

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007/08



GUILDFORD & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Registered Charity No. 1051069

www.guildford.iam-org.uk



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Editor's Notes

Please note that the views and comments herein are published without prejudice, being those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Group or the IAM.

Copy date for the Spring edition is Friday, 21 March 2008

KEY DATES

Observed Runs

20 January	20 July
17 February	17 August
16 March	21 September
20 April	19 October
18 May	16 November
15 June Father's Day	14 December (Please note this is the second Sunday.)

Committee Meetings - Ripley Small Hall

6 March
1 May
3 July
4 September
6 November

Observers Meeting - Ripley Large Hall

Saturday, 9 February 2008 9am - 1pm

AGM and Observers Meeting - Ripley Large Hall

Saturday, 13 September 9am - 1pm

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All information correct at the time of going to print.

Observed Runs

Third Sunday of each month at 9.15am, 10.30am and 11.30am

Guildford Borough Council, Woking Road Dept, Guildford.
Telephone 01483 564 814 on Sunday from 9am to 1pm

Appointments for Observed runs -
contact the Chairman on 07817 490 446 or 01252 519 355



Associate Membership £99 - from 1st Feb 2008

Entitles the Associate to 6 Observed Runs in their own vehicle during the 12 months following the date of their first appointment, and includes:

- + the cost of the IAM Advanced Test
- + the first year's membership of the Institute on passing the test
- + copy of 'How to Be an Advanced Driver' book
- + copy of 'The Highway Code'

Full Group Membership (whilst a Member of the Institute) £5 per annum

DON'T FORGET! Associates aged 25 years and under enjoy a discount of:

£10 off the Associate fee

£10 off the IAM fee

- that's all the benefits of IAM training for only £79!

Help a younger driver be a safer driver - pass on our details!

Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome to the Winter 2007/08 edition of the Guildford and District IAM Group's newsletter.

Congratulations to all who passed their advanced test in 2007 - we hope you have had an enjoyable year's motoring, and wish you continued safe driving in 2008.

Those who passed and were not mentioned in the Autumn edition are listed below:

Charles Conlon	Neil Evans	Martin Jenner	Lynda Sanders	Stuart Whittaker
Helen Davey	Paul Fielding	Fiona Keown	John Seymour	Mark Wyman
Martin Day	Paul Fox	Martin Marriott	Carole Stacey	
Roy Dyer	Mark Griffiths	Stephen Mortimore	Toby Wells	

Congratulations to all of you.

On a sadder note, it is with great sorrow we report the passing of two esteemed members of the IAM; Chief Executive of the IAM Christopher Bullock MBE and Ted Clements MBE, IAM Road Safety Adviser and former IAM Chief Examiner. Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this time. The Guildford Group's chairman Paul Wallace-Stock pays tribute to them on the next page of the newsletter.

To continue to bring you a newsletter that is informative and relevant, please send your letters, comments, feedback, articles and pictures to the editor. I look forward to hearing from you.

Also - we're always looking for volunteers to give up just one or two hours to support the Guildford Group promote the safe driving message.

If you can spare any time at all, or see an event you'd like to suggest we do or get involved with, please contact the Chairman on 012525 519355 - we really value your support, and you'll have a lot of fun too!

Wishing you a happy, healthy and safe 2008.

Louisa Wright-Wastell
Editor



Remembrance of Christopher Bullock MBE

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Christopher Bullock who died suddenly on Monday 19th November at the age of 60. Christopher had been the Chief Executive of the IAM since 1994 and has overseen a number of major changes and an expansion of the organisation, which is now the country's largest provider of Advanced Driver tests. His efforts were recognised earlier this year when he was made a MBE. A forceful and active individual with a keen sense of humour, he will be sadly missed. Our condolences are extended to his widow, Linda and their two sons.



Christopher Bullock MBE

Remembrance of Ted Clements MBE

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Ted Clements, who died in hospital after a short illness on 11th December 2007.

Ted had been the President of the Guildford and District Group for many years and we shall all miss his keen sense of humour and anecdotes at our group meetings.

Always the gentleman, Ted was passionate about road safety and has guided many notable characters in their pursuit for driving excellence - Stirling Moss, Nigel Mansell and John Surtees to name but three.



Ted Clements MBE

His career in the Police was varied and interesting and amongst other tasks he acted as the police adviser for the TV series 'Dixon of Dock Green'. He became Chief Examiner at the IAM in 1984, a post he held until his retirement in 1996.

He will be sadly missed by the group and we send our condolences to his family.

Chairman's Report - December 2007

Firstly let me say that I hope you all had a very enjoyable and relaxing - if that's possible - festive season. Your committee wishes you well for the New Year and hope that your driving journeys will be stress free.

As some of you will be aware, we have had a shortage of new Associates joining the group over the past year, we were not helped by the very poor weather at the Surrey County Show, which usually attracts a number of enquiries. This problem is not restricted to our group but is a nationwide problem. We have managed to keep the Observers busy but most are only getting two runs per session instead of three. The Committee has been considering how as a group we might spread the word about improved driving. We believe that our aim is wider than helping individuals simply pass the test, but also to improve the driving skills of as many people as possible.

Head Office IAM, on our behalf, sent a mailing before Christmas to IAM Members in our group area encouraging them to consider Skill for Life as a worthwhile present. It was particularly helpful that we were able to publicise the price increase of Skill for Life (it will be £99 as from 1st February 2008.)

We are considering setting up a stand at major supermarkets throughout our area so that we can spread the word. If you would be willing to spare an hour or two to help hand out flyers and answer questions about your experiences of the IAM, please contact me either by telephone or email.

Carrying on from the 'Reducing Young Driver Deaths' (Autumn 2007) here's a scary fact: Those under 30 are statistically more likely to die in a road accident than any other age group. In order to spread the word to the younger generation we are planning a Better Driving day on Saturday 23rd February at Surrey University where we intend to have a driving skills circuit in the grounds of the university and may offer assessment drives. If you are available to attend we would welcome helpers on the day; there's more on this later.

In November Paul Whitehead and I attended the IAM's parliamentary reception at the Houses of Parliament. It was hosted by Tom Blake MP and was attended by a number of senior IAM personalities, including the IAM President, Nigel Mansell. Andy Green, the holder of the land speed record also attended. Unfortunately, only a limited number of MPs were present but Paul and I managed to speak to a couple and pressed a few of our important issues. We'll let you know how we got on!

There is a new version of the book 'How to be an Advanced Driver' and a new version of Road Craft is due out soon. We have been through the new IAM book in detail and whilst it reads well, there are a few things with which we take issue. One item in particular is the use of 'cruise control' as a speed limiter in areas with a 30 mph speed limit. We consider this to be a dangerous practice because it takes away from the driver that crucial element of accelerator sense which is so vital for fine-tuning the passage of the vehicle.

Where will drivers put their foot if not on the accelerator - under it? There have been numerous examples where the driver in the heat of the moment has caught their foot under the pedal and lost vital moments in getting it onto the brake. There is a place for the use of such an aid on the open road with no other traffic but not in a speed-restricted area, which by definition is a hazardous area. We might wonder why the Belgians have banned this aid on motorways during busy traffic periods. As there are a number of points on the new publication where we are seeking clarification from the IAM Chief Examiner, we will draw all of the points together in the next newsletter and offer guidance to Members. You may also be aware of the new Highway Code, which includes a number of changes, and these are covered as a separate item later on.

Finally, returning to my first theme, I would ask you all to try and spread the word about advanced driving. We are seen in some circles as 'kill joys', which is a pity as driving well to one's own and the vehicle's capability can be a real pleasure, despite the volume of traffic on the roads. We are able to offer a speaker if you have a club or organisation who might be interested.

Happy motoring

Paul Wallace-Stock
Chairman

OPEN MEETING - ALL WELCOME

Saturday, 9th February

A Group Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 9th February
in Ripley Village Hall starting at 9 a.m.

There will be general discussions on the changes promulgated in
the following three publications, which have been reissued recently:

Highway Code
How to be an Advanced Driver
Road Craft

The Staff Examiner, Trevor Dickenson will attend the meeting
and as always will help us shed light on some of the new techniques
outlined in these publications.

PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY!

Review - 'Police Better Driving Lecture'

Thanks to all those Observers, Members and Associates who turned up for the police lecture on the 29th November at Ripley Village Hall.

Many of you were expecting to see PC Alan Bone give a PowerPoint presentation on motorway driving. Unfortunately, Alan had been taken ill and we also encountered some last-minute problems with the speaker system. But Vince Bailey from the Surrey Police Driver Training Centre in Burpham did a splendid job as the evening was turned into a question-and-answer session.

Vince took questions on general motorway driving and in particular the problem of slow moving lanes and when it is permissible to pass vehicles on the left. It is not clear-cut, however, the Highway Code does give guidance on this matter. There are situations where it is acceptable to pass on the left but only when the vehicle is stable, the speed differential is not excessive and the traffic to the right is travelling in queues and the left hand lane flow is faster; in these circumstances you may pass the vehicles on the left provided you do not speed up to do so and are not exceeding the stated speed limit.

There were interesting discussions on this and other related matters. As a general rule it is not permissible to "undertake". The discussion then centred on any difficulties we sometimes come across as Observers engaged on the Sunday Runs. With upwards of seventy people in attendance, there was no shortage of questions from the floor. My thanks to Vince for doing such a good job!

We are hoping to re-schedule the Motorway Lecture for some time in the New Year.

Please watch this space for further details as I cannot promise to contact everyone by telephone next time!

We hope that Alan Bone will soon be feeling better.

Terry Moody
Senior Observer
Guildford Group

Focus On - Highway Code Updates by Paul Wallace-Stock

As you will be aware, a new version of the Highway Code has been issued and I have listed some of the changes below:

House Zones and Quiet Lanes

These are places where people could be using the whole road for a range of activities such as children playing or for a community event. You should drive slowly and carefully and be prepared to stop to allow people extra time to make room for you to pass them safely.



Lane Discipline

The new code makes the point specifically about Motorways and stresses the point that drivers should move over to the left hand lane as soon as practicable once an overtaking manoeuvre has been completed. I wonder if it will solve the problem of the "middle lane huggers".

Road Works

The main point here is that where a multi lane road has a lane closed, all lanes should be used right up to the start of the road works and then traffic 'merges in turn'. This should stop the situation where perfectly usable lanes, particularly on motorways, are not used, thereby creating a longer tail back. The driver who blocks lane 3 to stop vehicles passing will need educating. You will need to be careful adopting this tactic until it becomes generally accepted practice.

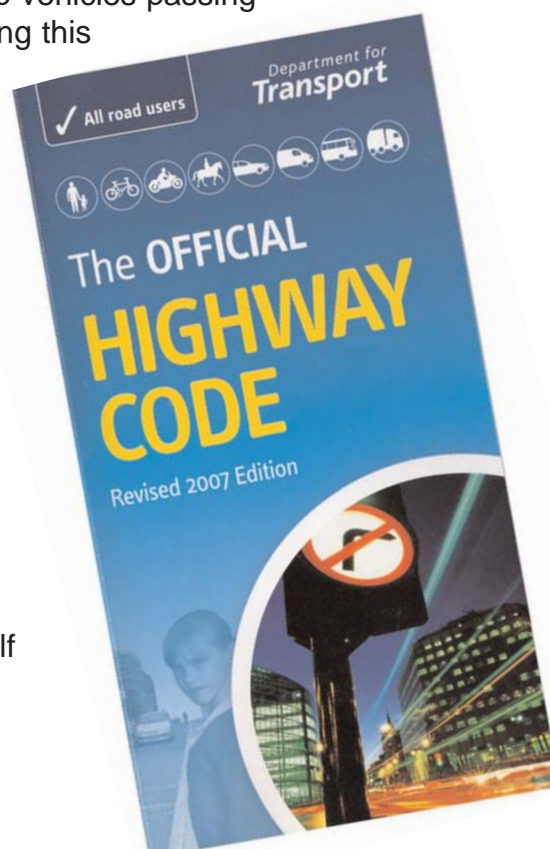
Active Traffic Management

Passing reference is made to ATM systems in respect of the use of hard shoulders as a road lane at peak times.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and Highways Agency Traffic Officers

The new code spells out the law in respect of both these agencies and stresses the fact that drivers are required to obey instructions given by either of them. Important to read this aspect.

Other than these there are only cosmetic changes but nevertheless it is worth your while to familiarise yourself with the latest edition.



Forthcoming Event - Special University Road Safety Day, Guildford

The Guildford IAM group is planning to run a 'Road Safety Day' at Surrey University, Guildford on Saturday 23 February 2008.

The aim is to offer advice and guidance to the students at the University plus local 6th form colleges - and by our efforts we hope to save a few young lives.

Here are some alarming statistics:

20% of new drivers will have an accident in the first year after passing their test

Over 25% of all convictions for causing death by dangerous driving are against those under 21

Help us make a difference.

Planning is at an early stage but will include manoeuvring tests and reaction tests as well as other guidance and advice to youngsters.

We hope to obtain the support of other organisations. We need to put across the message that driving well is 'cool' and enjoyable - we are not 'kill joys'.

If you are able to help on the day or indeed have any ideas as to how we can improve the day, please pass your name to the Chairman on 01252 519355

Readers' Letters

We love to hear from our members - please send your letters in via the website or the contacts at the back of the newsletter.

I thought you would like to know that I took my advanced driving test on Friday and passed. I am absolutely delighted (and a little shocked!)

I really want to thank the people in the club who give their time and energy to helping people like me to improve their driving skills. I would especially like to thank the observers who were so patient with me during my many runs.

To me the great strength of the Guildford Group was having the opportunity to learn so much from so many different people - each with their own nugget of advice to pass on.

Thank you again.

Lynda S

Thanks Lynda - we wish you all the best as an Advanced Driver!

Special Feature: Rural Roads - The Biggest Killers

As Advanced Motorists I doubt if any of us will be surprised at the finding of the latest study published by the IAM Motoring Trust. The trust studied the data of over a quarter of a million fatal and serious injuries over the period 2000 - 2005.

On an average day 9 people will die on Britain's roads and 6 of those will be on rural roads. Why are the roads in our countryside the biggest killers and what makes them so dangerous? The figures for Scotland and Wales are even higher.

Two thirds of fatal accidents happen on non-motorway roads with 60 and 70 mph limits. No matter how skilled and conscientious the driver, the determinants of death, serious or slight injuries on these roads are the impact of speed, the EuroNCAP "star rating" of the car and what the car hits.

Car manufacturers have invested heavily in crash protection so that new cars today have 4 or 5-star ratings. However not even a 5-star rated car can protect its occupants on a 1-star rural road. Most are substandard in safety and crash protection making them potentially lethal when things go wrong. The sad fact is that road engineers have the skills and technology to improve the quality of our roads, thereby saving hundreds of lives every year. However, do they have the political support and will to make the necessary improvements?

Who dies?

66% of those who die in car accidents on rural roads are the drivers and a further 25% are front seat passengers. Next time you have young children in the car, remember that fact. A third of all fatalities are in vehicles driven by drivers in the 17-25 age bracket. 4 in 10 car occupant casualties on rural roads are in cars that leave the road and hit a roadside object. Trees and ditches are significant roadside hazards.

So What?

Most of us enjoy the pleasure of driving along a quiet rural road. We can practice making good progress but are we really always able to stop in the distance we see to be clear, especially around that fast bend? What if there is a less than attentive driver coming the other way; do we have the time and space to avoid them?

I do not suggest that we avoid these roads but just approach them with a greater degree of caution. We can do much to protect others by recommending the Skill for Life package to any driver who has not done it, failing that even the Drivecheck will improve individuals' chances of survival.



The full report is available at: www.iamtrust.org.uk

Under 25s Point of Contact - Appeal

DON'T BE A STATISTIC

If you are under 25 and you've done your Advanced Test, you could help prevent more statistics like the ones written about in our last two issues - by helping Guildford IAM encourage more under 25s complete the training.

We are looking for under 25s to sit on the Guildford IAM committee. It is less than one evening a month, and we'd like you to give your advice and experience on why you were attracted to doing the IAM test and help the committee find better ways to keep more young drivers safe on our roads.

If you'd like to be involved, contact the Chairman.

Thank you.

Chertsey Fire Brigade Road Safety Day December 2007

The Chertsey fire station held a Road Safety day on Saturday 9th December at which the Guildford IAM group had a stand. It was a foul day of heavy rain; I felt very sorry for all those who had displays outside. We were fortunate in that we had a corner of the heated garage - lucky us!

The poor weather did detract from the event and I am sure that many people decided that the lure of a warm fire was better than a walk in the rain to hear about road safety. That said, one person did sign up for Skill for Life on the day and a number of others showed interest. Head Office IAM supplied some balloons, which brightened up the stand and other items to give away.

This is the first event of this kind we have attended and may look to attend others in the future.

Skid Pan Courses - Hurry or Miss Out!

The Guildford Group has organised a fantastic rate on skid pan courses at Goodwood Race Track. If you're stuck for an exciting and original birthday gift or something a bit different to give for Mother's or Father's Day - this could be the solution! Learn to handle a car when it's skidding in a safe, supervised and controlled environment - great fun... and could prevent accidents in the future, especially if you're lucky enough never to have skidded before.

Courses are only £50 per person and there are a few spaces left... but hurry, as many have already been taken!

Dates are: Wednesday 27 February, Sunday 9 March and Saturday 12 April this year.

Sessions are in the afternoon starting at 1pm.

Please contact the Chairman on 01252 519 355 before Jan 31st.

Social Secretary - Appeal

DO YOU LIKE A PARTY?

THEN THINK ABOUT BEING OUR SOCIAL EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR!

The Group is seeking a suitable person to take on the role of **events co-ordinator**.

We would like to increase the number of social events we put on for Members, like the recent Mercedes World visit, but the existing committee members do not have sufficient free time to take on this additional task.

We are looking for someone to organise only 4 or 5 events per year for Guildford Group Members. These can be social evenings, bowling, theatre or visits to places of interest.

If you are interested please contact Paul Wallace-Stock on 01252 519 355

Thank you!

Surrey County Show - Appeal for Volunteers

IAM Festival Time is Coming! Surrey County Show - **Get FREE Entry!**

That's right - your Guildford and District IAM group will be taking a stand at the regional event of the summer - the Surrey County Show in Stoke Park, Guildford on Monday, 26 May.

We need volunteers to help out for a short stint on our stand.

It's easy:

- Talk to members of the public about advanced driving
- Only 2 to 3 hour slots during the day, 8.30am to 6.30pm
- Free badge and refreshments provided
- Meet other group members
- The best bit - **FREE** entry ticket for each person who agrees to help!
- Hope that we have a bit more sunshine this year!



Once again we are sharing the stand with local IAM bike groups which means the stand will be buzzing!

If you are able to help out on the day, even for only a short time, please contact the Secretary, Stella Croom-Johnson

We Welcome...

Irene Anthony	James Emery	Olive Reinke	Charles Webb
Jonathan Austen	Peter Kerly	David Ritchie	Michael Wells
Gavin Bailey	Robert Larkin	Simon Roe	Christopher Wright
Oliver Baum	Janet McCulloch	Bob Russel	Nicholas Wright
John Cushnie	Joshua Markham	Max Taylor	

Recent Test Passes

Our congratulations this issue go to:

Charles Conlon	Neil Evans	Martin Jenner	Lynda Sanders	Stuart Whittaker
Helen Davey	Paul Fielding	Fiona Keown	John Seymour	Mark Wyman
Martin Day	Paul Fox	Martin Marriott	Carole Stacey	
Roy Dyer	Mark Griffiths	Stephen Mortimore	Toby Wells	

Well done for passing your Advanced Test!

Observed Run Stats

Month	Numbers Booked in Advance	Cancelled	Failed to Attend	Runs Conducted
October 07	49	7	8	36
November 07	45	12	2	31
December 07	50	16	2	32

Do try and make your booked run so that we can help more drivers!

Committee Member Profile:

This issue... Stella Croom-Johnson, our new Group Secretary

Why did you take the IAM test? I took the test because I was driving 80 miles a day just to get to work and back. I wanted to make sure I was as safe as I could be, partly from a sense of social responsibility, but mainly for self-preservation.

First car: A Sunbeam Rapier. It was old and decrepit even when I bought it, with the driver's seat rusted in position!

Current car: A Peugeot 406 estate which comes in very handy for bringing the wine back from France.

Most scary moment: Overtaking someone on the M25 when they decided to change into my lane while 50% of my car was still next to theirs.

Best lesson learnt: We all make mistakes .

Other interests: Classical music (I play the piano and church organ), France and french wine, croquet.

Your advice to other drivers: Keep a sense of humour - even when every other driver on the road is out to get you!



Do you have a friend or relative that would benefit from our advice and guidance?



**If so, please put them in touch with
Chris Hughes
Contact details on the inside back page**

**Please pass on or recycle this newsletter
once you're done with it!**