



Newsletter

May 2024



40th Anniversary Headlined Our Group AGM

Our 40th AGM was a well attended and celebratory evening. It was pleasing to see so many members and guests in attendance. Pictured with the Anniversary Cake are Valerie Brickell (see next page) and Past Chair Keith Chanter. Peter Gunn (see below) and Andrew True retired from the Committee, to be replaced by Tara Ridgeway and Bern Warr. Nigel Mason was elected Chair in addition to his role as Chief Observer, and all the remaining Committee members were re-elected.



The main presentation for the evening was by Jack Richards (accompanied by two colleagues) of Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service. The topic was the Service's role and procedures at road incidents, illustrated with graphic visuals. Jack explained the "Golden Hour Rule" (the time from the incident occurring to arrival at A&E) and the phases involved:

- Accident Scene Safety and Risk Assessment.
- Vehicle Stabilisation and Access to Casualties.
- Planning
- Glass Management
- Space Creation and Full Access to Casualties
- Immobilisation and Extraction of Casualties

Unfortunately, 25 minutes into a very interesting talk, his alarm pager went off, the presentation was quickly abandoned, and within minutes blue lights were seen heading out of the car park. Jack has promised to return, and we will advise you of the date.

Peter Gunn:



Following a long career in senior management in the global oil industry, on retirement in 2009 Peter passed the IAM Advanced Driving Test. He promptly volunteered as an Observer in our Group, and joined the Committee as Treasurer. Peter became a National Observer in 2013 and subsequently gained his Masters with Distinction in 2014, becoming a Masters Mentor in 2017. In 2020 Peter was elected Group Chair, relinquishing his role as Treasurer.

With his depth of high-level driver training experience Peter was asked by IAM RoadSmart to become an IAM Examiner, for the Advanced Driver Course and National Observer testing. Peter resigned his position as Group Chair in March this year, but is continuing as a member as a member of the High Wycombe Group.

COMMITTEE:

Chair
Membership Secretary
Group Secretary
Without portfolio

Nigel Mason
Valerie Brickell
Margaret Gordon
Bob Hill, Tara Ridgeway, and Bern Warr

Treasurer
Chief Observer
IT Support

Tim Nicholson
Nigel Mason
Sean Pearce

GROUP NEWS:

So far this year we have had 3 Associates successfully take the IAM Advanced Driving Test, with 1 F1RST. Congratulations to them, and their respective National Observers.

Two more Observers recently achieved National Observer status bringing the Group total to 15 National Observers. A further 3 Group members are currently on the coaching programme to become Observers with our Group later in the year.

MEET OUR TEAM:



Margaret Gordon (left) passed the Advanced Driver Course in 2021, following retirement from a long career with a well known retailer in the UK. She is a Committee Member taking on the role of Group Secretary in 2023.

Valerie Brickell (right) passed the Advanced Driver Course in 2014, joining the Committee in 2015. She is Group Membership Secretary, and also has a role in our training team as support to the Group Chief Observer. Prior to retirement, Valerie spent many years in the London advertising agency scene.



IAM RoadSmart RESPONDS:

A survey of 2,013 UK drivers carried out for IAM RoadSmart showed more than a fifth of motorists (22%) aged 17-34 believe it is **okay to drive after using Class A drugs**.

While there is much focus on illegal drugs, the effects of prescription drugs should not be underestimated. It is illegal for motorists in Great Britain to get behind the wheel after taking prescribed drugs if it impairs driving. For more information please follow this [link](#).

Responding to the [DfT's announcement](#) on funding for potholes, IAM RoadSmart's Nicholas Lyes (Director of Policy and



Standards) said: "While it is welcome the funding is finding its way through, crumbling road surfaces continue to be an expensive nuisance for drivers and a road safety hazard, particularly for those on two wheels. The onus is both on remaining councils to prioritise their reporting and on the Government to find a way of front loading some of the money that has been reallocated from HS2. The last thing we want is to be heading into another winter where motorists are swerving to avoid the thud of an unfixed pothole."

NEW VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY - ISA (INTELLIGENT SPEED ASSISTANCE):



From 6th July new vehicles sold in the EU and N Ireland will be fitted with ISA, to prevent accidents. Though not a requirement on British roads, ISA will be installed in most new cars. This technology has been around for some time, so your car may already have ISA.

ISA uses a speed sign-recognition video camera and/or GPS-linked speed limit data to advise drivers of the current speed limit and automatically limit the speed of the vehicle as needed. ISA systems do not automatically apply the brakes, but simply limit engine power preventing the vehicle from accelerating past the current speed limit unless overridden.

SHORTS:

Buckinghamshire Council [Respect Me](#) campaign – reminding drivers to be more considerate and respectful of the school crossing patrollers.

Driving lessons can now cost £25-45/hour. The average person needs around 45 hours to get to DVSA test level.

Speeding is an obvious example of **dangerous driving**, some other examples are:

- **Aggressive driving**
- **Ignoring road signs and traffic lights**
- **Drink/drug driving**
- **Driving with an injury**
- **Driving while unable to see clearly**
- **Driver being avoidably and dangerously distracted, for example, using a mobile phone, talking to and looking at a passenger.**

Driver error is a leading cause of road collisions in the UK.

Buckinghamshire is 8th in the UK list of areas with the highest **vehicle crime**! If unable to use a garage park in well light areas such as under a street lamp, or in busier areas.

END