

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists



Newsletter December 2025

Hi Everyone

Welcome to our December newsletter. Instead of an email 'magazine once a year we are trialling a quarterly newsletter this being the first, next one in April then another in August. Hopefully this will keep you more up to date with group news and events.

Let's start with – dates for your diaries at Grove Green ME14 5BT all starting at 8pm

December 16th Andy Wyles Quiz Night

This is our annual quiz evening with soft drinks, mince pies, sausage rolls and Christmas cake provided. If you prefer to bring your own refreshments, then please feel free to do so.

You can come on your own, bring some friends or even a team of six. It's meant to be a fun evening, so the questions are not difficult and it's a great way to end the years activities.

Our Quiz Master Andy Wyles and better half Elaine have worked really hard to make this happen so please do come along and join in the fun. Needless to say the only correct answers will be those on Andy's answer sheet so any arguing will be futile! Don't forget to bring plenty of change for the raffle, the prizes are great.. Hope to see you there, it starts promptly at 8pm so please arrive in good time. **Ho! Ho! Ho!**

2026	January 20th	John Wyatt	High Profile Security Incidents
	February 17th	Lester Parsons	IAM Examiner
	March 17th	Melanie Gibson Barton	The Life & Times of Edith Cavell
	April 21st	Ed Adams	Pluckley – The making and faking of a Ghost Story
	May 19th	48th Annual General Meeting	

Well done Richard and thank you!

This year after 33 years of dedicated service Richard Hazell hung up his Observers Hat. He was presented with a well deserved Certificate of Appreciation for all that he has done for the Group. Well done Richard and thank you, please keep in touch and don't be a stranger! Best wishes from us all at the KGAM



The worst thing about parallel parking is witnesses

KGAM Group visit to The Medway Queen – the Heroine of Dunkirk by Andy Wyles

It was the afternoon of Saturday 27th September when we met in the car park of the visitor centre of the Medway Queen Preservation Society. Once we were all present, we made our way into the visitor centre to be greeted by the society's volunteers.

Before the tour, we were given a quick talk about a little of the ship's history, she was launched in 1924 and worked on the River Medway with trips down to Herne Bay until the outbreak of war where she was requisitioned for the Royal Navy and converted to a Minesweeper and also played her part in Operation Dynamo in the May and June of 1940 where she evacuated an estimated 7000 men from the beaches of Normandy. She carried on her minesweeping duties until 1943 when she was replaced with a timber hulled vessel, less likely to attract magnetic mines than The Medway Queen's metal hull. After the war she returned to the River Medway offering tourist trips until she was retired in 1963.



It is thanks to a Heritage Lottery Grant that the Medway Queen is still with us, after her life as a paddle steamer she was sold to three businessmen and towed to the Isle of Wight where she was used as a restaurant and night club until a newer larger vessel was bought to replace her. It was then she returned to the River Medway, but unfortunately dreaded rust has caused unrepairable damage and whilst the Grant was awarded, it was on the understanding that she would be re-hulled but must be built in the traditional method and be riveted. Whilst she has a new hull as much as possible was salvaged from the original and in fact over 65% of the ship was saved.

We started our tour in the society's workshops, where a lot of the restoration work has been carried out by the volunteers, many of whom are self-taught in their skills. After being shown this, we were split into two groups for the tour of the ship and headed our separate ways. We began on the quay side at the bow where our guide told us about the work involved in rebuilding her and how she had two rudders, one in the usual place on the stern, but also one in the bow to allow her to be steered whilst in reverse. When we reached the paddle, we were told how the volunteers rebuilt the paddle box due to the amount of rot in the original.

Once aboard, we were shown around the main deck including the lovingly recreated captain's office, which you could clearly see was better appointed than the other areas. We were told how the seats also doubled as buoyancy aids should they been needed. Below deck we were shown the rear saloon which had been re-created after all the superstructure had been removed for the WW2 mine sweeping equipment, working our way forward we shown a lovely model of the ship in her time during the war and then the engine room followed where they hopefully will install a replacement boiler, so she can return to the river under her own steam. We finally all met in the forward saloon where we enjoyed a drink and a cake and a chat with the others.



All in all, an interesting visit and we learnt a lot about one of Dunkirk's Little Ships.-
'The Medway Queen Heroine of Dunkirk'

For more information visit www.medwayqueen.co.uk

The best way to get back on your feet is to miss a couple of car payments!

Hearty congratulations on recent test passes go to:-

Ashman	Paul	F1rst	King	Rita	
Bartley	Robert		Mifsud	Anita	
Bevan	Janet		Moore	Michael	
Bidewell	Mark		Scott	David	
Brazier	Tim		Seal	Harrison	F1rst
Brown	Robert	F1rst	Shearman	Luke	
Buddle	Clive		Smith	David	
Elliott	Michele		Sonnex	Robert	F1rst
Fabb	Lucie	F1rst	Stead	Mike	
Hall	Joseph	F1rst	Watson	Peter	
Kempster	Sarah		Waygood	Andrew	F1rst
King	Christopher		Whitehouse	Andrew	F1rst
Raymond	Des				

Our November speaker was 'Guy in the Sky' Guy Bartlett with another of his amazing talks.



If you weren't there you really missed an excellent evening. Here's a taster:-

"Ladies & Gentlemen, all 4 engines have failed..."

At 37,000 feet, one after another - and for no reason the crew could discover - all 4 engines on a British Airways 747 failed. With a crippled aircraft, the captain controlled the powerless jumbo jet, the co-pilot sent out mayday calls and the flight engineer tried repeatedly to re-start the engines. What happened next is the stuff of fiction, except this time, it was for real..."

Look on Guy's Website for a list of all his talks you won't be disappointed
www.guyinthesky.co.uk

named my dog 6 miles so I can tell people that I walk 6 miles every single day

Did you know that the Kent Group of Advanced Motorists is the best performing car group in Region 2? Well we are IAM Roadsmart pass statistics are: UK 89%, Area 2 89% but KGAM is consistently better than this with 93% so a big thank you to all our Observers, Lecturers and the whole team for making it happen! Well done everyone and thank you!

New Observers are always needed, and full training will be given. If you have the right temperament and want to help others to pass the Advanced Driving Test, then for all the details please contact our Chief Observer Peter Bott on chief-observer@kentiam.org.uk Thank you

Hot off the press:- Group Sunday Lunch

We are thinking of arranging a Group Sunday Lunch next March possibly on the 29th – would you like to join in? Full details will be confirmed in due course but meanwhile if you'd like to register your provisional interest, please let me know on chairman@kentiam.org.uk and I'll be pleased to add your name to the list..

Please do your very best to support all our social activities starting with the Quiz night on December 16th and I look forward to seeing you there. If you're not able to attend then my best wishes to you and your families for a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2026

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Linda

chairman@kentiam.org.uk



Website: -www.kentiam.org.uk Twitter:- @kentgroup_iam
Facebook:- <https://www.facebook.com/Kent-Group-of-Advanced-Motorists-227617980616325>
Affiliated to IAM RoadSmart Registered Charity Number 1051416