

Newsletter

4th Quarter, 2026

Dairy Date:

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 9th March 2027, 7.30pm,
Liston Hall, Marlow, SL7 1DD

GROUP NEWS:

Group member, **Barry Hatch** and his wife Margaret were featured on **ITV's Tonight** programme (photographed above) **'Driving: How Old Is Too Old'.** First broadcast on Thursday, 1st October at 7.30pm, and discussing "older drivers", the programme highlighted that "age does not mean giving up the independence of driving provided they remain fit capable and safe behind the wheel".



The programme took a balanced, practical approach, with reminders about concentration/awareness/eye-sight, and to check the blind spots before moving off. Click here to watch.

(Visuals above and right are reproduced with the kind permission of ITV and the Tonight programme.)

IAM RoadSmart offers a 1 hour Mature Driver Review, currently £87.

Our Group offers members a free refresher session with a National Observer, and a shorter free Taster Session for non-members. In the first instance, contact us via this link.

So far this year **22 Associates** have been enrolled for the Advanced Driving Course, and we can also report **16 Passes including a F1RST** for the 10 months ending October. We are also pleased to announce Kapil Dhir and John Ludlow achieved National Observer status, and have joined the Observer Team.



Members' Event: Dr Liz Box. 21st October. 'Behavioural Psychology and the impact on our Driving'. An established and respected expert in transport systems, Elizabeth's research into making mobility safer and more sustainable has influenced national and international thinking from pioneering behaviour change programmes for young drivers to shaping government policy.

The talk posed questions such as: Why do we drive the way we do? Why doesn't what seem obvious always work? What helps change behaviour? What does this mean for our driving? How many of us consider ourselves to be an above average driver? If you missed the talk, we plan to have a report in our next Newsletter and an edited video of the presentation available on our Group website.

MEET STEVE GLEDHILL – NATIONAL OBSERVER:



Steve has been involved with IAM RoadSmart since 2019, becoming a National Observer in 2023. Now semi-retired, he works as a **Global Quality Improvement Manager** for a local manufacturing business, following a long career in quality and continuous improvement.

A lifelong motoring enthusiast, Steve enjoys helping others develop their observation, planning and driving skills. He believes advanced driving should be **safe, smooth and progressive –** and above all, **enjoyable**.

That enjoyment is something he particularly appreciates whenever he has the opportunity to get behind the wheel of his **Aston Martin DB9**.

COMMITTEE:

Chair	Nigel Mason	Treasurer	Tim Nicholson
Chief Observer	Bern Warr	Deputy Treasurer	Tara Ridgeway
Membership Secretary	Margaret Gordon (interim)	Group Secretary	Margaret Gordon
IT Admin	Sean Pearce	Without portfolio	Bob Hill

DRIVING ELECTRIC VEHICLES - TIP:



EVs are "sooo" smooth as they increase in speed. They also have enough "oomph" compared to most family ICE (internal combustion engine) cars that passengers may feel discomfort as the driver accelerates at a rate with which they are unaccustomed. (The driver, controlling the steering wheel and pedals, is anticipating the G-Force effect.)

EVs also have the ability to slow the car without brakes, (so-called single pedal control) by using the **regeneration** facility (similar to changing down gears in an ICE). If the driver lifts off the pedal too quickly the car will pull up quite abruptly, and in an uncomfortable manner. **The key to smooth EV driving is the judicious control of the accelerator pedal.**

Reminder. *Driving needs to be:* ***Safe (number 1 priority),*** *and* ***Smooth (for vehicle and passengers)****, and take into account the* ***System*** *of vehicle control/driving* ***(IPSGA),*** *while maintaining appropriate* ***Speed (progress and legality) - the 4 S's****.*

IAM ROADSMART REPORTS – DRUG DRIVING:



IAM RoadSmart reports, Christmas is a prime time for catching offenders, coinciding with **Operation Limit**. This is an annual national policing operation conducted during seasonal festivities to reduce drink and drug driving. One in two motorists pulled over on suspicion of drug-driving are failing roadside drug tests.

Driving after taking illegal drugs is against the law, and driving after taking legal drugs is also breaking the law if it impairs driving. 'Impairment drugs' fall into three categories: psychoactive medications such as benzodiazepines; psychoactive such as morphine, alfentanil, fentanyl, ketamine; and drugs such as cocaine and LSD.

Prescription drugs often contain a warning that they may cause drowsiness.

(Photo and article source: IAM RoadSmart. For the full report click on this **LINK.** See also IAMRoadSmart)

AUTUMN/WINTER CHECKS:



You may have heard Radio adverts sponsored by National Highways talking about **TRIP**:

Top-up your fuel or charge, and check your oil and screen wash. Ensure your **windscreen** is clean **inside** and **outside.**

Rest regularly with a break at least every two hours to avoid tired driving.

Inspect your tyres for the correct pressure and tread (especially in cold, wet conditions).

Prepare for wintery weather by checking the forecast and packing essentials.

3 simple tyre checks:

Tread: Check your tyre tread depth and replace any tyres with less than 1.6mm of tread, the legal minimum.

Pressure: Check your tyre pressures and make sure they are suitable for the load you will be carrying.

Condition: Inspect all your tyres for cuts, bulges or other damage to the sidewalls, and check their age and overall condition.

Tyre-related issues remain the biggest cause of breakdowns on England's motorways and major A-roads.

Research shows tyre tread depth can also have a significant impact on **stopping distances**. At 70mph, in wet conditions, stopping distances for a car with tyres that have 1.6 mm tread (the legal minimum limit), can be around 27m longer than with tyres in good condition. This is around 7 car lengths. (Source: National Highways and **whattyre.com**)

RUMBLE STRIPS/DEVICES:



These are becoming more **commonplace** on our roads, and are **a safety feature designed to alert drivers, especially when approaching hazards**, usually a bend or road junction/roundabout. The **objective** is to reduce road collisions and increase safety, by **warning**/encouraging drivers to **reduce speed**, or **prepare** for a change in the driving condition, whilst remaining in full control of the vehicle, as well as being aware of their surroundings.

Rumble devices across the road, either in the form of strips or larger areas, may be used to provide a visual, audible and vibratory effect. There may be an accompanying warning sign, but **the device itself is not the hazard** and is not usually specifically signed.

(Photo Source RAC. Information Sources: RAC and UK.Gov. For more information follow these links **RAC**, and **Traffic calming - GOV.UK**)

We wish you an enjoyable, and safe, festive season.

(Unless stated otherwise, visuals are courtesy of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists)

www.highwycombeiam.org