

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008



## GUILDFORD & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

Registered Charity No 1051069

[www.guildford-iam.org.uk](http://www.guildford-iam.org.uk)



### **Data Protection Act**

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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 Summer edition is *30 June 2008*

### **KEY DATES**

#### Observed Runs

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

Police Drives, Police Driving Training Facility – Burpham, Guildford  
Saturday, 24 May from 9am

Guildford IAM at the Surrey County Show – Stoke Park Guildford  
Bank Holiday Monday, 26 May 10am – 4pm

AGM and Observers' Meeting – Ripley Large Hall  
Saturday, 13 September 9am – 1pm

Police Better Driving Lecture on Motorway Driving  
Thursday, 13 November 7pm – 9pm

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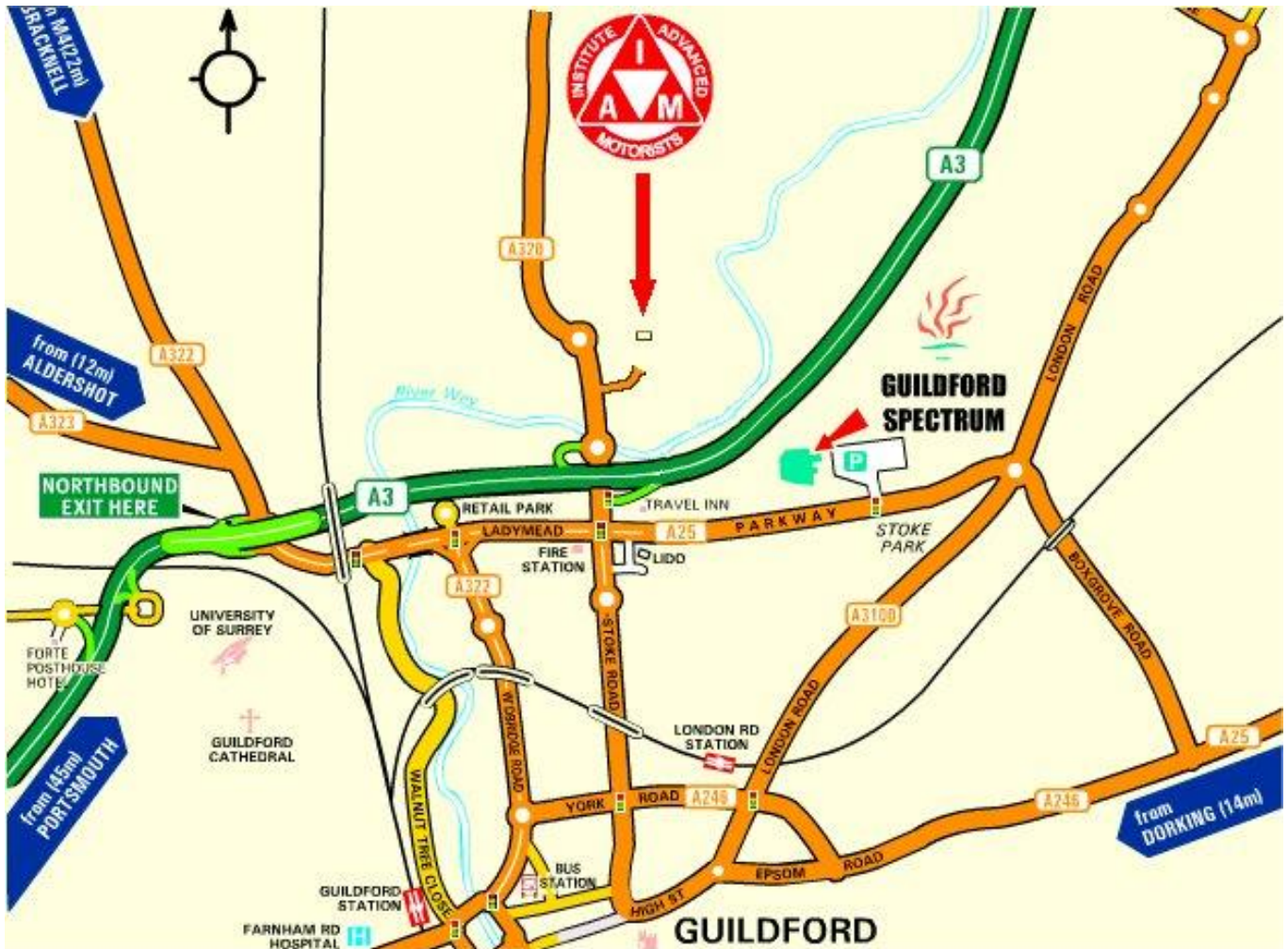
**All information correct at time of going to print.**

## **OBSERVED RUNS**

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

Guildford Borough Council, Woking Road Dept, Guildford.  
Telephone 01483 564814 on Sunday 9am – 1pm

Appointments for Observed runs:  
Contact the Chairman on 01252 519 355



Associate Membership £99

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

- the cost of the IAM Advanced
- 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 benefit of IAM training for only £79!**

**Help a younger driver be a safer driver – pass on our details!**

## Welcome

Spring is well on its way despite the odd surprise snowfall and thunderclap – it's certainly enough to keep us on our toes as Advanced Drivers and we must take into account the dramatically changing road conditions with extra care.

And don't forget to put the Surrey County show in your diaries on Monday, 26 May – we're hoping for much better weather than last year and we'd love to see you on the stand as visitors as well as those who can spare an hour to man the stand and with free entry to the show for 'staff' it can be a great day out.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's issue. I'm eager to publish more articles, anecdotes and letters from Members and Associates so please send them in to [editor@guildford-iam.org.uk](mailto:editor@guildford-iam.org.uk)

Louisa Wright-Wastell  
Editor



## A Date for Your Diary!

Can you spare one hour?

If you'd like to help out on the Guildford Group IAM stand at this year's Surrey County Show in Guildford, please contact the Chairman on [chairman@guildford-iam.org.uk](mailto:chairman@guildford-iam.org.uk)

You can then enjoy the show which features show jumping, farm produce for sale, many stalls selling clothing, crafts and jewellery! There are refreshment tents and lots to see – visit [www.surreycountyshow.co.uk](http://www.surreycountyshow.co.uk). Tickets are usually up to £12 per adult but get your ticket **free** by supporting your Guildford group!

## Committee Report – March 2008

Well following on from my comments about lower numbers of new Associates in the last Newsletter it obviously had some effect because since January we have had a steady flow of new recruits and the Sunday morning runs are now much busier.

Unfortunately we were unable to organise the Surrey University Better Driving event due to other commitments. We have, therefore, postponed the event until the autumn when we will have more time to plan a really exciting event. If there are any Members who would be prepared to become involved with this event I would appreciate a call.

Our next major event is the Surrey County Show, which is due to be held on Bank Holiday Monday 26 May on Stoke Park in Guildford. Once again I am grateful to Paul Whitehead for taking on the organisation of this event. A separate piece, including a request for people to staff the stand is later in this issue.

Further to my initial comments on the new Advanced Driving manual, a new version of Road Craft, The Police Driving Manual has been published. This is a good publication but it has fallen foul of our litigious society and there are numerous instances where positive advice has been avoided in case someone misunderstands what is written. It is a sad fact that by so doing, the publication has been diminished to some extent. Where previously it was aimed at the police but was available to those of the general public who were interested, the impression is now that it is aimed at the uninitiated. That said, it is still a good publication and well worth purchasing for those who wish to develop their driving to a higher level. Advanced Motorists will be able to read between the lines and not expect specific guidance for every given situation.

So how was the budget for you? Delaying the 2p increase in fuel duty to October is welcome although to we expect the price increases feeding through to the forecourts will continue as crude oil prices continue to hit new levels. In addition 'Gas Guzzlers' are to pay higher Vehicle Excise Duty. It is hard to defend this tax as many of these vehicles create other damage and not just fuel emissions. That said, it is vehicle usage - and not ownership - which pollutes. As a thought, many top of the range vehicle are company cars. The UK is alone in having a company car culture. I am not aware of any other country, not even the USA, with such a high proportion of company owned vehicles. Is it time to scrap this system? What about paying people the appropriate rate for the job and then leaving it up to them to decide what size and type of vehicle they buy? Companies could purchase pool cars if it is considered necessary, but then the cars would not be made available for private use. Companies I have been in adopted this system over 10 years ago without any complaints from the staff. I am sure that many workers would opt for a more efficient vehicle if they were paying for it and the running costs themselves. With the current system there is no incentive to be green. "Joe, would you like a Merc E-class or a Toyota Prius for your next company car?" "Hmmm, let me think about that for a nanosecond!"

One final point; you should all be aware that the cost of the Advanced Driving Test increased to £44 and the cost of the Skills for Life Package increased to £99 as from

1<sup>st</sup> April. This is the first increase for 5 years so is not too bad. There is still the £20 discount for those under 26 years old so don't forget to pass on our details to any young drivers you think could benefit.

Happy motoring

Paul Wallace-Stock  
Chairman

**POLICE "BETTER DRIVING" LECTURE**

**THURSDAY 13th NOVEMBER**

See PC Alan Bone presenting on "Motorway Driving"

Ripley Village Large Hall

7pm

All are welcome to this FREE event – refreshments provided

Please contact Terry Moody on 01372 452500 or [terrymoody-@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:terrymoody-@tiscali.co.uk).

Those Observers and Associates who came to the Police "Better Driving" lecture at Ripley Village Hall last November will remember that PC Alan Bone was unable to deliver his presentation due to illness. Instead, Vince Bailey ran a very interesting Question and Answer session for us.

I am pleased to report that Alan is now up and about and will be presenting on the subject of "Motorway Driving" on Thursday, 13th November. Start time same as before - 7.00 pm sharp.

I know this date is still several months away but it will be upon us before we know it. Therefore, if you are interested in learning more about how to deal with hazards on our motorways, please put the date in your diary NOW. We do need to know how many people we have to cater for, so please let Terry Moody know if you plan to attend. Terry can be reached on 01372 452500 or [terrymoody-@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:terrymoody-@tiscali.co.uk). Please give your name and a contact telephone number where you can be reached in the event of any last-minute changes.

This talk is open to all Observers, Associates, and friends of Associates, and we are expecting a good turn-out for what promises to be a very interesting and informative presentation. There will be time for questions on any aspect of motorway driving following Alan's presentation.

We hope to see you there.

## Save Fuel Bills - Put the Car on a 'low-fuel' Diet by Paul Wallace-Stock

Recent articles have stated, "lean and mean motoring is one answer to rising fuel costs... A 'low-fuel' car diet can offset recent price rises by slimming down your fuel bills by as much as 10 per cent... A trim and fit car is best able to manage the demands of cost effective motoring... Just apply the elements of all good weight-loss regimes." In this article we look at how you can make savings on fuel bills and reducing your impact on the environment:

### *1. Set an MPG Target*

How many miles can you squeeze out of each gallon of fuel? Find out the official MPG figure for your car (e.g. ask your dealer or visit the manufacturer's website.) Few of us achieve this figure in everyday driving, so it's a good challenge.

### *2. Make a Plan to Hit the Target*

Make Your Car a Lean, Mean, Green Machine. Excess weight, wind resistance and rolling resistance all guzzle precious fuel. To achieve optimum weight loss, take out everything that is unnecessary for your journey. Remove roof racks or storage boxes to cut wind resistance, check tyre pressures regularly to minimize rolling resistance and don't fill the fuel tank to the brim. You end up carrying excess weight.

Don't get Steamed Up. Use some detergent, kitchen roll or a cloth to get the inside of the windows squeaky clean. Clean windows are much less likely to mist up, so you'll need to use your fuel-hungry air conditioning or heated windows a lot less. Heated windows can add up to 3mpg to fuel consumption.

Scrape and Save! Running the engine for 10 minutes to clear frosted windows easily uses a litre or more of fuel before the car even leaves the driveway. A can of de-icing spray or good scraper is a better option.

It's Cool to be Hot. Cars use much more fuel when the engine is cold so warm it up as quickly as possible by reversing into your drive or parking space while the engine is warm and efficient. Then you can drive straight off in the morning, rather than manoeuvring back and forth with a cold, inefficient engine. Fuel consumption for the first mile with a cold engine is heavy and fuel efficiency plummets with repeated short trips, although this is less of a problem with a diesel engine. Combine short errands into one longer journey or, for the occasional local trip, leave the car at home and enjoy the benefits of walking or cycling if you can.

Light on the Right. A heavy right foot is the biggest fuel waster. Keep the pressure light and use accelerator sense. Driving smoothly and sticking to the speed limit dramatically cuts fuel consumption – and you won't need to worry about those safety cameras.

### *3. Measure Your Progress.*

If your car has an MPG monitor, start using it. Or jot down the odometer reading on the back of the receipt when you fill up. You'll soon build up a picture of how well you're doing. And by saving fuel, you're cutting emissions that cause global warming.

So resolve to make 2008 your 'low fuel' year.

**Treasurer's Report – March 2008**

Financial statement as at:

11-Mar-08

	Mar-07		Mar-08	
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Membership Subscriptions	962.00		924.50	
Associate Fees	1,903.00		2,125.00	
Interest	233.34		-	
Gifts	88.50		19.50	
Sundries	1,523.50	4,710.34	1,660.62	4,729.62
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Post & Telephone	(421.49)		(351.66)	
Printing & Stationary	(198.65)		(53.98)	
Books	(370.26)		(511.96)	
Newsletter	(1,048.57)		(1,802.49)	
Room Hire	(244.60)		(227.70)	
Barrier Expenses	(120.00)		(165.00)	
Insurance	(52.50)		(52.50)	
Sundries (1)	(3,278.16)	(5,734.23)	(3,553.85)	(6,719.14)
<b><u>Excess of Income over Expenditure</u></b>		<b><u>(1,023.89)</u></b>		<b><u>(1989.520)</u></b>
<b>1. Sundry Expenditure</b>				
Surrey County Show	(1,467.18)		(1,379.32)	
Skid pan	(700.00)		(810.00)	
IAM Videos/Badges	(30.00)		(15.00)	
Group Laptop	0.00		(449.98)	
Assessed Drives	(1,020.98)		0.0	
Display Boards	0.00		(705.00)	
AGM Presentation	(50.00)		0.0	
Observer Test Fees	0.00		(30.00)	
Committee Expenses	(10.00)		(164.55)	
		<b><u>(3,278.16)</u></b>		<b><u>(3,553.85)</u></b>
<b><u>Balance Sheet</u></b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Deposit Account	7,562.29		6,562.29	
Current Account	232.92		306.44	
Cash	238.00		60.00	
Float	60.00			
		8,093.21		6,928.73
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b><u>8,093.21</u></b>		<b><u>6,928.73</u></b>

## **A Date for Your Diary - Police Drives**

The group is arranging a series of Police Commentary Drives which will take place on **Saturday, 24th May**, out of the Police Driver Training Facility in Burpham, Guildford.

Starting from 9.00 am onwards, these drives will last approximately **45 minutes** and will give our Observers the opportunity to listen to a Police Commentary at first-hand.

Whilst aimed primarily at our Observers, if there are any **Associate Members** of the Group who feel they would like to take part we should be able to accommodate a few of them as well.

If you are interested in coming along please let Terry Moody know on **01372 452500** or by email to [terrymoody-@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:terrymoody-@tiscali.co.uk). Please leave a daytime contact number - preferably a landline. We will get back to you nearer 24th May with precise timings.

## **Road Casualty Figures for Surrey – by Terry Moody**

As an Observer with the Guildford Group of the IAM, I am often asked by new Associates what they stand to gain by taking the Advanced Driving Test. I imagine that many of you who are reading this will have been asked the same question.

Of course, in the old days (by which I mean about 10 years ago!) one could have mentioned the possibility of obtaining cheaper motor insurance. However, these days we have so many cut-price insurers in the market that it is generally better to simply “shop around” for the lowest premium and few companies offer a specific discount for having passed the Advanced Test.

Therefore, I tend to focus on the benefit being the increased ability to avoid a road accident. It gives the chance to stay alive a bit longer on our crowded road network, by possibly being a better driver than the next person, and having greater awareness of potential hazards. To demonstrate, it helps to be able to quote a few figures.

For example, did you know that the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Surrey has actually gone *up* by almost 25% during the last quarter for which accurate figures are available? An average of more than 60 people were killed or injured each month between October and December last year.

According to Surrey Police, one of the chief reasons for the increase relates to several accidents involving multiple deaths on the A3 – particularly in wet and icy conditions.

So when a candidate asks about the “benefits” of becoming a better driver, by all means tell them about the discount on their insurance premium which is available through Select Insurance (as recommended by the IAM) and mention the greater skills and responsibility which come through passing the Test. But remember to tell them about the accident figures as well. It seems to me that staying out of trouble on Britain’s roads today – and learning the art of defensive driving – is worth much more than the chance to save a couple of pounds off anyone’s motor insurance premium.

**We Welcome...**

David Almond  
Neil Ayares  
John Bennett  
Freya Davey

Alistair De Castro  
Catherine Dipple  
Christopher Dipple  
John Dixon

Janet Filer  
David Fitzpatrick  
Donlad Forbes  
Nigel Franklin

Katherine Higgins  
Michael King  
Dorothy Lawrence  
Louise Moore

Hilary Newman  
Andrew Norris  
Matthew Oliver

Richard Rees Phillips  
Susan Ross  
Anne Russell  
Sarah-Louisa Quinnell

Michael Young  
Mark Wright

**Recent Test Passes...**

Our congratulations this month go to Jesse James and Mark Wright. Well done for passing your Advanced Test.

**Letters**

*Just a short message to pass on my thanks to you and your group for my observed drive and introduction session last month. It was extremely useful and the fact that the room is set up with video etc. (Chris Gilberts was playing) gave a very good, vibrant impression.*

*I mentioned to my observer that I had already applied for my test and am please to say I passed.*

*Many thanks again.*

*Kind regards,*

*MW*

Thank you for your letter of the 17th February 2008 outlining the procedure for applying for my IAM test.

Based on feed back after my Run 4 I submitted an early application for my test subject to undertaking Run 5. I am now pleased to report that I successfully passed my test on the 23rd February 2008. The test proved to be a very good drive for me, with few problems and an examiner who made every effort throughout to relax me and make the experience pleasurable. I trust I did the same for him.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to you and all your team, for all the preparatory work that they have put in leading up to my test. In particular the observers, who, through good judgement and sound critique, have helped to move my driving skills to a higher level.

Many thanks

TC

**Do you have a friend or relative who 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!**