



Newsletter

September 2022

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Chair's letter - September 2022

Nick Room



Dear Friends,

Events during autumn 2022

As the warmer days fade, and the evenings draw in, we look forward to three great members meetings at our new venue, Knowl Hill Village Hall. We kick off on Tuesday 20th September with a talk by speakers from UK Cycling. On 18th October we have one of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Road Infrastructure team coming to see us, and in early December we have our new Area Service Delivery Manager, Katrina Lowe, together with a senior member of IAM Roadsmart and the

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner joining us for our farewell to 2022 – with non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles. Please support your Group and come to these events. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tim Taylor, RIP

On 24th August we said a final goodbye to Tim Taylor, our erstwhile Committee Secretary, at Easthampstead Crematorium, and a lovely service it was too. We were able to uphold TVGAM with several members present at the occasion, and we wish Annie, his wife, and all the family the very best for a future without Tim, who was obviously such a large presence in their lives.

IAM Autumn Forums

The IAM's Autumn Forum will be attended by Alex, Nicki, and Des as I will be absent, returning from a trip to South Africa. I expect there will be a good update from them when we gather for our October meeting.

New people joining the team

Two members have come forward recently to undertake roles in the area of Communications, and will work alongside Alex to deliver Group publications in all their modern forms. We welcome **John Willis**, learning the ropes as Newsletter Editor; and **Nick Edgley**, of EV fame, who reached out to us recently to offer his talents as Webmaster! These appointments will further assist us in developing our profile, particularly on the new and improved TVGAM website, to which I hope you all refer frequently.

Don't forget – an Observer Development Day coming up!

This will be held on Saturday 15th October, so there's plenty to be doing during the autumn, and the Committee are not exactly twiddling their thumbs!

An invitation from our neighbours at BAM

We have an open invitation to attend Basingstoke's Greenlight Simulation presentation on Wednesday 28th September – do look for the notification in this edition of your newsletter and book by direct approach to Jenny Faulkner-Quick at chairman@iambasingstoke.org.uk, who will be delighted to have you along.

Safe driving and catch up soon.

A very warm welcome to our new Area Service Delivery Manager
Katrina Lowe .



Katrina served in the Metropolitan Police Service for 30 years. She was a Traffic officer for 17 years as both a constable and sergeant and was an advanced (City & Guilds) Collision investigator and vehicle examiner, dealing with serious and fatal road traffic collisions as well as traffic enforcement, education, and engagement.

During her police service, she received a total of 26 weeks of driver/rider training, gaining a Class 1 advanced certificate for both cars and motorcycles. In 2003, Katrina was part of a small team involved in the inception of BikeSafe-London, setting up and then running BikeSafe-London South for 4 years. Katrina left Traffic on promotion, working as a Response Team Inspector (Duty Officer) and then as a Chief Inspector of Operations, before retiring in 2014.

For several years, she also worked as an advanced motorcycle instructor, RoSPA examiner and was previously a trainer for the RoSPA Diploma course. Since her retirement from the police, Katrina has been working as a motorcycle tour leader for Motorrad Tours (World of BMW).

Katrina has more recently been volunteering as an IAM RoadSmart car and motorcycle examiner, National Observer assessor and having gained her motorcycle masters with distinction, a motorcycle masters mentor. She was appointed as ASDM for Region 2 in July 2022.

M4 J11: The most dangerous junction in Berkshire

Ray Lloyd



A few weeks ago I decided to video part of Junction 11 where it is an accident waiting to happen. I posted it on the Berkshire Live Facebook site and it was very well received. So much so, that the Reading Chronicle put a link to it that increased its views to over 2,000.

The stretch of road I refer to is leaving the east bound M4 at J11 for Reading. The road goes into four lanes with lanes 1 & 2 going to Reading and 3 & 4 going straight on. The problem is mainly in the road markings where all the lanes show arrows directing traffic straight on, whereas Reading Traffic go to the left. But many drivers in lane 2 (for Reading) think they can go straight ahead which causes many near misses as they try to cut in. Some of these are simple mistakes, others done deliberately to avoid queuing in lane 3.

I videoed the junction mid-morning over 20 minutes and saw numerous examples of bad driving; it must be hell during the rush hours!

Take a look yourself at <https://youtu.be/IBkbgRKvUdM>



An 82-year-old driver recently received a 6-month prison sentence for killing a cyclist in Andover.

The court heard the driver was only able to read a registration plate at 3 metres, as opposed to the required 20 metres. In his sentencing remarks, the judge said he must have known his eyesight was failing.



Sadly, these cases are all too common but not always down to older drivers.

As advanced drivers we should all know rule 92 (p35) of the 2022 Highway Code on vision -here's a paraphrased reminder:

A driver **MUST** be able to read a vehicle number plate in good daylight from a distance of 20 metres.

If a driver requires corrective eyewear (glasses/contact lenses) to do this, they **MUST** wear them at all times whilst driving. **NB** the **01** on the reverse of the driving licence indicates a driver is required to comply.

A survey by Insurance Company Direct Line says:

Motorists who need glasses or contact lenses but drive without them increase their risk of an accident four-fold.

A fifth (21 per cent) of motorists who need glasses or contact lenses always drive without them.

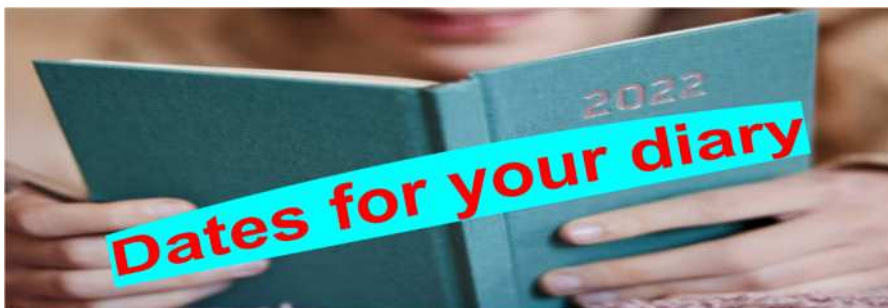
37 per cent haven't had an eye test in the past two years or more.

'Popping to the shops' is the most common occurrence of driving without glasses or contact lenses.

An estimated 13.5 million motorists are driving with defective vision.

TVGAM will be running a Social Media campaign during National Eye Health week with to raise awareness of the importance of good eyesight whilst driving. Please share these posts with all your contacts.

A list of eye conditions that must be reported to the DVLA by a driver can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/eye-conditions-and-driving>.



Tuesday September 20th - September Group Meeting

FULL CYCLE – Robin Tucker, UK Cycling

KNOWL HILL - Village Hall RG10 9XB at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday October 18th - October Group Meeting

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's
Road infrastructure team**

KNOWL HILL - Village Hall RG10 9XB at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday October 18th - October Group Meeting

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's
Road infrastructure team**

KNOWL HILL - Village Hall RG10 9XB at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday December 6th - Last Group Meeting of 2022

**Area Service Delivery Manager, Katrina Lowe, together with
a senior member of IAM Roadsmart and the Thames Valley
Police and Crime Commissioner**

KNOWL HILL - Village Hall RG10 9XB

A kind invitation from our friends at Basingstoke Advanced Motorists

On **Wednesday 28th September** we will be having a presentation by Greenlight Simulation about their immersive, high fidelity driving simulation which is conducted through an array of virtual environments and driving scenarios designed to directly address many of the leading causes of traffic accidents. It is aimed at all drivers from novice to professional to improve driver behaviour and road safety. Whilst Greenlight are unable to bring along their simulator, the presentation aims to be a fascinating insight in to how virtual technologies could augment driver training.

The meeting is to be held at:

**Newnham Clubroom
Newnham Road
Newnham
RG27 9AE**

Meeting starts at 19.30 and aims to end by 21.30 (a bit longer or shorter depending on interest).

Tea, coffee and biscuits in abundance as ever.

Please could anyone wishing to attend, please let me know so we can account for numbers.

With kind regards,

Jenny Faulkner-Quick

Chair – Basingstoke Advanced Motorists
chairman@iambasingstoke.org.uk

Small Cars, Big Hearts

One of the joys of driving to unknown areas for a break from life as we know it, is that the unfamiliar can suddenly offer opportunities to enjoy new sights and sounds. The last weekend in August provided some beautiful sunsets at Woolacombe Bay, but the main features were in town with the Ilfracombe carnival, an entire brass band dressed in spider-man costumes and farmers on a wooden horse pulled along by a tractor. But the one thing to pluck at my automotive heart strings, was a parade of Mini's on a fund-raising jaunt across North Devon for a local hospice. I could fill the newsletter with pictures of the adaptations made to the classic mini frame and I am sure the engine too, but you can see that the owners clearly all loved and cherished each and every individual one of them. There were some attention-catching themes (Paddington hanging onto the roof of one, with the gods of flat pack adorning another), to the historic British originals from every decade, but every one of them made a statement.

The parade appears to be annual, so if you find yourself in Devon next August (having survived the collective bank holiday torture of the M4 and M5) and want to bathe in the headlights of 250 Minis and donate to a



From the small classic car (with a few extras to blind the opposition), to the patriotic enthusiast wanting to fly the flag for a good cause! They were all there, all 250 of them slowing the roads of North Devon!



They came in all shapes and sizes, from the shameless brand marketing devotees, to the colourful and confusing! Even Her Majesty the Queen put one's best foot forward and brought the crown jewels to the proceedings ...



Membership Matters

Alex Beeston - Membership Secretary



New Members

A warm welcome to 5 new Members who have recently joined the TVGAM group.

Associate Members:

Russel Ford from Bracknell

Ian Danks from Bracknell

Daniel Stagg from Reading

Jane Evans from Reading

We wish you all every success with your Advanced Driving Courses.

Full Members:

David Howell – from Windsor who joins us from Swindon Advanced Motorists.

The total number of new members to TVGAM in 2022 is: 23

Successes

Many congratulations to the following associates who have recently passed their Advanced Driving Tests or have become IAM Members by Portfolio, and to their respective observers.

F1RST PASS – Wendy Rooke and her observer Nicki Kitching

PASS - Sandy Sell and his observer David Hunt

PASS – Peter Blake and his observer Gareth Davies

Membership by Portfolio – Alice Davidson and her observer Des McDermott

Membership by Portfolio – Rebecca Woodage and her observer Des McDermott

The total number of Test Passes and Memberships by Portfolio in 2022 is: 14

TVGAM Annual Membership fees:

Associates - 1st year is **included** in your course fee.

2nd and subsequent years is **£36.50*** payable to TVGAM depending on Committee approval to continue your course.

Full and Fellows - **£12** for all members receiving newsletters and bulletins via email.

£22 only for members who depend on newsletters and bulletins by mail.

Payment methods

Bank transfers: Lloyds Bank, Maidenhead Sort Code 30-95-36

Account No. 07015567

Reference: Please enter your **Group Member ID (e.g. nn/nnn)**

Cheques: Payee: **Thames Valley Group of Advanced Motorists** (full Group title please). Please post to my home address on your email reminder.

IAM Membership

Please make sure you keep your IAM Membership up to date. If you have a Direct Debit in place your renewal will happen automatically. If you don't then you can create one online at <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/my-dashboard/my-membership/direct-debit>.

If you pay by card or bank transfer (BACS), please make sure you do this when your new IAM Membership Card arrives in the post. Payment can be made online at <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/renewals> or by phone on 0300 303 1134.

Remember, your membership card is only valid once payment has been received.

Membership Records

Please help keep the Group records in order by sending any changes of address, email address or contact telephone numbers to:

membership@tvgam.org.uk

Chief's observations

Des McDermott



I trust that you all had a relaxing summer and managed to get a well-deserved break. It was certainly hot enough this year and, on some days, way too hot. We travelled to the Greek islands for our family holiday to escape the heat. It was a lovely trip and it provided me with a reminder that the average person does not generally comment on driving standards until they see examples of poor driving.

The party with whom we went to the Greek islands all commented on the dangerous driving on the roads and the countless examples of risk-taking behaviour that they had observed, mostly by tourists riding/driving scooters and quads.

Meanwhile, back in Britain, a survey was released by the AA that claimed that over 60% of motorists had not read the updates to the Highway Code in 2022. That is six in every ten motorists had not read - and one assumes could not recall - the main changes to the Highway Code. On closer examination 80% of this sample who had not read about the new rules were familiar with the fact that there had been changes to the Highway Code. The roads in Britain are generally much safer than they were in the past and that is down to successful road safety campaigns and raising general awareness about our driving/riding behaviour. However, standards can quickly drop and so we should not be complacent. According to BRAKE, who are a road safety charity, a person is killed or seriously injured every 22 minutes on Britain's roads.

Suffice it to say, the new changes to the Highway Code will only be effective if road users read about the changes and more importantly act on them. It is particularly concerning that we have some road users who are familiar with the changes and some who are not and that is a very worrying combination. This is a topic that no doubt we will be discussing at our monthly meetings over the next few months. We hope to see you at one of the meetings as we prepare to wave goodbye to the hot summer of 2022.

Safe driving

Des.

And to close - a bit of trivia.

70 mph

The 70mph limit was imposed on Britain's motorways in 1965, after British Rail's new express service began running beside the M1 and some drivers tried to keep up.

Ed: So new Prime Minister Liz Truss wants to scrap motorway speed limits does this mean the competition is back on!—I do hope not!

Traffic Lights

We spend around an average of 5 months of our lives – waiting at traffic lights.

Flyover Junction

The first flyover junctions in Britain were on the Winchester By-pass, at the junctions with the Alton and Alresford roads, and with the old A33 road at Compton. The By-pass was opened in 1939.

Dipstick

The first car with a dipstick to check oil was launched in 1915 – the Morris Cowley. Unlike many automobile inventions this one is still used, unchanged in nearly all cars.

Traffic Jams

The average British motorist spends the equivalent of more than two weeks every year stuck in jams.

Contraflow Bus Lane

The first contraflow bus lane in the UK was introduced in King's Road, Reading as a temporary measure when the road was made one-way (eastwards to Cemetery Junction) on 16 June 1968. The initial reason was to save the expense of rerouting the trolleybus, which was due to be scrapped on 3 November of that year. However the experiment proved so successful that it was made permanent for use by motor buses.

Ed: and now it's probably one of RBC's biggest sources of revenue!

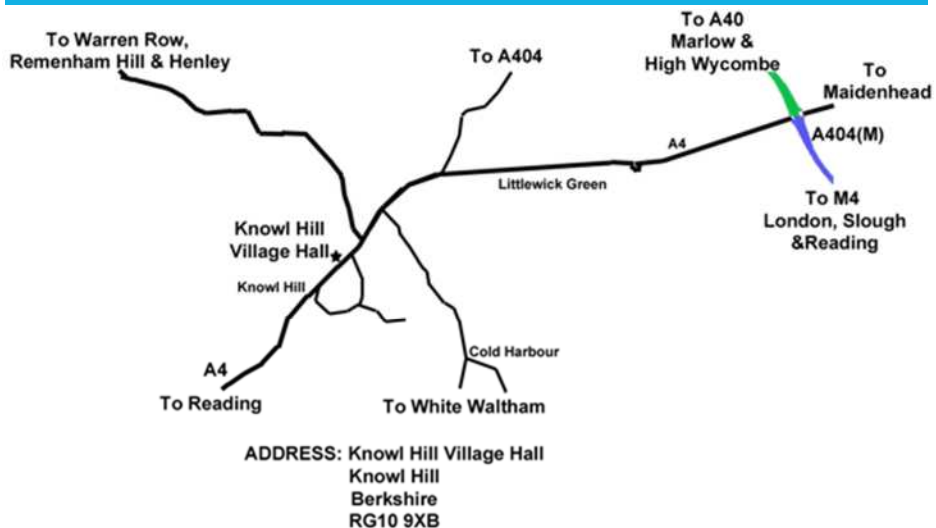
Next meeting

Tuesday October 18th - October Group Meeting

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's
Road infrastructure team**

KNOWL HILL - Village Hall RG10 9XB at 8.00 p.m.

Venue Map



GPS:51.508778, -0.814432