

# Newsletter

July 2023

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## Chair's letter - July 2023



Dear Friends

Alex did a splendid job in organising two sessions for us to go on a drive out, and I hope many of you supported this initiative. We have had some good feedback, but we could do with more.

Do you want to see more of this activity? We are a driving group, after all.... There is more about the drive in this Newsletter if you missed it – or even if you didn't, do read the article and look at the photos in this Newsletter.

We also had a presence at the latest IAAPS academic 'Incubator' – this time, the topic for grads and PhD students at Bath University was on the subject of Mobility as a Service (MaaS). Check out Alex's piece about this too.

We had some disappointing news last month, but also some good news. Our ASDM Katrina Lowe, in post for a year, is leaving IAM to return to her family commitments, which is a pity as the relationship was developing very nicely (but family comes first). In her place, from 1st August, I am delighted to say we have Stuart Haythorn, coming back to oversee our Group and others within this territory.

Stuart is very aligned with our Group and purpose, we welcome him, and I am sure he will be a great ally as we move forward in lots of ways. Please make Stuart welcome when you see him around.



### **Stuart Haythorn in biking attire**

This month's members' meeting features the valuable Air Ambulance service. This organisation provides emergency response across Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire, striving to make a difference when critical medical care is needed fast. The Air Ambulance is a true community effort, as they rely on donations for their on average seven calls outs per day. Please support this session if you can at our usual start time of 8pm at Knowl Hill on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

There's lots more national news in the latest edition of Headlight, the IAM's regular communication, so I hope you are making the most of all the benefits IAM and your Group offers this summer.

Take care in the sunshine,

Nick

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## The group meetings program

Tuesday 25th July 2023 8pm

Thames Valley Air Ambulance exists to give everybody within our community the best chance of surviving and recovering from an emergency. We are here for you and your loved ones. In Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire. Whoever you are. Wherever and whenever you need us.



Together, we do everything in our power to protect, save and revive lives, with the best critical care at the scene and beyond. We save lives by bringing the best expertise, equipment, and medication to the scene of every incident. We revive lives by providing access to support for patients and their loved ones. And we protect our community by being ready to respond when we are needed.

With a doctor and a paramedic on board, we bring hospital-level care to the patient. Our helicopter and five Critical Care Response Vehicles mean that we can be there when every second counts. For former patients and their loved ones, our Aftercare service provides a lifeline when their world has been turned upside down.

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## Lower motorway speeds?

Lowering motorway speed limits and introducing driving bans on Sunday are ideas being suggested to cut Britain's reliance on oil.

The ideas are part of a ten-point plan proposed by the International Energy Agency in a bid to reduce global oil demand by 2.7 million barrels per day.

Motorway speed limits would be reduced by 6mph across the country under the proposals, while the plan also suggests a ban on driving in cities every Sunday.

Also included in the plan is working from home three days a week, and using high-speed night trains instead of planes where possible

The IEA was set up by OECD after the 1973 oil shock to advise members.

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## TVGAM Partnership Activity

Alex Beeston

**IAAPS** >  
ADVANCING PROPULSION



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



Engineering and  
Physical Sciences  
Research Council

**MOBILITY AS A SERVICE**  
AAPP CDT RESEARCH INCUBATOR



Another fascinating session working with the IAAPS team to develop potential solutions to reduce vehicle pollution and combat climate change.

MaaS (Mobility as a Service) integrates various forms of transport-related services and has the potential to revolutionise mobility and provide a sustainable alternative to private cars.

The incubator brought together a broad range of participants from academia, public policy and industry to identify collaborative research opportunities in the following thematic areas.

- Infrastructure and Technology
- Systems Integration
- Data Connectivity, stakeholders, and user adoption
- Public-Private collaboration and innovation in the MaaS design and implementation

Attending the first day, on June 5th, gave a fascinating insight into the current thinking on the need for private car ownership and the options that may be available for the future led by Rita Filipe-Filipe and Andrew West. Rita is well known to TVGAM as she took part in the planning for last year's road-shows.

Predictions are that there will be a significant drop in private car ownership over the next few years but that is not to say the number of drivers will reduce. This creates a paradox as drivers will still need driving skills but are likely to drive less frequently. We all remember the skill fade that happened during lockdown and that driving standards in the main have not returned to pre-Covid levels.

The prospect of a fully integrated national transport network of all transport types where the use of the private car is significantly curtailed will bring new challenges to us all. It is an easier prospect for cities and larger towns to achieve these networks than rural areas and the cost vs need for private car ownership in places like London, Manchester and Birmingham may become prohibitive. The demand for on-demand transport will undoubtedly increase and this is beginning to happen in places like Milton Keynes, where an enterprising venture allows a driver to hire an EV which is delivered remotely to their home, they undertake their drive, and the vehicle is collected remotely when off-hired.

It is a real mindset change to envisage what research and development may emanate from Mobility as a Service in the future. The key thinking is maybe to consider the cost of owning and running a vehicle versus the time we actually spend driving it. Other factors include where we live and the ability, freedom, and convenience of being able to travel to where we want to go when we want rather than be dependent on public transport timetables and schedules.

From a Government perspective, road tax, fuel tax and VAT on vehicles is a very significant revenue stream, so what might replace these?

So many questions - let's hope that TVGAM's contribution to this Incubator engenders some inspiration for our partners students to help solve the mobility issues of the future.

Alex Beeston.



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – July 2023

### New Members

A warm welcome to new Members who have recently joined Thames Valley group.

### Associate Members:

Lucy Catchpole (from Maidenhead)

Nick MacDonald (from Slough)

Laurence Lyons (from Tilehurst, Reading)

Pauline Darby (from Burghfield, Reading)

Thomas Gamble ((from Tilehurst, Reading)

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

**The total of New Members joining TVGAM in 2023 is: 12**

### Test Passes

**Many congratulations to the following associates who have recently passed their Advanced Driving Tests and to their respective observers for coaching them.**

Associate	Observer
<b>Frances Faulkner (FIRST)</b>	<b>Richard Heathman</b>
<b>Catherine (Kit) Brown (Portfolio)</b>	<b>Des McDermott</b>
<b>Simon Andrews (Portfolio)</b>	<b>Des McDermott</b>
<b>Andrew Bunn</b>	<b>Gareth Davies</b>

**The total number of Test Passes in 2023 is: 7**

An important reminder to all Members that both their IAM and TVGAM Memberships must be current (paid up to date). The easiest (and cheapest) way is to set up an annual Direct Debit with IAM for their Membership and make a bank transfer to TVGAM when we send you a reminder

### TVGAM Annual Membership fees:

**Associates** - 1<sup>st</sup> year is **included** in your course fee.  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Annual Membership fees from April 2023:

IAM RoadSmart have recently announced their new prices effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, they are:

**Full Members:**            **£43**    **Direct Debit only.**  
                                         **£48**    Cheque / bank transfer / or Debit/  
                                                            Credit Card

**Fellow Members:**        **£61**    **Direct Debit only.**  
                                         **£66**    Cheque / bank transfer / or Debit/Credit  
                                                            Card

Payment by Direct Debit minimises the administrative costs in processing Members subscriptions which is why there is a distinct price advantage to using this payment method.

We promoted the use of Direct Debit in our January edition and are including it again in this time to encourage members to change and save money..

### [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](mailto:membership@tvgam.org.uk).



**Best wishes,**

**Nicki Kitching  
Membership Secretary**

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## **Midsomer Madness proves a hit.**

Alex Beeston with photos by Gareth Davies

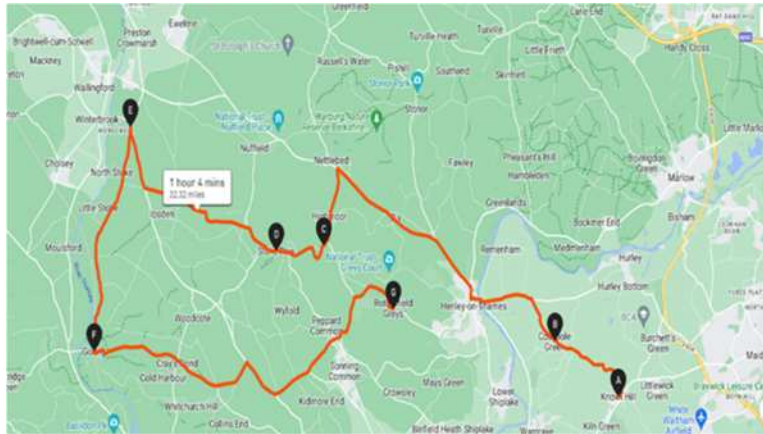
In a change to our usual meeting format, the June event consisted of two drives held on consecutive Tuesdays – 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Around 30 members and guests attended, and feedback was positive with drivers enjoying the route and suggesting amendments to the format for future runs. Several have asked if we can do more drives and considering we are a car group this is rather refreshing. Many thanks to those who attended and for those who ‘buddied up’ as navigators for single occupancy vehicles. You can enjoy some of the pictures on the following page.

*Here is a map of the route should you wish to attempt it on your own.*

The Committee would like your views as to whether you would like to see more drives added to the events calendar. Please let us know by emailing [info@tvgam.org.uk](mailto:info@tvgam.org.uk).





At Knowl Hill Village hall a line of well turned-out cars ready to roll on the drive, along with route planning discussions.



Members took their time to be ready and much discussion took place about the best way to proceed.



Then it was time to be off to enjoy the English countryside:



Lovely country roads with bucolic views as the evening took in some wonderful locations - with a quiz and a chippy as part of the deal!



## Quiz Answers:

### About the TV series:

- 1) **John Nettles** 2) **Detective Chief Inspector** 3) **Causton** 4) **Troy** 5) **Joyce** 6) **Caroline Graham** 7) **Cully** 8) **John Barnaby** 9) **Cousins** 10) **Neil Dudgeon** 11) **Sykes** 12) **Henley and Wallingford**

### About the journey (cryptic) with explanations:

1. This 'benign' place is on our route so just think alpha/numeric.  
Benign becomes alpha numeric B9. 9 in Roman Numerals is IX:  
Answer = **Bix**
2. The Latin name for this is 'cars use' (anag), so where am I?
3. The 'cars use' anagram is the Latin word Cerasus which is a genus of the cherry tree: Answer = **The Cherry Tree** (Stoke Row)
4. I Notice this great Indian ruler is doing just fine.  
Answer = **Sign for Maharaja's Well**
5. My Ring Go parking App is in a mess, but you'll soon get it sorted.  
Sorted Ring Go becomes Goring. Answer = **Goring**
6. This needs a ferrule to avoid a split end. Answer = **Cane End**
7. Where eighty Lords refer. Is it the end of the road? Eighty Lords refer is an anagram of Rotherfield Greys, the final destination of the drive-out. Answer = **Rotherfield Greys**
8. Burrows all lined up for a home run? Burrows are found in rabbit warrens. All lined up is in a row. Answer = **Warren Row**



**THAMES VALLEY GROUP OF  
ADVANCED MOTORISTS**

**Can you spare some time to help!**

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR  
A VOLUNTEER**

**EVENTS MANAGER**



**We are looking for an enthusiastic organiser to assist in creating a rolling programme of meetings and occasional local events to our membership and members of the public within the Thames Valley.**

**What you will be doing**

The successful applicant will contribute to external speaker selection for Group meetings and communicate with them to set up the events. Liaise with speakers to identify presentation equipment requirements - laptop/projector/sound system etc. Work with the Comms manager/social media/newsletter editor and webmaster to promote the event to both group members and members of the public. Source suitable external events to promote the Group and its activities is also required.

**Interested! contact [Nick Room Chair@tvgam.org.uk](mailto:Nick Room Chair@tvgam.org.uk)  
or [Alex Beeston Comms@tvgam.org.uk](mailto:Alex Beeston Comms@tvgam.org.uk)**

**The home of advanced driving in the Thames Valley**

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## Hybrids are nothing new

Alex Beeston

For those motorists investing in a Hybrid vehicle, it may come as a surprise to know that they were around over 200 years ago.



The Lohner-Porsche Mixte Hybrid was first launched at the Paris Exhibition in 1900 by GB coachbuilder E.W.Hart.

The drivetrain had been developed with low-friction by mounting the electric motors to the hubs. These motors directly drove the wheels. Each motor had the capability of 2.5 to 3.5 horsepower and up to a maximum of 7 horsepower for short bursts. In the beginning, the "System Lohner-Porsche" prototypes were two-wheel drive. Lohner-Porsche had announced an electric powertrain and Hart ordered one, with specific modifications as he wanted the 'Electromobile' to also run on petrol, seat four people and include four-wheel drive. Ferdinand Porsche set to work even though he had no higher education in engineering.

Hart's Lohner-Porsche mixed hybrid required almost two tons of 80volt lead-acid batteries that had to be encased in a spring-suspended container to protect the cells. These batteries powered 1,280 pounds of electric motors. The four motors were mounted on each of the hubs and created the power to move this nearly 4.4 tons of vehicle.

300 vehicles were sold between 1900 and 1906, but It was an all-round disappointment it failed in an endurance trial run by the Automobile Club of Great Britain due to tyre-shredding on the rough roads because of its weight.

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## Advanced Driving & the Importance of Refresher Drives



I recently did a talk with TVGAM about how to maintain advanced driving knowledge and skills and reflected on the issue of skill fade. This is a concept that has become increasingly popular post pandemic when many people gave up activities that they would have previously engaged in. The phrase ‘use it or lose it’ seems to capture the concept very well. However, I also pointed out how we can experience skill fade even when we are engaging in activities on a regular basis. For instance when, someone passes the driving test and then loses many of the skills that were taught to them by their driving instructor. Although this can happen over a few years, skill fade can begin to creep in very quickly. I took a newly qualified driver out for a taster drive last year and was surprised at how quickly they had stopped employing techniques that would have got them through the driving test a few months earlier. The person in question was unaware that they had stopped using these techniques.

You will sometimes hear the statement that you learn to pass the driving test and then learn how to really drive. I have never been convinced by this statement because we are taught very good techniques by driving instructors and when it comes to advanced driving we build on this knowledge. What we mostly see when we conduct taster or refresher drives are that people have developed bad habits, which they are mostly unaware of until it is pointed out to them. A common theme is carrying too much speed into situations where it offers you no real advantage and moreover requires you to speed up your driver inputs and observations. Taster drives are free to people who want to ‘try before they buy’ an advanced driving course with IAM RoadSmart. Refresher drives are free to members of IAM RoadSmart local groups and can be booked via the relevant group website. We always encourage members to book a refresher drive because it will ensure that you have an up-to-date analysis on your advanced driving and what action you need to take to bring yourself up to test standard. We are looking into how we can offer refresher drives at weekend meet ups and we will share more information about this nearer the time. In the meantime, if you would like to have chat about a refresher drive, I would be more than happy to talk through this with you at an appropriate time and date. I can be contacted on my TVGAM email ([chief@tvgam.org.uk](mailto:chief@tvgam.org.uk))

Safe driving , Des McDermott, Chief Observer

# Next meeting

**Tuesday 25th July 2023**

Clive England from the Thames Valley Air Ambulance staff will add an interesting insight to this fast responding emergency service

Find out more at [www.tvairambulance.org.uk](http://www.tvairambulance.org.uk)



The meeting will start at 8pm at Knowl Hill Village Hall

## Venue Map

