

# SIX P O I N T SIX

August 2012

website - <http://www.colchester-iam.org/>



Pat Corps – Vicky de Vries - Brian Davies –Barry Alexander – John Holmes - Colin Turner - Jane Wood –  
Robert Murray – Ron O’Hare – Clive Purrett – Rob Wilson – Heather McCabe



***The Colchester Group of  
Advanced Motorists***



*affiliated to The Institute of Advanced Motorists*

**EDITORS NOTES:**

Welcome to the August edition of Six Point Six of 2012, this includes the reports an article on car crash bandits and parallel parking.

Some people requested a change of date, time and venue when a questionnaire was sent out recently, unfortunately only 4 people replied so nothing will be changing in the foreseeable future. Thank you to those who did take the time to reply

Just a reminder that if anyone has any motoring stories they wish to include in the magazine; please E-mail articles to me or any other committee member who can forward it for you.

If anyone requires any IAM merchandise please contact Ron O'Hare

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Paul Griffin

**FRONT PAGE PICTURE**

Robert giving feedback to Ros on the manoeuvring night

**WHY IS IT CALLED 6.6?**

Did you know at 30 miles per hour you are travelling at 6.6m every half a second? This means if it takes you half a second to react, you have travelled another 6.6m – that is why **planning is better than reacting**. 6.6 magazine's title reminds readers of this fact.

The Colchester Group of Advanced Motorists is a Registered Charity - No. 1049474 and is affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists Ltd.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Colchester Group of Advanced Motorists advises members that their personal details; name, address and telephone number, are held on computer. Members are assured that these details will be used only for Group administration purposes and will not be passed on to any third party.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Colchester Group of Advanced Motorists or the Institute of Advanced Motorists Ltd.

**John Holmes**  
**Editor**





## MEETING REPORTS

### June

June's meeting was devoted to manoeuvres. We were very fortunate to have good weather and a less than full car park. Together with Nick and Robert, we put together a cunning route which involved bay parking forwards, reversing into a bay across the lane two bays along, thus making a dog leg, a long straight reverse into the bay directly behind and then a sharp 90 degree bend to finish parallel to the fence. We had the group's cones and cars parked in adjacent bays to help with the general course.

Several members and associates attempted the course in their own cars. The variation in the size of the cars made a huge difference to how the course was attempted. Angela in her massive Kia performed really well, whereas some of the smaller cars moved too quickly for the course. Adam in his Renault managed to impress us all by doing the course in one go, the rest had several shuffles to get round the dog leg in reverse.



Adam positioning his car while Vick watches

One noticeable point was that some people did "dry steering". This is when you turn the wheels of the vehicle whilst the car is stationary. It damages the tyres and puts unnecessary stress on the steering rack.

Other people did not apply the handbrake when they changed gear from forward to reverse and, as the ground sloped slightly, so their cars rolled without control in a confined space. It has been stated by insurance companies that most claims are made in these manoeuvring situations.

One or two people managed to bump the cones, to be fair they are a bit vertically challenged, and one of the cones retired hurt after Guy's heavy right foot in his Hyundai.

The majority of the vehicles were fairly small; the one car that did not fare too well was a large Volvo. What with a long wheelbase, an enormous bonnet and a never-ending estate boot I am surprised it managed the course at all.



Vicky providing feedback on the session so far

After a short de brief we then did some parallel parking behind the Land Rover. This was actually brought up by the group as a difficult and unused parking manoeuvre. The majority of drivers did very well with Ros doing a "comfort

shuffle" even though she was perfect the first time. Robert mentioned that most drivers came in at too shallow an angle so finished too far away from the kerb / grass. Again, a bit of dry steering occurred and some drivers attacked the parking too quickly.

The evening showed us that we need to keep practising to hone our parking and general manoeuvring skills. The more we are aware of our own vehicles and their capabilities the better we will become.

The evening concluded with the raffle.

**Vicky de-Vries**

### July

There was an excellent turnout for the meeting, and our Chairman, Pat Corps, led us through the AGM Agenda confidently and efficiently. Reports from the Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and the Treasurer were presented, and comments and questions taken from the floor. New committee members were elected in place of those standing down. Robert Jezierski was voted in as Hon Sec and Louisa Davenall has taken over the meeting minute's role. Vicky agreed to continue as deputy chair.



Robert Jezierski our new Honorary Secretary



# SIX POINT SIX



Louisa Davenall our new minutes secretary



Following the formal AGM, the evening moved into a regular Group Meeting, with an amusing, enjoyable and informative talk by Bob Gosden (Ipswich IAM examiner), in which he explained how examiners approach the Advanced Motoring test and how they assess the drivers. This was all very reassuring: the emphasis throughout was on safe driving at all times, with capable evaluation of the driving situation and confident handling of the vehicle. Bob stressed that there are much wider tolerances of driving practice than we might think with regard to progressive driving.



Drivers do not have to drive at the maximum allowed speed, but must always keep at a speed they feel is safe. He kept us all not only well informed and interested, but also amused by his - sometimes off the wall - anecdotes and accounts of situations from his days with the police force.

Spot on cue, just as Bob had finished his talk, Pat brought in a very generous supply of fish and chips from a local shop, and we all enjoyed a companionable and tasty supper until the meeting ended.

**Clive Purrett**





## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2012 AGM**

A fairly uneventful year has past us by all to quickly. We have a new website, thanks to Rob, our new Webmaster and input from some our Internet savvy committee members, one not being me.

Keeping everybody up to date with what is going on within our group has been down to the hard work of John Holmes, our magazine editor, for making sure all the content of the Six point Six is in place and out when it should be. He is always on the look out for new and interesting articles to place in the magazine so don't hold onto anything you may feel can be shared with the group.

Heather is doing a sterling job with membership, carrying on where Nick left off and putting her own mark on it.

This year we will be losing Colin our Minute Secretary, without him we wouldn't have remembered what we had said at our committee meetings. Also stepping down this year is Clive our Honorary Secretary he has held the post for the year and he will be a loss to the committee.

Robert, our Treasurer produces our accounts when we need them and in the right fashion, even though his work commitments don't always allow him to attend as many meetings as he might like.

One of the hardest committee jobs is events, it's a thankless task but Barry is generally on top of it, but as always new ideas are always welcome.

Without Brian all our associates would be without an observer, he also gives the associates their first drive and passes on to us observers what he thinks their requirements will be.

Another committee member we're losing this year is my Vice-Chair Vicky, who handed her Hon-Sec post over to Clive last year and has backed me up all through her serving time, even at the last minute when I couldn't turn up. She will be a great loss to the committee.

It would be a dry old night without Jane providing liquid refreshment in the form of Teas and Coffee, we are drivers and of course, the all to slimming biscuits.

Last but not least, for adding a little bit of spice to the evening, Ron for managing to get your small change out of your pockets for a raffle, which must include chocolate (for Vicky ).

Thank-you to all your committee for their time and commitment to the Group.





Let's look forward to another year, that we hope will bring more associates to the group, especially younger ones and we can only achieve that if you continue to promote The Colchester of Advanced Motorists.

## **Pat Corps**



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

Firstly, I'd like to thank our previous Secretary, Vicky de Vries, for her support over the last year when I have been learning what to do and when. Vicky has always been ready to help and has promptly provided all I needed to know, together with sensible reassurance when needed.

The job of Secretary has turned out to be more straightforward than I had assumed. For your information I have written out a list of most of the tasks involved over the course of the year, which you will find included with this Report.

### **News about the Institute of Advanced Motorists itself:**

Your organisation continues to do excellent work in the fields of research, political action, promoting safer driving, informing the public, and finding ways to support and advise motorists – especially IAM members.

On their well designed new website, which I strongly advise you to visit, you will find not only reports and information about IAM research and general activities, but also helpful advice for motorists – what to do in case of breakdown; what to do if you are clamped; how to prepare your vehicle for the Summer/Winter; as well as essential information for taking your vehicle abroad. These are just examples of the many useful articles you will find there.

There are also several financial benefits to be gained as members, for example - cheaper parking fees at airports, 40% off RAC membership, discounts on Fiat and Alfa Romeo cars, and it is reported that 90% of IAM advanced drivers find their car insurance costs less. You can discover more financial benefits for members on the website.

Another new development for this year has been that Skills for Life associate members now receive free RAC membership for a year. Also new this year, the IAM started a Fast Track Skills for Life programme. This caused your committee some worries when an associate member who had enrolled for this programme contacted us, as it involves arranging for two long half day observations over a fortnight – something we would find impossible to provide. But, we were soon reassured by IAM Headquarters that this was nothing to do with us – the observations were provided by IAM employees – and that they had made a mistake in sending the chap to us.



In closing, I wish my successor well and will be very happy to help where I can. I am not standing for election next year simply because I will be out of the country for months at a time and would not be able to do the job as well as I would wish.

Clive Purrett



## **UK ROAD DEATHS RISE PUTS GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE**

The government has been criticised for a lack of leadership after the first increase in road deaths for nearly a decade. The report by the Transport Select Committee also highlights the fact that road accidents are the main killer among 16-to-24-year-olds. The committee calls for more help to keep young drivers and cyclists safe and to improve the design of roads. The government says road safety continues to be a top priority.

In 2010-11, 1,901 people were killed on Britain's roads. That is 51 more than the year before and the first rise since 2003. The largest increase is among pedestrians, where the number of deaths rose by 12% to 453. While deaths among cyclists and motorcyclists fell, the number of drivers and passengers who died rose 6% to 883 while more than 25,000 road users were either killed or seriously injured in total.

The BBC's transport correspondent Richard Westcott says the coalition ditched national targets when it came to power and instead told councils to take more responsibility for road safety.

Louise Ellman MP: "It's very important that a national message that says road safety is important continues to be made"

But the MPs found councils had a patchy record because of budget cuts and the loss of skilled staff.

They also call "shocking" the fact that road accidents were the biggest killer among young people, and call for better driver training to help them stay safe.

Road deaths might have gone up but - with the exception of last year - the number of people killed or seriously hurt on our roads still remains the lowest since national records began.

Last year's figure is still well below that seen in 2009, when 321 more people were killed on the roads.

The committee called on the Department of Transport to "name and shame local authorities that are under-performing on road safety".

Launching the report, the committee's chairman Louise Ellman MP said: "It is shocking that road accidents are the main cause of death among young adults aged 16-24 and that so many cyclists continue to be killed or injured.



"Action is required to improve road safety for young drivers, including an independent review of driver training."

MPs want the government to reassess its road safety strategy later this year and are also recommending a review of road conditions for cyclists and motorcycle training.

#### ROAD DEATHS IN 2010-11

- Car occupants: 883 (up 6%)
- Pedestrians: 453 (up 12%)
- Motorcyclists: 362 (down 10%)
- Cyclists: 107 (down 4%)

Source: Department of Transport

They also want Parliament to be given a say before there is any increase in the speed limit on motorways to 80mph - a move that has been mooted by ministers.

Mrs Ellman said ministers needed to explain whether last year's rise in road deaths was a one-off "blip" or the start of a worrying trend.

"The evidence we gathered suggests the principal factor in improving road safety is robust political leadership," she added.

Councils said they took their responsibilities for promoting road safety "very seriously".

"If you look at the figures, over the last ten years we have seen a steady decrease (in road deaths)," said Peter Box, from the Local Government Association. We should not be complacent but these should be put into context. Of course we can do more but the report makes clear we do have real budget pressures."

Road safety campaigners Brake said the increase in casualties was "unacceptable" and action was needed to curb drink driving among young motorists and do more to protect cyclists and pedestrians.

#### ROAD DEATHS BETWEEN 2007 AND 2011

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| 2011: | ,901 |
| 2010: | ,850 |
| 2009: | ,222 |
| 2008: | ,538 |
| 2007: | ,946 |

Source: Department of Transport



"It is vital the government wakes up to the very real and human consequences of inadequate action on road safety and moves quickly to address the biggest killers on our roads," said its deputy chief executive Julie Townsend.

The AA said a lot could be done to reduce casualty levels, including earlier focus on road safety in the national curriculum and ensuring all driving tests included sections on rural roads. "Most people take their test in a town or city," said the motoring body's president Edmund King. "The government is trying to change that by opening up test centres in more diverse areas so that people get more experience of rural roads." "That should become part of driver training so people know that it is not the same driving in a city as it is in a narrow rural road where speed limits may be 60mph."

Additional training for young drivers after they qualified may also be needed, he added - given evidence shows one in five new drivers have a crash in the first six months after passing their test.

"Many people haven't driven at night or in bad weather conditions and haven't driven with other people in the car. That is not part of the test. That becomes a problem when they get into their car with a licence for the first time."



## **PRIVATE WHEEL CLAMPING TO BE BANNED**

Wheel clamping without lawful authority will be banned in England and Wales from 1 October 2012, with anyone breaking the law facing criminal charges and a fine.

Once the ban comes into force on 1 October 2012, it will be illegal to clamp, tow away or immobilise a vehicle without lawful authority to do so. Anyone who breaks the law will face criminal charges and a fine if convicted.

In effect, this will ban most clamping and towing by anyone other than the police, local authorities, government agencies such as the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) - plus other bodies acting in accordance with statutory or other powers, such as railway stations and airports. Bodies with lawful authority to clamp and tow may continue to contract out this work to private companies.

DVLA and VOSA will continue to clamp or tow vehicles that are un-roadworthy or have not had their vehicle tax paid.

### **What's happening prior to October 2012**

Currently, the law says that individuals or businesses can clamp vehicles if they have a valid vehicle immobiliser licence from the Security Industry Authority (SIA). This will apply until the ban comes into force in October 2012.





## **SCRAPPING YOUR CAR – DO IT SAFELY AND LEGALLY**

Motorists wanting to dispose of old cars responsibly are being warned to watch out for scrap metal dealers who falsely claim to be licensed.

In order to scrap and de-pollute cars, scrap metal dealers need to hold an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF) licence issued by the governing Environment Agency. An increasing number of scrap metal dealers are falsely claiming to have a licence and their adverts are incorrectly displaying an Environment Agency logo and sometimes the DVLA logo. They are acting illegally by doing this.

Many of these illegal operators only display a mobile number, making it almost impossible for the authorities to take action against them.

If they are an illegal operator they will not be able to issue a Certificate of Destruction (CoD) for a vehicle. Without a CoD there is no guarantee that the vehicle has been de-polluted, scrapped and removed from the DVLA database. This could mean that the vehicle may reappear on the road, subjecting the registered keeper to possible enforcement action, including parking fines.

**ASSOCIATE INFORMATION**

As soon as there is an observer free to take you on, you will be contacted and your first drive arranged. While you are waiting to start the practical side, please read your copy of PASS YOUR ADVANCED DRIVING TEST. This will mean that when you do start you'll have a good idea of what's involved. If you want to ask any questions please feel free to give me a call, otherwise I am usually at the group meetings and will be happy to talk to you there.

As at 23<sup>rd</sup> July there was one associate awaiting an observer to come free

**Would all associates taking the test please let their observer know what the test date is and let me know the result.** You may think HQ Test Examiners keep us informed, but it is not part of their brief so we will not know otherwise. Many thanks.

Could all Observers notify the membership secretary when they first take their Associate on a drive.

**Our list of Observers**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Pat Corps *  | Louisa Davenall |
| Ralph Young* | Vicky de-Vries* |
| Brian Davies | Sarah Woodcock  |

\*DENOTES SENIOR OBSERVER

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Jessie Hill passed on 18<sup>th</sup> July, her Observer was Sarah

Angela Chapman passed on 26<sup>th</sup> June her Observer was Louisa

Robert Jezierski passed on 26<sup>th</sup> June his Observer was Vicky

Adam Dowley passed on 14<sup>th</sup> June his observer was Pat

**Brian Davies**  
Associate co-ordinator











# SIX POINT SIX



## CONTACT DETAILS







Colchester Group of Advanced Motorists - President: Ralph Young

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b><u>Chairman</u></b><br>Pat Corps   |  |  |    |
| <b><u>Deputy Chair</u></b><br>Vicky de-Vries                                  |  |  |    |
| <b><u>Honorary secretary</u></b><br>Robert Jezierski                          |  |  |   |
| <b><u>Membership secretary</u></b><br>Heather McCabe                          |  |  |  |
| <b><u>Honorary Treasurer</u></b><br>Robert Murray                             |  |  |  |
| <b><u>Associate/Observer</u></b><br><b><u>Coordinator</u></b><br>Brian Davies |  |  |  |



# SIX POINT SIX



|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><u>Webmaster</u><br/>Rob Wilson</p>                |  |  |    |
| <p><u>Newsletter Compiler</u><br/>John Holmes</p>     |  |  |    |
| <p><u>Events co-ordinator</u><br/>Barry Alexander</p> |  |  |   |
| <p><u>Minutes secretary</u><br/>Louisa Davenall</p>   |  |  |  |
| <p><u>Catering</u><br/>Jane Wood</p>                  |  |  |  |
| <p><u>Shop &amp; Raffle</u><br/>Ronald O'Hare</p>     |  |  |  |



## EVENTS

All evenings are for all members and associates these will be held at:

**Marks Tey Parish Hall**  
**Old London Road.**  
**Marks Tey,**  
**Colchester**  
**CO6 1EN**

*All meetings will be held in the small room  
except April and June which will be held in  
the council chamber*

It is a requirement for associates to attend training sessions to enable them to be familiar with advanced driving techniques and skills, prior to, and alongside their observed drives. It is also important that those of you who have already passed your advanced test attend, to further your skills as an advanced driver

| <b>2012</b>           |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>August 21st</b>    | Group meeting practical training night on towing and trailer reversing followed by Observers training |
| <b>September 18th</b> | Group meeting – A talk on tyres and safety by Christine Joyce of Tyresafe                             |
| <b>October 16th</b>   | Group meeting training night followed by Observers training   |
| <b>November 20th</b>  | Group meeting – details to be finalised   |
| <b>December 18th</b>  | Group meeting training night on corners and bends followed by Observers training                      |
| <b>2013</b>           |   |
| <b>January 15th</b>   | Group meeting – Chairman’s quiz   |
| <b>February 19th</b>  | Group meeting training night followed by Observers training   |
| <b>March 19th</b>     | Group meeting – presentation by Autoglym  |
| <b>April 16th</b>     | <b>Group meeting training night followed by Observers training</b>                                    |
| <b>May 21st</b>       | Group meeting – details to be finalised   |

All meetings start with tea and coffee

Training nights start at 7:30 and may include a raffle; followed by Observer training at 9:00

Other night’s doors open at 7:30 for an 8:00 start and include the buying of raffle tickets