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TVGAM News

January 2026

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Letter from the Chair

Alex Beeston

Alex welcomes the group to 2026. He provides a brief summary of recent events and TVGAM's achievements last year.

Alex highlights the upcoming Group Campfire meeting which will help to shape the future of TVGAM.

Members' feedback is sought via an online questionnaire (see below). Please take the time to complete and submit it. Replies by Friday 23rd January would be appreciated. Thank you.

To read Alex's letter please [Click here](#)



[Our Winter/Spring programme](#)

(dates for your diary)

Tues 27th January: Group Campfire Meeting

Tues 24th February: *Details to be announced*

Tues 24th March: Scott Evans - Speedwatch

Tues 21st April: Annual General Meeting

More details on our website at tvgam.org.uk/events



Chief's Observations Des McDermott.

Des reflects on some of TVGAM's considerable achievements last year. Also, featured is a reminder of the wide range of courses available to full members to assist keeping on top of advanced driving skills.

To see the article please [Click here](#)



Happy New Year to all members; may you enjoy your driving this year and stay safe.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome 6 members who have joined since the November edition of TVGAM News:

We wish you all every success on your IAM Advanced Driving Course journey, delivered by TVGAM Observers.

Barry Arnold from Wokingham
Rebecca Dawson from Charvil
Edward Morgan from Woodley
Jacob Reed from Reading
George Reed from Reading
James Tallett from Tilehurst

37 new members joined TVGAM in 2025, **11** of whom were young drivers.
2 further joiners subsequently cancelled their IAM courses.

Test Passes and Memberships by Portfolio

Congratulations to the following Associates who have successfully achieved Full IAM Membership.

David Jones
Sharon Jamieson
Gaetano Archer
Daniel Spring
Gary Kemp

Des McDermott
Des McDermott
Tim Hill
Nicki Kitching
Des McDermott

26 associates have passed their Advanced Test or gained Membership by Portfolio with TVGAM this year.

This is the highest number of successes in one year since our records began and is probably a TVGAM record. Many congratulations to all Associates who passed in 2025 and to Des McDermott and his TVGAM Observer Team on this amazing achievement.



Don't forget your IAM Membership is now digital so look out for your reminder email six weeks before your annual subscription is due.

Payment can be made online but why not create a Direct Debit instead.

££ Membership fees ££

All members must pay **both** an annual IAM Roadsmart membership subscription **and** a TVGAM membership fee to belong to TVGAM. Renewals are sent for upcoming renewals early in the month when your TVGAM membership will expire. At expiry (last day of the month), TVGAM memberships are suspended until payment is received, whereupon the renewal is effective until the anniversary of the original expiry (not extended to fill twelve months from payment).

Your IAM Membership is digital so when you receive your annual renewal invitation from the IAM you can pay your IAM membership by Direct Debit (currently saving £4 on renewals) or Card through your IAM website dashboard at [Home | IAM RoadSmart](#) or phone 0300 3031134 (option 2).

For current TVGAM membership fees and payment methods, please For current TVGAM membership fees and payment methods, [click here.](#)



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.

Nick Room
Membership Secretary

[Help Shape the Future of TVGAM](#)

We're always looking for ways to make TVGAM more inclusive, engaging, and supportive for every member. To help us do that, we'd love your input.

Please take a few minutes to complete our group questionnaire. Your feedback will help us improve meetings, training, communications, and overall member experience.

<https://forms.gle/8NCUhyYuWGnAbGP19>

To open: Click on the right mouse button and select open in new window.

When complete just hit the **submit** button located at the end of the questionnaire.

Whether you're a long-time member or newly joined, your voice matters. Thank you for helping us build a stronger, more connected TVGAM community.

To help us further improve TVGAM membership engagement we would request that all group members complete this questionnaire.

[The IAM 'Big Give' Christmas Campaign smashes its target](#)

A warm message from the IAM Donations Team.

It's been a fantastic live giving week, and I'm thrilled that the total raised reached **£26,365.75**. TVGAM's contribution has played a big part in that success, and it's inspiring to see what we can achieve together.

Thank you again for everything — your generosity and encouragement make such a difference.

This amazing fundraising effort ensures that IAM RoadSmart can fund 2 Track Days for young drivers and riders.

TVGAM were the first Group to become IAM Road Safety Sponsors and we're delighted to see that others have started to follow suit.



The Monster within.....

Why do ordinary drivers become Aggressive, Risk-Taking, and Law-Breaking when they get behind the wheel!

[click here](#) to explore.



The Digital Drive Café

Our launch trial in RG10 has proved very successful and we have regular visitors from over 100 different postcode areas from Aberdeen to Truro. Rolling out to the rest of the TVGAM area will start this month.



COMING SOON

Following the launch of the Digital Drive Café comes another public Road Safety initiative from the Thames Valley Group:

[The ADAS Project](#)

Inspired by Nick Lyes' post on DG Cities research showing 40% of UK drivers lack ADAS knowledge, and Richard Gladman's update on in-car tech, we saw a chance for public education to reduce road casualties.

A new Road Safety Strategy is here



Minimum learning periods for new drivers



Mandatory eye tests for over-70s



Lower drink-drive limits



Additional safety technologies in new cars



Tougher penalties for uninsured drivers

As you may have seen in recent news, the Department for Transport have launched a new Road Safety Strategy, aiming to cut deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads by 65% by 2035.

To read more please [Click here](#)

Volunteer Opportunity - Events Coordinator

The group requires an Events Coordinator to help manage the planning, booking and coordination of speakers for our meetings. It is an essential role that has been vacant for some while and we urgently need to fill.

Support and guidance would be provided as part of our team.

[Media Corner](#)



To play: Click on the right mouse button and select open in new window.
A smooth drive increases car control, performance, economy and comfort.

with grateful acknowledgement to [Reg Local \(Reglocal.com\)](https://reglocal.com)

Next meeting

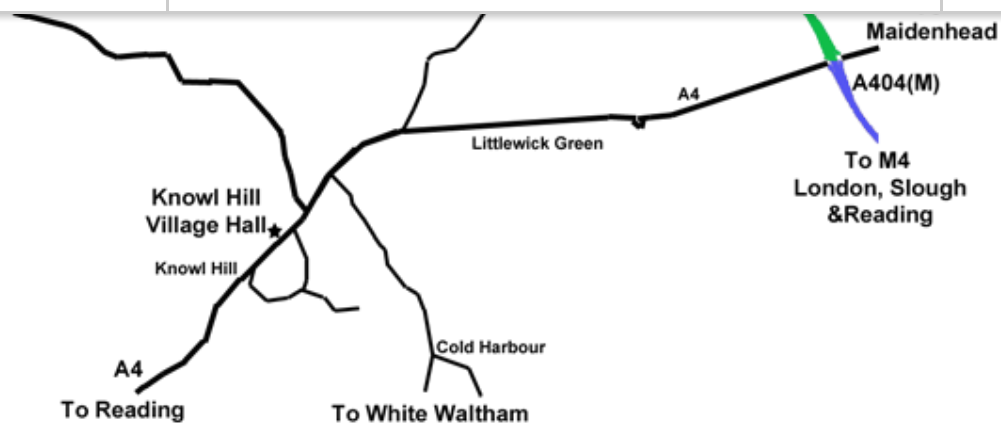


Group Campfire Meeting
Tuesday 27th January at 8pm

This is an important event in relation to the future of TVGAM.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Venue Map



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

GPS:51.508778, -0.814432



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