

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists



Newsletter April 2026

Hi Everyone

Welcome to our April newsletter. Inside you will find details of our forthcoming AGM on May 19th 8pm at Grove Green ME14 5BT with forms to complete if you want to join the Committee or appoint a Proxy to vote in your stead.

Firstly, let us start with what the Group has been up to since the previous newsletter.

I hope you will agree that there has been a full and varied program of events laid on for your entertainment and I hope to see many more of you supporting them on the third Tuesday of every month commencing 8pm at the Grove Green Community Centre Maidstone ME14 5BT A lot of people work hard to put on these events for your enjoyment so please do your best to come along.

In **December** there was another excellent fun Christmas quiz compiled by our very own Quiz Master Andy Wyles and Elaine, who also selected and purchased the prizes, organised the raffle, and persuaded members to part with their hard earned cash, assisted by Paul Fletcher.

Daren kindly took charge of the scoring and as always Christine baked some scrumptious sausage rolls, mince pies and Christmas cake. It was a great evening thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended a perfect way to round off 2025 .. My thanks to all concerned for making it such a wonderful success!!

Quiz master Andy Wyles



and better half Elaine

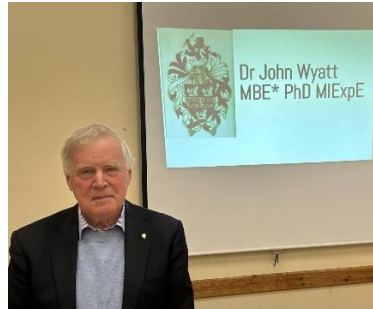
John Lover's team won the quiz with



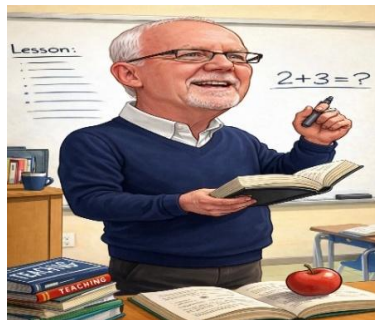
a magnificent score of 53 points.

Couldn't make that one? Then make a note now of the next one on December 15th 2026 to avoid disappointment.

In **January** we welcomed back' by popular demand, Dr John Wyatt MBE PHD a former Army Bomb Disposal Officer and Commander of the UK's High Risk Counter Terrorist Search Operations, who was talking about some of the really interesting High Profile Security Incidents that he had been involved with including the Bomb in the Grand Hotel, Brighton 1984, the removal of Pipe Mines under 36 airfields in SE England, Security of HM Crown Jewels in the Tower of London, Security of the Channel Tunnel and route from Folkestone to St Pancras.



February was 'Life Inside' with John Mills giving away some of his secrets when he was a Prison Officer. Another excellent and hilarious evening thank you John!



March was Melanie Gibson-Barton whose subject was:-

The Life and Times of Edith Cavell

Exploring the story of the British heroine nurse who died in Brussels in 1915. Presenting the experience of regular visits to Brussels to research the hospitals and homes where Edith would have worked as well as the place of her execution which was a humbling experience. The Edith Cavell talk told her story and was supported by photographs of existing artefacts of her life.



In **April** we welcomed Historian Ed Adams. Pluckley in Kent has long been known as 'The most haunted village in England' for as long as anyone today can remember. But what are the historic roots of its many legends? How did the village gain its reputation and is it truly deserved? Ed investigates the origins of the stories and traces their development through Pluckley's colourful past and recent history of Pluckley: The making and Faking of a Ghost Story has all the twists, intrigues and horrors of any good ghostly tale. **Except this one is all true!**

members recently enjoying a Group Sunday Lunch at the Chiltern Hundreds



Hot Off the Press!! Andy is busy organising a Group Carvery Lunch which will take place on Sunday October 25th, 14.30 at the North Pole Pub in Wateringbury. Places may be limited so if you're interested please let Andy know asap on :- **socials@kentiam.org.uk**

Test Passes – Congratulations Everyone!

ABERCROMBIE	Reg	F1rst	JACKSON	Peter	
BEVAN	Raminder	F1rst	JEFFRIES-POOTLE	William	F1rst
BRAZIER	Tim		MOORE	Michael	
BUDDLE	Clive		PAGE	Mike	F1rst
BUTCHER	Graham		PERKINS	Chris	
FOX	John	F1rst	REDMOND	Des	
GEORGE	Stephen		REEVES	Margaret	
GILBERT	Marie		TURNER	Gerry	
GILLINGS	Carol		WATSON	Peter	
HALL	Joseph	F1rst	WINNING	George	
INGRAM	Hunny				

Congratulations also go to John Bowman and Keith Kolsteren for passing the Red Cross Emergency First Aid at Work Course. Well done to you both. Julian Brockies and Trevor Cobb will take theirs shortly ...good luck gents!!

Special thanks go to Alan Rowe for all the years he has given up serving on the Group Committee. He will not be standing for re-election again this year but will continue with his many other duties. Thanks so much Alan!



Kent Group of Advanced Motorists

(Registered Charity No. 1051416)

Notice of our 48th Annual General Meeting

which will be held at the Grove Green Community Centre
Penhurst Close Maidstone ME14 5BT

on Tuesday 19th of May 2026 at 8.00pm

Agenda

- 1 Welcome to Guests and apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of Previous AGM**
- 3 Chairman's Report**
- 4 Treasurer's Report**
- 5 Elections -**
 - Chairman**
 - Vice-Chairman**
 - Secretary**
 - Treasurer**
 - Committee**
- 6 Presentations**
- 7 A O B**
- 8 Refreshments**
- 9 Guest Speaker – IAM Examiner Mr Lester Parsons**

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists - Nomination Form

48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 19th MAY 2026

(Registered Charity No. 1051416)

Name Kent Group Signature
Membership no.

CHAIRMAN

Nominee			
Proposer			
Secunder			

VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominee			
Proposer			
Secunder			

SECRETARY

Nominee			
Proposer			
Secunder			

TREASURER

Nominee			
Proposer			
Secunder			

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nominee			
Proposer			
Secunder			

Members disqualified by law from acting as a Charity Trustee are not eligible to serve on the Group Committee (Rule 3.3).

This is the only form which will be accepted and must be returned before 8pm on the 10th May 2026 to the Chairman Linda Davies on chairman@kentiam.org.uk or be disallowed

**Kent Group of Advanced Motorists
(Registered Charity No. 1051416)**

Form of Proxy

I (name)

of (address)

.....

.....

hereby appoint (name of appointee)

to vote for me and on my behalf at the
Annual General Meeting of the
Kent Group of Advanced Motorists
to be held on the **19th May 2026**
8pm at The Grove Green Community Centre
and at every adjournment thereof

This form of proxy to be used in respect of
all resolutions put to the meeting

As witness my hand this day of 2024

Signature

KGAM Membership Number

This is the only form which will be accepted and must be returned to
the Chairman Linda Davies at chairman@kentiam.org.uk
before 8pm on the 10th of May 2026
or be disallowed

TREASURER REPORT 31 MARCH 2026

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	12 months to 31 March 2026	12 months to 31 March 2025
Receipts	£	£
Subscriptions - Full	1,515	1,555
Subscriptions - Associates	2,508	2,117
	<u>4,023</u>	<u>3,672</u>
Gift Aid	169	219
Bank interest	737	840
Other income	369	150
Total receipts	<u>5,298</u>	<u>4,881</u>
Payments		
Hall hire	1,725	1,448
Magazine	0	510
Postage	163	502
Stationery and printing	42	104
IT costs	235	238
Insurance	229	209
Training	1,410	339
Travel	0	96
Refreshments	97	229
Events and publicity	1,261	832
Other expenses	433	132
Sub-total of payments	<u>5,595</u>	<u>4,639</u>
Asset purchases during the year		
None	0	0
Sub-total	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total payments	<u>5,595</u>	<u>4,639</u>
Net (payments)/receipts for the year	(297)	242
Cash funds last year end	21,358	21,116
Cash funds at the year end	<u>21,061</u>	<u>21,358</u>

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists	As at	As at
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	31 March	31 March
	2026	2025

Cash funds at the year end	£	£
Deposit account	18,707	19,472
Bank current account	2,304	1,836
Cash floats	50	50
Total cash funds	21,061	21,358

Assets retained for the charity's own use	Original	31 March
	Cost	2026
		Current value
Details of assets still in use	£	£
Projector for the Barn	312	0
Cupboard for the Barn	151	0
Laptop - spare	384	0
Laptop for Grove Green	434	0
Cupboard for The Barn	171	0
Laptop for the Barn	369	0
DVD player and cables	80	4
Projector for Grove Green	549	221
	2,450	225

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists – Committee Meeting 25th March 2026

Treasurers' Report to Members

Please find above our group accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026. These accounts were adopted by Committee in their April 2026 meeting who recommended they go to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be ratified by our members. As in previous years, I will provide below a short commentary explaining these figures for those of you unable to attend the AGM.

Once again, I want to take the opportunity to thank Neil Oliver for his diligent review of our accounts. It remains a key check for all of us to have another set of professional and qualified financial eyes look over our results and confirm that the accounts I have submitted to you have been prepared in accordance with our books and records.

Summary of results for 2025/26

Our financial results for the last 3 years are summarised as follows:

	31 March 2026	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
Receipts	£5,298	£4,881	£4,563
Payments	(£5,595)	(£4,639)	(£4,928)
Surplus/(deficit)	(£297)	£242	(£365)

With another year closed, I note we recorded a small deficit for the year ended 31 March 2026 of £297. This position has arisen primarily driven by increased training this year being for first aid training of £623 and other general training of £787. Investing in ourselves and our Observers is an investment for our future.

Considering **receipts** first, total income was up on last year (8.5% increase) being £5,298 (2025: £4,881). Our Associate numbers picked up a little in year with annual receipts for Associate training at £2,508 (2025: £2,117).

Receipts from full members was £1,515 being a small reduction of 8 members from last year (2025: £1,555). I once again thank you all for your continued support to our group. Other income relates to £109 raffle money, £55 of donations and £205 from yours truly giving outside presentations on advanced motoring.

Interest rates have dropped this year resulting in a reduction in our interest to £737 (2025: £840).

Turning to **payments**, committee continue to proactively review our outgoings to make sure our hard earned money is well spent. Although the analysis of payments above is relatively self-explanatory, I wanted to draw out a few specific things:

- Total payments for the year were £5,595 up £956 on last year (2025: £4,639).
- We saw an increase in hall hire in year of £277 and as noted last year we had £nil expenditure for our magazine, saving us £510 in printing.
- The biggest increase in spend this year was on training up £1,071 on last year. This increase is represented by £622 on mandatory first aid training and £472 for the purchase of the new edition of Roadcraft for our Observer team.
- Other expenses of £433 consist of £47 ICO annual fee, £150 donations, £160 website image rights fee and certificate frames £76.
- We have purchased no new assets for the last two years.

Despite recording a small deficit this year, I still reflect on this as a successful year with Associate numbers on the up supported by an increase in training. Notwithstanding this, we are all aware of world-wide events at the moment and the recent jump in fuel prices. We will have to wait and see what this does to Associate numbers for next year.

As of 31 March 2026, our cash funds remained just over £21,000 which represents a considerable buffer for a group of our size and allows us to be able to make appropriate future investment as and when potential opportunities arise.

That is all from me. We hope to see you at the AGM if you can make it.

Daren Bubb FCA – Treasurer

My mum used to say "40 is the new 30". Lovely woman.....banned from driving!

This IAM Press Release, April 2026 may be of interest to you

Number of drivers given points for speeding at its highest in four years



The number of drivers caught speeding in England, Scotland and Wales is at its highest in four years, according to new data. A freedom of information (FOI) request by road safety charity IAM RoadSmart to the DVLA revealed that there was a 32% increase in the number of drivers who were given points between 2022 and 2025.

In 2022, 678,367 drivers were given an SP30 endorsement, the code for exceeding the statutory limit on a public road (excluding motorways which has a separate offence code). This compares to 939,519 drivers in 2025. By comparison, 216,141 drivers were caught speeding on the motorway in 2025, a six percent decrease from the previous year, but a 29 percent increase since 2022.

Separate research from IAM RoadSmart showed that many more drivers are admitting to breaking the speed limit. In the last 12 months alone, more than half of Brits (61%) confessed to breaking the 30mph speed limit. Shockingly, a small minority (1%) confessed to doing more than 70mph in a 30mph zone and almost half (48%) said they had driven between 31-40mph. The road safety charity surveyed 2,053 motorists in the UK for its 2025 Road Safety Report on their driving habits over the past year and found that speeding was commonplace.

Speeding is one of the most common causes of fatal and serious road collisions, contributing to almost half (40%) of all collisions in 2024 according to Government data.

The minimum penalty for speeding is a £100 fine and three penalty points. Motorists could be disqualified from driving if they build up 12 or more points within a period of three years.

Motorists caught exceeding the speed limit by a considerable amount may face a fine of 125-175 percent of their weekly income, along with six penalty points or a driving ban. Depending on the severity of the offence, it may result in a dangerous driving charge that can result in imprisonment.

IAM RoadSmart Policy and Standards Director Nicholas Lyes said:

“The fact that more people are getting points on their licence for speeding is incredibly concerning considering it can lead to life-changing consequences.

“It’s particularly worrying that so many people are breaking the law where 30mph limits apply, as these are populated with more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. What’s more, potentially millions more are admitting to speeding, but may be getting away with it.

“Speeding is one of the leading factors in the most serious collisions on our roads. Government data shows that speeding contributed to 40 percent of all collisions in 2024. Inappropriate or illegal speed not only increases risk, it also means the driver is not fully in control of their vehicle.

“While police cannot be expected to be everywhere, new ways to enforce limits should be considered – whether through average or fixed position cameras or alternative means.

“Above all, we need to see a shift in mindset; speeding carries serious consequences but the fact that it is so widespread indicates a cultural problem that needs addressing.”



**My driving instructor told me to pull over somewhere safe.
After 10 minutes he asked me why I hadn't pulled over.
I said we are still in Medway**

Kent Group of Advanced Motorists AGM on May 19th 2026

Calling all members ...this is your Group so please do your best to come along and vote.

By way of an incentive Christine will be producing some of her famous

Lemon Drizzle Cakes and Lester Parsons will be

our Guest Speaker after the evenings business

Those standing for election so far are:-

ABEL	Julian
BOTT	Peter
BOWMAN	John
BUBB	Daren
BURBIDGE	Peter
DAVIES	Linda
HAYES	Sue
KOLSTEREN	Keith

But there's still time if you want to join the Committee just complete the form on Page 5 and return it before May 10th. If you have any questions please email chairman@kentiam.org.uk

Some useful contact email addresses

Chairman	chairman@kentiam.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	vice-chairman@kentiam.org.uk
Group Secretary	secretary@kentiam.org.uk
Treasurer	treasurer@kentiam.org.uk
Chief Observer	chief-observer@kentiam.org.uk
Membership Secretary	membership-secretary@kentiam.org.uk
Associate Coordinator	kgamassociates@kentiam.org.uk
Website and social media	online@kentiam.org.uk
Social Events	socials@kentiam.org.uk