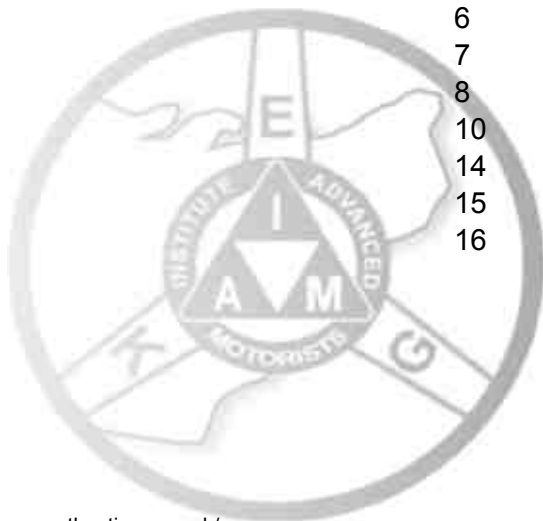
# EAST KENT GROUP

Newsletter September 2005



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Associate Co-ordinator	Elizabeth Cooper 31 Charlton Avenue, Dover. CT16 2LZ elizabeth@eastkentiam.org.uk	01304 204405

(co-opted onto the committee until election)

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If you need to contact any of the above, please do so before 10 PM.  
Should the person you require not be available, please contact any other member who  
will deal with your enquiry or pass on your message as soon as possible.  
Thank you.

It only seems like minutes ago I was compiling the last newsletter, but here we are again, back from one Mini adventure and about to embark on another.

Land's End to John O' Groats was fantastic as ever. The people that take part each year seem slightly more insane with every passing year, so it makes for a very entertaining week. We had the editor of Mini Magazine with us this year, who, if you check the 5-page spread we got in said magazine, is the guy dressed in the pink dress at Gretna Green and wearing a crocodile on his head. (It might have been a rat now I think about it).

This was our fifth year doing this event, and the first where we experienced any car trouble en route. We were fortunate to be travelling very slowly when we got a blow out, so luckily did not damage our wheel. However, we were right on a bend, with a queue of traffic behind us including a Police car who had been intrigued by the sight of our convoy ahead in the distance. They stopped with us, but instead of doing anything with the traffic enquired curiously about our roof boxes. They were extremely helpful, and I think altogether too cheerful when they informed us that storms were expected that evening. It turns out they were right but we still had a barbecue anyway. We're tough don't you know? (Or mad - I never remember which).

We travelled from Cheshire all the way to John O' Groats and back to Elgin before we found anywhere that stocked our tyre, so completed the trip with a very classy red steel spare wheel and 3 alloys.

The trip we are about to embark on is the 11th Annual Grand Tour. The event that brings North Devon to a complete standstill in the name of charity.

Put together 300 mini's, at least 70 motorcyclist marshalls, an ambulance, a safety truck, Black Thunder the Radio Car, and the hundred's of lunatics, I mean mini drivers and take them on a tour of North Devon from Westward Ho! to Illfracombe via the Valley of the Rocks and a quick spin the wrong way around the roundabout of the Children's Hospice South West and you have the North Devon Grand Tour - a very special event.

I think it's driving a Mini that makes driving such fun. "Normal" drivers just don't get it in my opinion. In fact, people say that everyone should ride a bike so that they can appreciate what it is like for other road users (bikers); well I say everyone should drive a mini so that they can learn to enjoy driving, and not have every trip be a chore and a bore.

Once we return from North Devon, Mini will be raring to go on the Treasure Hunt, so we'll see you there!

(11am Sunday 18th September from Littlebourne Hall)

*Michelle*

*Please send me any articles, letters, rants, suggestions or comments, either by e-mail to: [michelle@eastkentiam.org.uk](mailto:michelle@eastkentiam.org.uk), or by snail mail to: Flat 5, 13 Paragon, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9JX*

Every now and then I have been known to read things. Not too often, mind. Just enough for me to keep my hand in with the whole alphabet thing. You know, A, B, C, and so on. I used to read a lot more, when I had the time. Now I have no time (see The Three Ages Of Man, below). So, there I was, reading a book. It was a long time ago, when I had the time. So long ago that I have forgotten what it was about. Well, mostly. There are parts that I remember, and parts that I actively remember. One of these actively remembered parts went along the lines of: "Four legs good, two legs bad". Or was it the other way around? Came from a book about farming called "Farm Animal". Or was it the other way around? By Orwell George, I think.

This phrase obviously made a deep impression on me, that's why I recall it so clearly. It wormed itself into the shallower recesses of my brain. I don't have any deeper recesses. There, it morphed itself into: "Four wheels good, two wheels bad." This reinforced my previous experiences of two wheels, which, I have to say, had not been overwhelmingly positive. When I reached the age of sixteen, I decided to avoid the once common route of bike, motorbike, car and wait another year for four wheels. Less likely to fall over, unlike me. And safer, so I thought. Motorbikes, and all things bike, remained a blank spot for me.

Then, last week, Thursday, about 9pm, East Kent Group social meeting, Littlebourne Memorial Hall, a little light came on. Looked at the DVD done by East Kent Advanced Motorcyclists. Brilliant. A must-see. Rekindles your enthusiasm, if it needs rekindling. Lost a couple of pounds in weight just watching it. Loads of it relevance to four wheels. Buy it! And they're doing a sequel!

I might even get on two wheels again. Now, steady on, start carefully, where did I put my push-bike. . . ?

Happy motoring. And riding.

*Nigel*

PS The Three Ages Of Man:

**One:** You have the time, you have the inclination, you don't have the money.

**Two:** You have the inclination, you have the money, you don't have the time.

**Three:** You have the money, you have the time, you don't have the inclination.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the East Kent Group of Advanced Motorists will be held in the Lounge of the Littlebourne War Memorial Hall, Littlebourne on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 at 7.45 p.m.

By order of the Group Committee  
S. E. Redwood, Group Secretary  
1<sup>st</sup> September, 2005

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only fully paid up Members of the I.A.M. and of the Group may make nominations and/or vote. All the current officers, i.e. Chairman, Group Secretary and Treasurer, together with the rest of the Committee members will retire and are available for re-election. However, Richard Blackford is not eligible for re-election as he is retiring due to pressure of work. We thank him for his efforts on our behalf. During the past year Elizabeth Cooper, Acting Associate Co-ordinator and June Thomson, Acting Drive-In Centre Organizer have been co-opted and are available for election. Other nominations by Full Members are also invited in writing to the Group Secretary for new Committee members, as follows:

Name:

Position:

Nominated by:

Seconded by: and

Signature of Nominee.

As previously mentioned, I have been occupying the position of Group Secretary for eight years now and feel that the best interests of the Group are not served by my continuation in the post – we could do with a younger person with new ideas and skills. However, surprise, surprise, the committee

want me to continue. I have agreed to do so for the time being, but if someone out there would like to take over, please let me know. I will be very happy to relinquish the post and will do all I can to ease you in and generally show you the ropes. I have already typed up a job description! As an alternative/starter, someone to take on the job of Events Secretary would be appreciated. This could be combined with the job of **Publicity Officer** which is still vacant. People have lots of ideas for publicity but we need someone to put them into practice.

**Skid Pan**

Due to popular demand again I have provisionally booked two Saturdays, 29th October (my birthday) and 12th November, at the Maidstone Police Headquarters skid pan.

We must have an absolute minimum of six people, preferably nine or even twelve per session, so please let me know, at the latest by 21st September, whether you could manage one or preferably both dates. Currently I have possibly twelve people interested, and one or other date may have to be cancelled at least one month ahead, or the group has to pay for it anyway.

On my list at present are Russell Gomm, Carol Howley, Roger Hansford, Jean Godden, Alan Hollands, Michelle, Carol + two, Daniel Scrase, Ron Williams, Christine Greig and possibly one more, so could these people please let me know, and also anyone else who would like to join in. The cost remains the same at £31.40 per person. Cheques's should be made payable to "East Kent Group of Advanced Motorists" and sent to me.

*Sheila Redwood*

**MINUTES** of the Annual General Meeting held in the Lounge of Littlebourne War Memorial Hall, Littlebourne, Kent on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 at 8.00 p.m.

**PRESENT** - At least 26 as per the Register. Our Chairman, Nigel Cooke welcomed our new Divisional Council Member Elect - Paul Gillett, our new Region 2 Co-ordinator - Bert Payne, Roger Vickery, Maureen & Peter Curtis from the Mid-Kent Group, Paul Lane from East Kent Motorcyclists and our Auditor and long-time member – Barrie Beeching.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Simon Brooks-Sykes and Charles Tassell of East Kent Motor-cyclists, Richard Blackford, Nick Williams, Lynda Stubbs, Glen Dunn and Ron Williams.
- 2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2003 - Proposed by Barrie Bailey and seconded by Elizabeth Cooper, it was resolved that these be approved as a correct record.
- 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - There were no matters arising.
- 4 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GROUP CHAIRMAN – Nigel gave his report – see the December 2004 Newsletter. This was approved, proposed by Richard Hazell, seconded by Barrie Beeching.
- 5 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS - These were approved, proposed by Pam Head, seconded by Carol Stone.
- 6 REPORT OF THE OBSERVER CO-ORDINATOR – Richard gave his report – see the December 2004 Newsletter. This was approved, proposed by Gary Nichols, seconded by Fred Henniker.
- 7 ELECTION OF THE GROUP COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR – Paul Gillett presided.

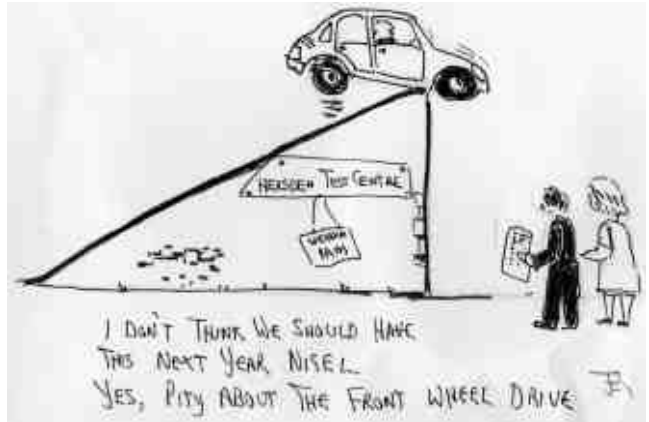
The following have signified their willingness to continue to serve as members of the Group Committee for the ensuing year:- Richard Blackford, Nigel Cooke, Richard Hazell, Neil Oliver, Sheila Redwood, Carol Stone, Michelle Stone, Nick Williams.

They were all elected, proposed by John Redwood, seconded by Tony Ansell.

- 8 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR - Mr. Barrie Beeching has signified his willingness to continue as Hon. Auditor for the ensuing year. This was agreed, proposed by Pam Head, seconded by Barrie Bailey.
- 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS -
  - a. Proposed by Pam Head, seconded by Barrie Bailey, it was agreed to start next year's A.G.M. at 7.45 p.m. rather than 8 p.m.
  - b. John Redwood proposed a vote of thanks for all the hard work done by the committee.

The meeting closed and after a break for refreshments, Nigel introduced the speaker, Mr. Julian Brazier, M.P. for Canterbury and member of the IAM

John Redwood has been busy putting pencil to paper, inspired by June's **Manoeuvring evening!**



## Drivers Demand More Warnings About Speed Cameras

Issued: 18 July 2005

Britain's drivers want more warning signs about speed cameras and speed limits on roads where cameras are sited, according to a new survey for the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists).

Nearly nine out of ten drivers (88%) say every roadside speed camera should carry a sign on it, advising motorists of the speed limit. And more than eight out of ten (82%) also want vehicle-activated signs placed ahead of cameras to provide an early reminder of the speed limit.

Overwhelming support for a range of changes in the rules governing cameras are revealed in a nationally representative NOP survey of 550 drivers carried out for the IAM, the UK's leading organisation for improving driving standards.

More than seven out of ten drivers (76%) want all roadside cameras painted yellow, including traffic light and yellow box cameras. And more than six out of ten (62%) would like to see the money left over after covering the cost of speed camera enforcement used to pay for hundreds more traffic police.

John Maxwell, IAM Chairman, said:

"Speed cameras should be about compliance, not capture. Posting speed limits on cameras and putting up early warning signs would leave drivers in no doubt about what maximum speed they should be doing.

"If the government wants to make speeding as socially unacceptable as drinking and driving, it has to raise public support for

cameras. It should make all cameras conspicuous, not just some. And it should consider using the money from fines on what most people are calling for – more traffic police – instead of giving it to Gordon Brown.

"More than £20 million a year from fixed penalties is going to the Treasury. That money could buy more than 600 extra traffic constables, who can exercise more of the discretion that motorists want."

The survey also reveals that an overwhelming majority – more than eight out of ten drivers (84%) – think speed limits should be varied according to weather and traffic conditions.

John Maxwell said:

"The thinking behind the speed limits on many roads simply isn't clear to many drivers, causing widespread frustration and disobedience. We need a national review so that speed limits are set at levels which are sensible, understandable and acceptable."

The survey shows that drivers are equally split over whether speed cameras are mostly or all about saving lives (48%), or about raising money (45%). And one in ten drivers (11%) are dishonest enough to say that, if they knew someone who was caught by a speed camera, it would be acceptable to cover for them by accepting the fine and taking the points on their own licence.

At the same time, the survey shows that most drivers are unaware of the dangers of speeding, especially in built-up areas. Drivers were first told that an adult pedestrian hit by a car at 30 mph had a 20% of chance of being killed, and were then asked what they thought the chance

of death was at 40 mph. Only a third (35%) gave the correct answer of 90%.

### **Like Father, Like Sons, Says Racing Legend Mansell**

Issued: 2 August 2005

Nineteen years after scoring his first Formula One victory at Brands Hatch, racing legend Nigel Mansell has passed his Advanced Driving Test with the IAM - and for good measure, so have his two sons. Leo Mansell, now 20, was just a year old when dad Nigel first shot to fame - and Greg Mansell (17) wasn't even born.

But all three of them showed IAM examiners that driving expertise isn't just for the race track when they passed their IAM car test using a route around the Woodbury Park Hotel and Golf Course near Exeter in Devon last month (July 2005).

Ted Clements, IAM's Road Safety Adviser, had been encouraging Nigel to take the test for many years.

"It was worth the wait - especially for the hat trick!" said Ted.

"I knew that Nigel would pass with flying colours - but it was great that his two sons were able to take their advanced driving test as well at the same time. Young Greg only took his L-test last year, so he did very well indeed. It must run in the family!" said Ted.

"My grandfather always told me that it is no good lying on a hospital bed saying I had the right of way. That's one of the reasons I was so pleased that the boys could do the IAM test as well," said Nigel.

Nigel did his advanced test in an Audi A6 and younger son Greg also chose an Audi, an A3. Leo opted for a Chrysler.

The IAM examiners were Steve Mead, assistant chief examiner, and Ian Harris, a serving police officer with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, based in Bristol.

With 31 Grand Prix wins, Nigel has his place in the Formula One Hall of Fame. He joins John Surtees, the late Graham Hill and Sir Stirling Moss as racing drivers who have passed their IAM test and legendary motorcyclist Geoff Duke who took his IAM test in 1960.

The IAM has a network of more than 200 Groups across the UK, with Observers who help thousands of drivers a year to prepare for and take their advanced driving or motorcycling test.

**Further information from IAM House on 020 8996 9600 or visit [iam.org.uk](http://iam.org.uk).**



Last June saw our intrepid drivers tackling a variety of obstacles, but don't worry no cones were harmed during the making of this montage





Richard takes his life in his hands, but laughs in the face of danger!



One extreme .....

...to the other!



Left hand down a bit!





Once again, the evening was a great success, with everyone participating in the various obstacles constructed by Richard and his team of Observers. These included the cone slalom which had to be navigated in forwards and reverse, the reverse into the “garage” whilst blindfolded, the pole squeeze (judge how wide your car is and try not to take out your wing mirrors) and stop on the line (where are your wheels?).

I have to say that I think Louis King in the camper van put everyone to shame by completing all the events and making them look very easy!

**Manoeuvring Evening Results**

Brian Hodgkins	140
Michelle Stone	143
Peter Baggot	145
Sheila Redwood	160
June Thomson	165
Jeremy Fisher	168.5
Nigel Cooke	185
Richard Hazell	195
Ted Willey	215
Jane Clarke	215
Elizabeth Cooper	225
Vic Reynolds	230
Fred Henniker	250
Roger Hansford	270
Louis King	275
John Redwood	287
Jane Stuppel	305
Philip Ranger	155 in 3 events

**Treasure Hunt**

This year's Treasure Hunt is set. Will you be there?

The Treasure Hunt will start at **11am Sunday 18th September** from **Littlebourne Hall**, to end about an hour and a half later at "a place of refreshment". Free entry!

**About Us****How can the Group help me?**

The Group offers observed runs to Associates on a one-to-one basis in their own cars. Your driving skills and attitude to all aspects of motoring and road use will be closely monitored by an Observer (a full Group member who has already passed the advanced driving test). Your Observer (who is a volunteer) will give you practical guidance, constructive advice, and support to help you to pass the advanced test.

**How much does it cost?**

The Skill for Life package which includes Associate Group Membership, the IAM Book "Pass Your Advanced Driving Test", the Advanced Test and the first year's membership of the IAM when you pass, costs just £85. As an Associate member, you will benefit from the Group's activities and have as many observed runs as you need to attain the IAM Test standard, (there is no additional charge for the observed runs). Associate membership is given on the understanding that you will apply for the advanced test within the first 12 months after joining the Group.

**How does the Group Operate?**

The dates, times, and meeting places for your observed runs are arranged directly with your Observer. The Group itself meets socially at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Littlebourne War Memorial Hall, (4 miles east of Canterbury on the A257), OS Grid Reference TR208575.

**How do I join the Group?**

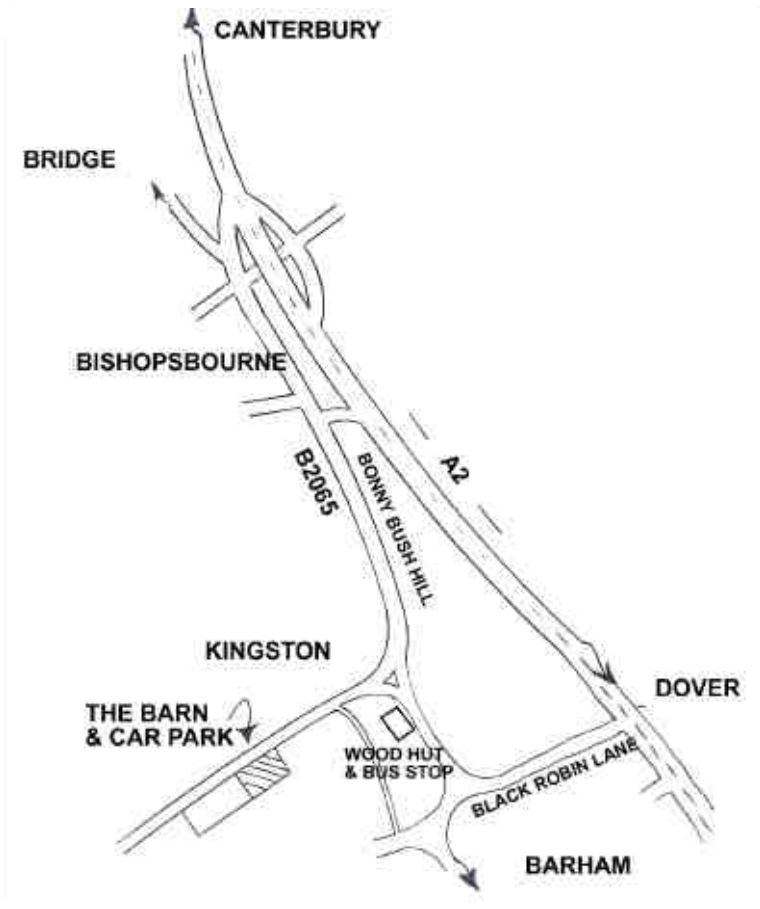
If you contact Mrs Sheila Redwood, 01227 462676, she will be able to give you full details, or visit our website at: <http://www.eastkentiam.org.uk>

The sessions are run the first Sunday of every month, from 10 am – 12 noon.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no session in January.

To find 'The Barn', Kingston:

- Leave the A2 – Canterbury to Dover Road – at the junction signposted “Bishopsbourne Kingston and Barham”.
- Take the B2065 signposted “Kingston, Barham and Elham”.
- At the bottom of “Bonny Bush Hill” turn right by the bus shelter into “The Street”.
- Pass “Church Lane” on the left and The Barn and adjoining car park are within 200m on the left.



**New Associates since the last update**

Mr Larry Klatzko  
 Mr Eric Gowler  
 Mrs Sharon Dilley  
 Mr John Harrington  
 Mrs Julia Blackbourn  
 Mr Jonathan Arnold  
 Mr Matthew Stockill  
 Mr Les Preston  
 Mr Graham Barnes  
 Mr David Garloch  
 Mr Jon Routledge  
 Mr Thomas Wilson  
 Mrs Christine Todd

**New Members**

Mr Adam Frow (2004)  
 Mr Ron Sharp  
 Mr Mervyn Lines  
 Mr J C Warman

**Events Data**

Littlebourne War Memorial Hall  
 - Second Thursday - 19.30pm

**8 September** - Nigel Stevens on the soapbox! Find out how they made the bike dvd we watched last month.

**Sunday 18 September** - Treasure Hunt! 11 am at Littlebourne Hall. 1.5 hours to end at "a place of refreshment".

**13 October** - AGM

Deputy Chief Examiner guest.

**10 November** - Our very own Gary Nichols. 'Microworld' A highly visual tour of a typical house using microscopes to examine everyday items to reveal hidden beauty and detail.

**8 December** - Chris Wade.

A favourite, back by popular demand.

**Test Passes****Period:**

25.03.05 - 18.07.05

Associate	Date	Observer
Adam Frow	25.03.05	Nick Williams
Andrew Orton	18.05.05	Richard Rhoden
Stephen Lavender	20.06.05	Philip Plant
Daniel Scrase	18.07.05	David Mackins
Jane Stupple	18.07.05	June Thomson

If you haven't been mentioned in the Test Passes and you think you should be, contact Elizabeth. Thank you.

Final Copy Date for December Submission - 10 November 2005

Any views contained within this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, EKG or the IAM.  
 The Editor claims no liability for correctness of information, printing or typesetting errors.