

for all car and bike members of the Oxford Area Group of Advanced Motorists

<http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/oagam>

## OAGAM Members Have Their Say

### Future events for car and bike members

*The February monthly meeting was a chance to hear an update on the group and to have your say about future events and meetings. There was a good attendance and many thanks are due to Paul Thompson for chairing the meeting and organising group discussions to gather suggestions and ideas.*

The **group of car members** began by spending some time talking about ways to tailor the summer drive outs this year to meet the most diverse of individual driving needs. These are intended to cover the range from associate members who would like to get as much preparation for their test as possible to full members who would relish demonstrating their cars and their driving to others.

In response to members' requests, we will include an option for a full member to request to drive with another full member.

We will aim to circulate pairings by email in advance.

We will consider the option of a 'second wave' departure later in the evening once we get the core session sorted.

A further discussion centred on potentially interesting events and topics for meetings. Among the ideas that came up were:

- A tour of the BMW Mini Plant at Cowley or The Williams F1 Centre at Grove
- Advice on driving and health, including dealing with road rage
- Technical advice and explanation of, for example, use of dashcams or the advent of driverless cars
- The [Under 17 Car Club](#) – what is it and how may we help?

*continued...*



### Drive Outs 2018

During the summer we'll be running a series of drive outs on the first Wednesday of every month from April to September. We'll meet at Exeter Hall, Kidlington from 7.00pm for a 7.30 pm departure. The aim will be to foster the following within the group:

- Excellent associate training
- New associates attracted by taster sessions
- Maintenance of observer standards
- Maintenance of full members' driving standards

We hope that the evenings will be sociable and enjoyable for all who attend.

This format will involve some work on a monthly basis and we would like to hear from any members willing to organise one of the six sessions this year.

Talk among the **group of bike members** followed a similar line. For those that could not attend on the evening, several emails with ideas and suggestions were read out. We then discussed the various types of rides and events that our members would like us to consider before discussion moved on to specific suggestions. These included:

- Regular planned 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month Evening Meet & Rides, April to Sept
- Plan a tour around the North Coast 500 route, in 2019
- Plan a shorter trip over to France
- Plan in shorter rides to local places of interest
- Kempton Park Motorcycle Jumble
- Air Ambulance visit at Benson
- Ride Leader Training Events
- National Road Rally 2018, July 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, submit teams of three
- Prescott Bike Festival
- Isle of Man
- The Shuttleworth Collection
- Brackley Bike Festival
- Goodwood Breakfast Club Meets 1st Sunday of Month
- Sammy Millers Motorcycle Museum
- Visit to Norton Works
- Visit to Royal Enfield's new technology centre in Lutterworth
- An overnight stay to visit the MCN Show at Peterborough



If you can help with any of the suggestions above for car or bike members – or have more ideas for events - please get in touch.

Contact details are on p10.

## Rides and Events 2018

Although it doesn't feel much like it at the moment, we shouldn't have to wait too much longer for the spring and nicer riding conditions to arrive. To kick off the new season we have a number of rideout events lined up for March and April, along with the regular Wednesday evening rides which begin on 4th April and continue through the summer on the first Wednesday of each month.

Full details will be sent out in advance of the date, when you will also be requested to indicate whether you plan to attend. Please contact Ted Tatersall at [rides.oagam@gmail.com](mailto:rides.oagam@gmail.com) if you have questions or suggestions.

Have a look at the list below and check your diaries - we look forward to seeing you on the rides!

- Saturday 10th March - Ride-out to the Kempton Park Motorcycle Jumble: meet at Peartree Services at 8:45am
- Wednesday 4th April - First evening ride out, from Exeter Hall at 7.00pm
- Sunday 15th April - Ride-out to Prescott Bike Festival: meet at Peartree Services at 8:45am.
- Sunday 22nd April - Ride-out to coffee at Sulgrave Manor, then take in the Sunday Scramble at Bicester Heritage: meet at Peartree Services at 8:45am.

## Calling All Women Motorcyclists

We want to promote and encourage our female motorcycle members to join in as our Motorcycle Observer, Lynda Harding, plans women motorcyclists group rides.

Below, Lynda has identified a couple of exciting events. Anyone interested in taking part in a group ride to either of these should contact Lynda via email if they wish to participate. She would also like to hear other suggestions for group rides for women bikers.

Lynda can be contacted on [ObsLyndaIAM@gmail.com](mailto:ObsLyndaIAM@gmail.com).



### The Women in Motorcycling Exhibition

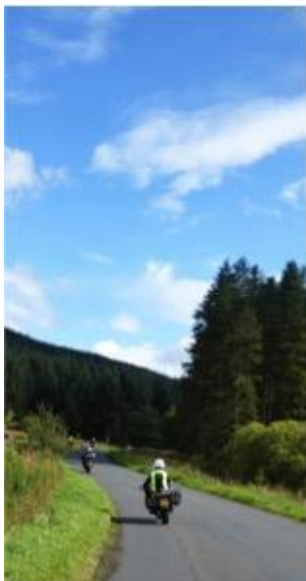
28<sup>th</sup> April in Birmingham

The Women in Motorcycling Exhibition brings together females who are experienced riders, learners and those looking to start but aren't sure where to begin. Commuters, pleasure riders, racers, tourers: no matter what you ride now or want to ride in future, we're here to bring the best of motorcycling into one place for you! We provide an environment where bikes, clothing, accessories, tours, inspirational speakers, masterclasses, biker buddy meet-ups and more merge to create an exciting experience, focused on women's needs in this ever-growing market.

With more activities added all the time, check the [Women Moto](http://WomenMoto.com) website.

### 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 International Female Ride Day

For more information, visit [motoress.com](http://motoress.com).



### Ride Leader Training

In the Spring (read that as when it warms up a bit) our Motorcycle Section will, for the first time, be arranging a Ride Leader Training Session, as we want to actively encourage our full members to get involved in planning and leading rides.

The training will take place on a Saturday or Sunday, when we will first go through the requirements and considerations to both effectively plan and lead a ride - covering the use of Sat Nav devices, various Route Apps, drop off systems, communications and comfort breaks. After that we will go out on the road and build up trainees' confidence with a small group, practising at both Leading and being the Tail End Charlie.

If you are interested in taking part, contact Paul Thompson: [treasurer.OAGAM@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.OAGAM@gmail.com).





## Natter Night at the Lamb & Flag, St Giles, Oxford Saturday 17th March from 7.30pm

All members are welcome to an informal evening of real ale and catch up with friends in one of Oxford's historic pubs.

*The Lamb & Flag is in central Oxford, a short walk from the station.*

*Type OX1 3JS into Google Maps or your satnav.*

*giftaid it*

### **Make your OAGAM Group Membership Subscription worth more.**

#### **Gift Aid adds an extra 25%.**

IAM RoadSmart local groups in the UK are treated as charities and can recover from HMRC basic rate income tax paid by their Full group members relating to subscriptions paid under a gift aid declaration.

#### **WHAT IS GIFT AID?**

Gift Aid is an income tax relief designed to benefit charities. If you're a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid increases the value of your charity donations by 25%, because the charity can reclaim the basic rate of tax on your gift – at no extra cost to you.

Our Group Treasurer will be sending out Gift Aid declaration forms to our full members in March.

Please support this initiative to boost our group income at no cost to you!

## March Meeting

### Road Safety

Oxford Fire and Rescue

7.00pm for 7.30pm Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Exeter Hall + Kidlington



The March meeting will feature a presentation by **Andy Ford**, Station Manager with Oxfordshire County Council Road Safety and Commercial Training Services.

Although based in the county Fire and Rescue Service, Andy's team advises on all aspects of safety in the home, outdoors and on the road. Their website [365 alive](http://365alive.co.uk) includes a large range of resources for all road users. Andy will describe the work of his team and introduce some of their advice to motorists and bikers.

As a taster, here is their warning about the five top potential dangers for drivers:

## The Fatal 5



### 1 Could your seatbelt be a life saver?

#### Is everyone in the vehicle wearing their seat belt correctly?

- Not wearing a seatbelt could be a fatal decision, even if it's a short, familiar journey and at low speed.
- Did you know that you are twice as likely to die in a crash if you don't?
- Legally children under the age of 12 or 135cms tall (whichever is reached first) should always use the correct child seat or booster seat – this makes sure the seatbelt fits their smaller body.

#### Do I really need to wear a seatbelt if I'm a backseat passenger?

- It's just as important to wear a seatbelt when travelling in the back.
- Anyone or anything unrestrained in the car has the potential to kill or injure in a crash.



### 2 Fatal distraction

Even careful drivers can be distracted, by a phone call, text message, in car technology or a Satnav. A split second lapse of concentration could result in a crash.

**It's your call.** Using a mobile phone when driving increases the chances of a crash fourfold

#### Is the call more important than your life? Could you...

- Divert calls to your messenger service and check your calls when you take a break.
- Have a no calls rule when driving. Pull over when it is safe instead (not the motorway hard-shoulder).
- Let people know you do not answer calls when driving. Arrange a code for any urgent calls e.g. Call three times for a set number of rings, you can pull over when it is safe and return their call.
- Ask your passenger to make or take the call instead.

#### Isn't talking to a passenger just as distracting?

When we communicate with others, over half of what we pick up is non-verbal. It takes a lot more concentration to process a conversation on the phone. Passengers are:

- Less distracting - they can point out hazards or upcoming exits.
- More likely to stop talking when driving conditions change.
- In the car and more likely to notice that you need to focus.

### Is the text really that important?

- Texting when driving is illegal and very dangerous.
- If your attention is focused on your phone are you concentrating on your driving? Texting while driving is especially dangerous because it combines all three types of distraction:
  - Visual: taking your eyes off the road.
  - Manual: taking your hands off the wheel.
  - Cognitive: taking your mind off driving.

Never read or send a text while driving. It's just not worth the risk.

### Finding your way

In car technology or Sat Navs can be distracting. Set the systems before you drive. If you need to adjust them, pull over in a safe place.



### 3 Feeling tired?

We never fall asleep without warning. Drivers who fall asleep have often tried to fight off drowsiness by turning the heating to cold, opening a window or turning up the radio. These tactics don't work.

It may be tempting to risk driving when tired but it can be lethal. Research shows that it's impossible to stop yourself eventually nodding off at the wheel.

#### Tips for long journeys:

- Never start when tired.
- Include at least a 20-minute break every two hours.
- If possible share the driving on long journeys
- Get enough sleep and remember the same risks apply if you have to get up unusually early.
- Try to avoid long trips between midnight and 6am as we are more likely to feel sleepy during this period.

#### If you start to feel tired:

- Find a safe place to stop, not the motorway hard-shoulder.
- Drink two cups of caffeinated coffee. Rest for at least 15 to 20 mins to give the caffeine time to kick in.
- Have a 20 power minute nap.
- When you feel alert again, drive on.

Stopping for a nap and drinking a caffeinated drink only works once and is a temporary solution.



### 4 How fast are you?

The faster we drive the less time we have to stop if something unexpected happens. For every 1mph increase in speed there's a 3% increase in risk of road traffic collision.

Thinking distance is the distance travelled between the driver realising they need to brake and applying the brakes. It can be increased by tiredness, distractions, being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and speed.

The braking distance is the distance taken to stop once the brakes are applied. It increases if the car's brakes or tyres are in poor condition. Or the road and weather conditions are poor and with the cars speed.

Many crashes happen because the driver loses control particularly on bends or in wet or ice conditions. Drive for the road conditions and give yourself time to react by reducing your speed. The difference of a few miles per hour could mean the difference between life and death.



### 5 Dying for a drink?

Drinking alcohol and driving puts all road users in danger.

The only safe option is not to drink alcohol if you plan to drive. It's not worth the risk.

#### Could you...

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Book a taxi              | - Catch the bus or train |
| - Have a designated driver | - Stay overnight         |
| - Walk home                |                          |



# Giving a Little Something Back

## Reflections from a trainee observer

**Nik Bergson** has just qualified as a Local Observer for cars. Here he reflects on the training process and his reasons for wanting to become an observer.

When I was doing my initial training for the Advanced Test, I was extremely grateful to my observer for giving so freely of his time, and also for his patience, skill and professionalism, all of which were a great credit to OAGAM. However, there was also much to be gained from working with a variety of other observers, for example at the summer drive-outs and during my pre-test crosscheck. Inevitably there would be a slightly different perspective every time, and this would usually identify one or more previously under-emphasised areas upon which to focus.

Fortunately I did manage to pass my test last summer, but the examiner left me in no doubt that my driving left considerable scope for further improvement! Of course it sounds a little pompous, but I am guessing that all of this does tie in very nicely with the notion of improvement and learning being a continuous, lifelong process. There is no logical reason for this to stop just because you have reached (perhaps) little more than the minimum standard needed to pass the test.

*'If I can help improve standards, and it prevents one fatal crash, that's one less door knock that I need to make bringing bad news.'*

Ade Lerner, Police Officer and IAM examiner



**The check run: Nik sets off with associate Simon Denton and National Observer Alex Lewis.**



**The masterclass: Nik gets advice from IAM examiner, Ade Lerner.**

*'Observing with us is a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable way to help make our roads safer by coaching and mentoring drivers and riders to be the best that they can be.*

*Existing observers will tell you that the pleasure and satisfaction of hearing that your latest associate has passed his advanced test is a wonderful feeling and the gratitude and thanks you'll receive will make you feel ten feet tall!'*

IAM RoadSmart

Long story short, training to be a Local Observer seemed the obvious route, as a way of thanking OAGAM by giving a little something back, while at the same time aiming to keep my own driving not only up to scratch, but hopefully improving.

I was initially assigned to a new associate under the guidance of a very experienced National Observer, who encouraged me gradually to take on more of a leading role in the runs. When this associate eventually did his pre-test crosscheck, I was then able to meet and to work with yet another new observer. This week I have also completed my first run with a second new associate, who is to be mostly my own responsibility.

Recently I was even able to join a 'masterclass' with the very same examiner who had conducted my test, which I thought a brilliant opportunity.

Onwards and upwards!

*Since writing this, Nik has heard that Simon, his first associate, gained a F1RST in his advanced driving test.*

**If you are interested in joining the OAGAM team of observers:  
contact Alex Lewis Chief Observer for Cars;  
or Paul Thompson, Chief Observer for Bikes.**



## January Test Passes

*We offer our warmest congratulations to members who passed the advanced driving or riding test last month.*



**Jenny Edge** recently passed her advanced driving test.

*Jenny says: I passed my driving test in 1970 and have been driving regularly since then.*

*I work as a silversmith and have two daughters working and living in London, so both my work and my family life mean that I regularly have to travel quite long distances in the car.*

*Gradually, I found that I was accumulating penalty points for speeding to the extent that I began to worry that I might not be able to use the car for a period of time. It was my husband who suggested that he enrol me on the IAM RoadSmart course, an idea which I enthusiastically accepted – especially as he paid for me to do it!*

*I found the course very useful because it increased my awareness of situations on the road and thus made me a safer, more considerate driver. It had two further advantages as well: since passing the test I have not received any further speeding points and it has decreased the cost of my car insurance!*

*The observed runs were enjoyable and I still try to remember the points I was told, making me more aware of my own driving and that of other people.*

*I can thoroughly recommend the course.*



**Frank Richardson** has passed his advanced riding test:

*I have recently retired, having previously been Group HR Director for a global engineering business based in Cheltenham. I spent most of my working life on aeroplanes overseas somewhere....*

*I've been an IAM member for 28 years having originally passed the car test. I retook the advanced driving test last year, passing with a F1RST.*

*I passed my Motorcycle test in 1970 and have ridden ever since with only a short gap while at University and after getting married. My bikes were mostly BMWs after a few BSAs, Hondas, and even a Greeves 2 stroke with a Villiers 250 cc engine. I did pass a ROSPA advanced test about 25 years ago but wanted to sharpen my riding and improve my skills now I expect to be getting out more. Hence the IAM test. I now have aspirations to become an observer and get a F1RST on the bike, as well.*

*Finally I do want to get more involved with my local group, but we are moving to Dorset in March and therefore I think I will be "captured" by the Bournemouth and Wessex Advanced Motorcycle group. I do hope they are as supportive as the Oxford Group have been.*

*I would like to thank Steve Savage who got me ready for the test and my examiner, John Lang, who kindly passed me - top blokes who taught me a lot!*



*Frank with his BMW R1200GS Exclusive ,purchased last October*



**Graham Welby and Peter Edgley** have passed their advanced driving tests.



Graham says:

*I'm employed as a manager for an Oxford based electrical contractor and have been driving since the age of 17 passing my driving test at the first attempt more than 30 years ago.*

*I had been thinking about taking the advanced driving course for some time when I was offered the chance to take part in one of the monthly drive outs last summer. This spurred me on to take the course, from which I have gained sound advice and experience.*

*I would like to thank my observer Trevor Hipkin for his time and Alex Lewis for my check drive. Thanks also to my examiner, Ade Lerner, for making the test an enjoyable experience and for his valuable feedback following the completion of the test.*

Peter says:

*As I have very recently passed the advanced driving test, Andrew has asked me to write a few words about why I signed up for the programme and what I hoped to gain from it.*

*Some months ago I was trying to decide whether to buy a high performance sports car. It's been many years since I'd driven anything remotely powerful - cars like the MGB, TR4A, and Golf GTi. So my first step was a session at Silverstone with a Porsche instructor. What I wanted to find out first was whether I could actually handle such a car in the safe environment of a track.*

*OK, so I found that the old reflexes were still pretty good. But I also wanted to ensure as far as possible that I'd be safe on the public roads. Hence the IAM programme. Thanks to my observer, Alex*

*Lewis, and Andrew Carter (for the check run), I think I've achieved this objective. An interesting outcome for me is that Alex's tuition has led to me making better progress on A/B roads. I'm now driving more quickly than I used to – but always within the speed limit, Alex, honest!*



*Peter, seen here with a Porsche Cayman 718 S*



## 2018 Events Checklist

Wed 7 Mar 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Monthly Meeting

Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Sat 10 Mar 2018

9:00am - 3:00pm - Ride-Out to Kempton Park Motorcycle Jumble

Meet Peartree Services

Wed 4 Apr 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Drive-out & Ride-out Meeting

Meet Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Sun 15 Apr 2018

9:00am - 4:00pm - Prescott Bike Festival Ride-Out

Gotherington, Cheltenham

Sun 22 Apr 2018

8:30am - 4:00pm - Ride-Out to Sulgrave Manor & Sunday Scramble, Bicester Heritage

Meet Peartree Services

Wed 2 May 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Drive-out & Ride-out Meeting

Meet Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Wed 6 Jun 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Drive-out & Ride-out Meeting

Meet Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Mon 25 Jun 2018

4:00pm - 8:00pm - Cassington Bike Night

Cassington, Witney

Wed 4 Jul 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm OAGAM Drive-out & Ride-out Meeting

Meet Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Wed 1 Aug 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Drive-out & Ride-out Meeting

Meet Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Sun 12 Aug 2018

9:00am - 4:00pm - Brackley Festival of Motorcycling

Fri 17 Aug 2018 - Mon 20 Aug 2018

Keswick Trip

Wed 5 Sep 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Drive-out & Ride-out Meeting

Meet Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Wed 3 Oct 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Monthly Meeting

Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Wed 7 Nov 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Monthly Meeting

Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Wed 5 Dec 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm - OAGAM Monthly Meeting

Exeter Hall, Kidlington

Check for updates of this list by visiting <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/oagam>



and finally...

## OAGAM Committee: Contact Us

### *General enquiries or comments*

Rob Archer, Chair

Harry Schoetz, Secretary

rob@oagam.org

secretary.oagam@gmail.com

### *OAGAM subscriptions and other financial questions*

Paul Thompson, Treasurer

treasurer.OAGAM@gmail.com

### *Enquiries from or about car associates & observers*

Alex Lewis, Chief Observer Cars

Geoff Ayres, Car Associate Co-ordinator

oxfordiamcars@gmail.com

oxfordiamcars@gmail.com

### *Enquiries from or about bike associates & observers*

Paul Thompson, Chief Observer Bikes

David Lisk, Bike Associate Co-ordinator

treasurer.OAGAM@gmail.com

bikeAC.oagam@gmail.com

### *Bike Rides & Events*

Ted Tattersall, Bike Rides & Events Coordinator

rides.oagam@gmail.com

### *Membership enquiries*

Phil Hine, Membership Secretary

membership.oagam@gmail.com

### *Newsletter items, comments and enquiries*

Andrew Carter, Newsletter Editor

newsletter@oagam.org

### *Website content & social media*

James Henton, Web Editor & Social Media

james@oagam.org

## Group Scorecard

*The group scorecard (below) is published here each month and shows the test statistics for the previous twelve months.*

Test Statistics				
(over the last 12 months)				
	OAGAM Group	OAGAM Car	OAGAM Bike	Region Avg.
	12 months	12 months	12 months	12 months
First	10	6	4	3.4
Pass	31	15	16	11.3
Fail	7	5	2	2.2
% Pass	85	81	91	87

## IAM/OAGAM Code of Conduct

- We treat everyone equally and fairly
- We adhere to policies of IAM RoadSmart
- We only communicate the IAM RoadSmart position
- We take responsibility for our actions & decisions
- We take pride in where we meet and host events
- We respect confidentiality of information gained as an official via memo/data
- We respect confidentiality of individual personal information
- We respect all members regardless of gender or beliefs