



NEWSLETTER 2023

Issue 42

GROUP NEWS

Proposed Member Meetings to be held as follows:

Winter Meeting Dates 2023

02/02/23 – 7.30pm

02/03/23 – 7.30pm

Further information on meeting topics / formats to follow. Members are welcome to give a talk on a subject of their interest, or suggest ideas for future meeting topics. Please contact any committee member if you can assist.

You can also follow our Facebook page “Forth Valley IAM”.

Congratulations to the following people who have passed their IAM Test:

Associate	Observer
Andy Greig (bike) 17/08/2022	Wilson Hutchison
Louise Greig (bike) 05/09/2022 First	Gavin Cochrane
Ian Bannerman (bike) 10/10/2022	John Hill
Alistair Riggs (bike) 12/10/2022 First	Dave Allan
Alistair McIntyre (bike) 19/10/2022	John Hill
Victoria Anderson (bike) 22/10/2022 First	Robert Davidson
Ruaraidh Fisher-Campbell (bike) 12/11/2022	Ian Macdonald

Chair's Chat

Happy New Year to all associates and members of Forth Valley Group Advanced Motorists. Hopefully during January and February the weather will hold and we won't have another snowfall as we had with the Beast from the East but you never know. The one thing that we all have to watch out for though is the state of our roads, and it's fast becoming a real menace for cyclists and motorcyclists not only for social driving or riding but also when our observers and associates are out doing training runs. I have noticed that there are some posts on the IAM Facebook pages so hopefully there will be complaints going further up the tree to the road safety executive regarding this issue. It may well be worth considering only using routes where you are aware of the road conditions during training.

We had a fairly busy year in 2022 with new bike observers being trained and twelve successful tests with five F1RST's so well done to all our observers and associates for the effort they have put in. We also trained car observers and have now opened up the group to new car associates so I'd also like to thank Robin Mair our Chief Car Observer, William, Chris, and Gavin for their efforts. Gavin is also a bike observer which will give us a bit more flexibility, William and Chris will also hopefully become bike observers.

On a slightly sadder note Fiona Robertson has had health issues during the past couple of years and decided to stand down as Chief Bike Observer but will hopefully be able to get back out on her bike more this year and possibly back to observing if her health allows. Lindsay Pyall agreed to return to being Chief Bike Observer to support the bike observing team.

We will be looking at the possibility of having physical meetings for the group members this year but as Covid seems to be on the increase again the committee will assess whether or not this will happen. Ronnie's bike meetings should still continue but we are looking for suggestions for routes of runs. We will also be asking for topics and speakers for talks for the members meetings.

Hope to see you all soon.

Dave Allan

Committee News:

Peter Woollven recently retired and we thank him for his contribution to committee meetings and offer our best wishes. We welcome William Rose (Car Observer) as a new committee member (you can get to know him better by reading on!)

For our November Member's meeting we pulled off a Zoom quiz; a range of Highway Code and road safety questions put the grey matter to the test and a few rounds of "Stop The Bus" demonstrated some creative thinking amongst all competitors in coming up with unique answers on a range of categories starting with certain letters of the alphabet. Congratulations to the ultimate winner, Max Macdonald!

CAR / MOTORCYCLE SECTION

Meeting a Member

A chance to get to know people in our local group. This time we meet one of our Committee Members, William Rose.

In which club do you belong: cars or bikes?

I'm currently a car observer awaiting allocation of an associate but also enjoy taking part in the bike runs. I passed the IAM car test late 1990s and bike test in 2018. My intention is to commence bike observer training in 2023.

What is your favourite car or bike?

My favourite owned has to be the Land Rover TD5 Defender or MkII Discovery / Kawasaki Versys. I really liked my first "big bike" - a Honda CB750 from the late 1970s but bought in 1993 after a full restoration (picture attached). With the Laser 4 into 1 exhaust, it sounded quite special when being wound up...



What is the key road safety issue that you believe should be tackled?

Periodic retesting for everyone - not just the oldies! I often see a case being made to retest folks of a "certain" age. I believe that everyone should be subject to retests - irrespective of age. In industry, I have to resit industrial competence tests every three to five years to keep my competencies up to date - why not also for drivers?

Can you think of your best driving or riding experience so far?

As a car observer 20ish years ago, I used to really enjoy when associates passed their tests, knowing that I had done a little good to make our roads that little bit safer. I did my advanced car test to assist in preventing me being the cause of an accident but I did my bike test to assist me in preventing others from trying to kill me. Being an observer means upping one's game in practical and theoretical competence and I enjoy the challenge of trying to improve with every drive / ride.

How do you envisage the future for drivers or riders in the UK in 5 years' time?

The UK population is increasing on a road network that isn't being upgraded for the subsequent rise in the number of vehicles. The advantages of being an advanced driver or rider should become more evident as time goes on. Also, an increasing number of electric vehicles should mean that we are all healthier with fewer ICE vehicles on the road and local air quality increasing as a result. The battery technology doesn't appear to be ideal for bikers yet though, with the price of a decent range electric bike costing the same as a small house.

Thanks to William for sharing some thoughts. If you would like to be our next member in the spotlight, please email newsletter@forthvalleyiam.org.uk.

NATIONAL NEWS

Why are newly qualified motorists at high crash risk?

Novice driver crash risk diminishes steeply over the first few months of driving. This study from Professor Richard Rowe, University of Sheffield now available on The Road Safety Knowledge Centre sets out to explore the characteristics of driving over this period to identify behaviours that might underlie this change in risk.

[Click here: RoadSafe: Why are newly qualified motorists at high crash risk?](#)

Autumn Forum

A huge thank you to all group members who took part in our Autumn Forums. Your input into the Forums' discussion topics will be invaluable as we steer a course towards a positive, collaborative future for the charity. Your feedback has been collated and key themes have been emerging, which will be considered as part of our strategic planning over the coming weeks and months.

[Click here: Autumn Forums Feedback | IAM RoadSmart](#)

What are the impacts of “social identity” as a motorcyclist on actual riding behaviour, particularly in relation to groups and clubs?

The Policy and Research Department is supporting London South Bank University PhD student, and IAM RoadSmart member, Louise Thompson. Louise has been a member of IAM RoadSmart for over five years and does most of her riding with Kent Advanced Motorcyclists. Her project is about the “social identity” of motorcyclists who normally ride in a motorcycle club or motorcycle group. Riding with friends and sharing stories of biking adventures forms some of the identity of bikers and the aim of this study is to explore this within the context of motorcycle group/clubs and how bikers ride.

To take part in the study you need to hold a valid licence to ride a motorcycle (any size cc engine) and have ridden on public roads within the past 18 months. The questionnaire should take approximately 20 minutes and there are no right or wrong answers. Participation will be anonymous and information provided would be used only for research purposes. IAM RoadSmart motorcycle members are invited to take part by [clicking here](#).



There is a free entry prize draw for those who agree to take part with four prizes of £50. The closing date is 31 January 2023 00:00. If you have any questions, please email Louise on thompsl2@lsbu.ac.uk.

[Click here: Research](#)

WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

D	Y	N	T	I	S	B	T	E	G	D	I	R	B	W	O	L	R	G	N	X
G	P	V	S	M	C	S	J	E	O	N	W	Y	G	T	H	F	O	U	L	A
E	S	V	G	L	T	I	X	M	P	O	K	N	P	S	J	H	C	E	S	G
A	N	B	D	Q	I	K	Y	E	R	L	I	N	P	F	I	P	J	D	R	U
T	S	D	N	G	V	P	M	U	L	S	A	N	B	S	A	D	L	G	P	E
E	R	C	E	S	Z	N	R	O	S	D	R	H	A	S	W	Y	P	G	L	B
M	S	I	B	N	T	V	G	O	T	J	E	P	M	R	O	R	H	X	Q	U
L	O	T	K	G	A	E	R	S	A	S	W	P	F	N	C	J	E	U	D	S
S	U	Y	M	T	B	C	E	P	I	D	J	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	M	Y
K	C	A	N	C	A	H	L	N	C	O	S	T	Y	A	E	V	D	P	I	O
G	H	M	Z	R	X	R	B	F	J	V	O	U	O	M	N	Y	G	L	E	E
B	U	C	B	L	H	W	M	T	O	T	P	R	W	B	S	P	G	K	N	V
A	F	E	J	M	P	I	I	E	B	C	U	T	B	E	J	Y	S	L	G	R
O	Z	S	N	T	K	D	F	L	O	A	R	T	U	R	I	N	S	C	H	B

Find all of the road features except one missing. Submit your entry with the missing answer to newsletter@forthvalleyiam.org by 31 January. The first correct entry drawn at random will win a selection of IAM goodies!

- BEND** **CAMBER** **JUNCTION** **LOW BRIDGE**
- SLIP ROAD** **ZEBRA CROSSING** **TRAFFIC LIGHT**

Your Current Committee

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Committee Member	Dave Allan		
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Committee Member	Craig McCall		
Committee Member	William Rose		

Forth Valley Group website: www.forthvalleyiam.org.uk/

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