



Newsletter

November 2025



**Diary Date: Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 3rd March
at 7.30 pm.
Liston Hall, Marlow, SL7 1DD**

GROUP NEWS:

To date in 2025, 25 new Associates have been allocated to our Group and 11 Associates are now considered to be test ready.

During this year 9 Associates have taken the Advanced Driving Test resulting in 7 passes including a F1RST, and 2 fails. Unfortunately, the planned visit to Brooklands was cancelled due to a lack of numbers.

MEET OUR OBSERVERS:



Paul Royer has recently qualified as a **National Observer** after 15 years as a Defence Driving Examiner for the Armed Forces. A Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force with 40 years' service, serving all over the world including Afghanistan, Paul holds all categories of vehicles from Cat A, Cat D to Cat C+E. As a Defence Transport Manager, he commanded over 80 military and civilian personnel and a fleet of over 200 vehicles. Passionate about road safety he was integral to introducing "The Honest Truth" charity to the RAF with his good friend Stuart Whiteman, a fellow National Observer. To "relax" Paul is a Paddle Board and Spinning Instructor, and in the Winter found on the slopes of Europe skiing!



Graham Smith is a **National Observer**, and a trainer for **IAMRoadSmart's Drink Driver Rehabilitation*** programme. A semi-retired business coach, trainer and consultant, Graham is also a workplace coach for neurodiverse (ADHD, OCD, Autism, etc.) clients, which is both rewarding and challenging in equal measure. He keeps fit playing golf, walking, and cycling. Graham also rides a Yamaha Virago 1100, which suits him perfectly - old, slow, and noisy! On Sundays and fundays he drives his 1977 Triumph Stag, which he bought in 1984. Having lived and worked abroad as an international sales manager in IT Graham now enjoys just living in England. He also teaches and plays bridge to keep the grey matter active, and is a keen lifelong supporter of Spurs, which he regards as a charitable act for the benefit of society in general. His application to HMRC for tax relief on his Season Ticket is still awaiting a response!

*IAM RoadSmart delivers a DVSA-approved [Drink-Drive Rehabilitation Course](#) for convicted drink-drivers referred to IAM by a Court.

COMMITTEE:

Chair	Nigel Mason	Treasurer	Tim Nicholson
Membership Secretary	Valerie Brickell	Chief Observer	Nigel Mason
Group Secretary	Margaret Gordon	IT Admin	Sean Pearce
Without portfolio	Bob Hill, Tara Ridgeway and Bern Warr		

! We are seeking new Committee members to help with events and media updates – please get in touch if you can help us!



Next year sees IAM recognising its 70th Anniversary. This is one of the commemorative logos, which you will see on our Newsletters during 2026.

PREVENTING CAR/VEHICLE THEFT:



Lock your vehicle and **close** all windows. Keep the keys safe out of view when at home, and away from your front door. With electronic key fobs put the fob in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bags. (Remember it is illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather, and therefore, your car insurance is invalid.)

Park responsibly. Try to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. Scan the locality for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief feels they've been spotted, they'll

probably move off. With electronic key fobs always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away, for example the lights have flashed, or the wing mirrors have closed.

Be aware of carjackers. In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing in traffic leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is **bumped from behind**, wait to pull over somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. **If you are at all suspicious**, consider calling the police.

If someone **threatens** you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call the Police on [999](tel:999) as soon as possible.

(Source: Thames Valley Police. For more detailed guidance follow this link <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/>)

CHRISTMAS DRINK, OR ANY OTHER TIME?



New research by IAMRoadSmart ([published September 2025](#)) shows:

- There were 108,000 drink-drive related endorsements added to individual licences over the past three years.
 - That drink-driving could be costing offenders as much as £80,000.
 - Young professionals aged 25 to 39 are the worst offenders, closely followed by those in the 40 to 65 age group.
- IAMRoadSmart adds** that there were 1,860 killed or seriously injured in a drink-drive related collisions in 2023, and reports

that under the plans being considered by the Transport Secretary, the drink-drive limit in England and Wales could be cut from 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100ml of breath to 22 micrograms – the current Scottish levels.

(Source: IAMRoadSmart. For more information follow this link, [IAM RoadSmart Media Centre](#))

TRAVELLING OVER CHRISTMAS, OR ANY OTHER TIME?

National Highways

National Highways UPDATES
Travel Alerts

Here is the latest information on the Travel Alerts

[M40 | Buckinghamshire | Carriageway Closure | Expect Delays](#)

05-11-2025 07:01 AM GMT

The M40 in Buckinghamshire is closed northbound between J3 (Loudwater) and J4 (High Wycombe) due to a collision.

Get **free traffic alerts** sent to your mobile. Follow this link, <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/travel-alerts/>

(Source: National Highways.)

CHRISTMAS QUIZ (COURTESY OF DVSA):



This test has **50 questions**. You need to get **43 correct** to pass. You have **57 minutes** to do it. (It is a sample of the “practice theory test for car drivers”.)

If you are in need of a little driving stimulation over the festive period go to this link, [theory test](#).

But remember **“don’t drink and drive”**.

(Source: DVSA.)

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

www.highwycombeiam.org