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# TVGAM News

May 2024

## In the May edition

[Letter from the Chair](#)  
[Our Spring/Summer events programme](#)  
[Our AGM](#)  
[Membership Matters](#)  
[What price IAM Membership](#)  
[TVGAM News](#)  
[Chief's Observations](#)  
[Video Corner - Motorways](#)  
[Road Safety - What's New!](#)  
[Next Meeting reminder](#)  
[Venue Map](#)

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## Letter from the Chair



**Nick Room - Chair**

In the Chair's letter this month Nick focuses on:

- [Reflections on the AGM](#)
- [Our new Editor](#)
- [The pilot IAM Refresher Drive Course](#)
- [Our next meeting - Kate Ashbrook](#)

[Click here](#) to read Nick's letter in full.

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(dates for your diary)

More details on our website at [tvgam.org.uk/events](https://tvgam.org.uk/events)



**Tuesday May 28th.**  
**The Open Spaces Society**  
**Kate Ashbrook**



**Sunday June 23rd.**  
**Summer Drive-out**  
Driving roads in North Hampshire  
A TVGAM Members only event

### **From the AGM**



**The TVGAM Committee for 2024 remains the same (from left to right).**

William Phaure (Treasurer) Karen Allen (Secretary) Des McDermott (Chief Observer) Nicki Kitching (Membership) Alex Beeston (Comms and Associate Co-ordinator) Nick Room (Chair)

### **The Horncastle Trophy**



There was a clean sweep for three TVGAM young drivers in the Horncastle Trophy award for the lowest advanced test competency score achieved in 2023.

**Jake, Oli and Mehraj** tied on a score of 26 points and all achieved **FIRST** passes coached by Observers **Nicki Kitching, Karen Allen and Richard Heathman** respectively.



A warm welcome to 6 new Members who have recently joined the Thames Valley group.

#### Associate Members

**Millie Catchpole** from Maidenhead

**Mattie Bellamy** from Slough

**Sacha Mayhew** from Maidenhead

**Grace Skinner** from Reading

We are delighted to say that all four are young drivers and wish you all every success with your Advanced Driving Course delivered by TVGAM.

#### Full Members

**Lesley Pearce** from Leatherhead

**Graham Morton** from Wokingham

The total number of New Members joining TVGAM in 2024 is : **14**

#### Test Passes and Memberships by Portfolio

Many congratulations to the following associates who recently passed their Advanced Driving Test or gained Membership by Portfolio, and to their respective observers.

**Associate:**  
**Denis Roman**  
**Kevin Joyce**

**Observer:**  
**Joe Ashworth\***  
**Gareth Davies**

### **££ Membership fees ££**

- All Members pay *both* a yearly IAM Membership subscription **and** a TVGAM one.
- If you do not pay, you cease to become a Member until payment is received.
- IAM Subscriptions can be made either by Direct Debit (it's cheaper) or by Card and both can be done via your IAM website Dashboard at [www.iamroadsmart.com/renewals](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/renewals), or by phoning 0300 303 1134 and select option 2.

For the current TVGAM membership fees and payment methods: [Click here](#)



#### **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).**

**Nicki Kitching  
Membership Secretary**

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### **What Pr£ce IAM Membership**

The recent increase in the annual IAM Membership subscription has yet again generated it's usual round of vitriolic social media comments and even resignations. TVGAM Communications Manager and former Membership Secretary Alex Beeston encourages members to take a different perspective on the work of IAM RoadSmart and why our contributions are important.

[Click here](#) to read this article.



**[TVGAM's latest National Observers](#)**



Karen Allen



Joe Ashworth

Many congratulations to Karen and Joe for successfully qualifying as NO's

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Congratulations to **Richard Heathman** on his Masters and National Observer renewals

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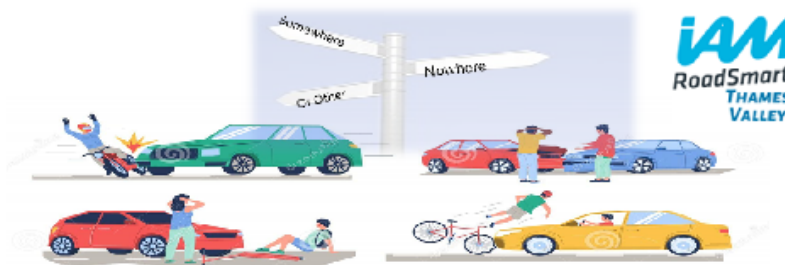
Congratulations to Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner **Matthew Barber** who has been re-elected to the post for a second term. Matt is well associated with TVGAM through the Thames Valley PCC's Road Safety Forum, an award from the Community Fund which reimbursed 7 young drivers with their ADC cost also presenting their certificates, and as a Group speaker.

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## Social Media

Love or loathe Social Media it has become a necessary communication tool in today's world. Next week you could be seeing this and passing it on to friends and family...

### No road user ever comes out of nowhere



### Observation, Anticipation and Planning

- ❖ What can I see
- ❖ What can't I see
- ❖ What can I reasonably expect to happen
- ❖ What is my driving plan to avoid hazards

Keep yourself and other road users safe





## Chief's Observations

Des McDermott

.In this edition Des reviews the latest situation regarding National Observers and welcomes two new trainees to the Observer team.

[Click here](#) to read this article



## Motorways and Dual Carriageways

with TVGAM National Observers Tony Browne and Derek Wilson

In their latest article, Tony and Derek tackle motorways, the safest roads, and dual carriageways, the most dangerous.

[Click here](#) to view their article.

## Video Corner

with grateful acknowledgement to [Reg Local \(Reglocal.com\)](#)



To complement Tony and Derek's article, here is Reg Locals video on Motorways.



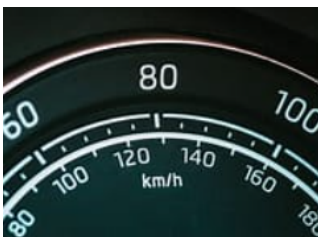
**Update!**



### Graduated Licences

A graduated driving licence would put a set of restrictions on new drivers who have recently passed their theory test and practical exam, for an initial period of time.

Kim Leadbeater MP recently proposed a Bill into Parliament which has received cross-party support and industry support and will now progress to a Second reading on Friday 17 May.



### Intelligent Speed Assistant (ISA)

From July all new cars must be equipped with Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) technology by law. ISA helps drivers stay within speed limits by actively assisting them.

ISA relies on information from GPS mapping and road sign recognition *although it can be switched off at the start of a journey.*



poking their heads out of the car window, the UK Highway Code's Rule 57 suggests we keep them safely secured or appropriately restrained during trips. So, it might be time to say goodbye to their wind-whisked ears for a while. It's all for their safety, after all.

If you have any views or comments on articles in TVGAM News please email them to [Info@tvgam.org.uk](mailto:Info@tvgam.org.uk)

## Next meeting

**Tuesday May 28th**

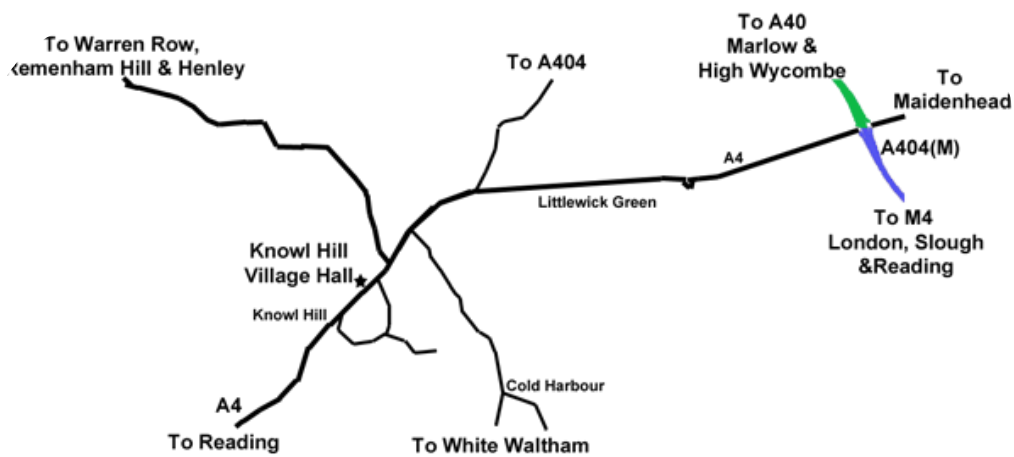
**The Open Spaces Society**

with

**Kate Ashbrook**

General secretary

## Venue Map



ADDRESS: Knowl Hill Village Hall  
Knowl Hill  
Berkshire  
RG10 9XB

GPS: 51.508778, -0.814432





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