

Thames Valley Group of Advanced Motorists (TVGAM) - Driving Theory Clinics

Brainchild of Nick Room, chair, and Alex Beeston Membership Secretary of TVGAM.

Back in the Summer of 2021 Nick Room and Alex Beeston from the TVGAM Group started to dream up a concept to create a series of interactive roadshows to attract and reach more drivers in their local area. The aim was to grow the Group, reach more car drivers and assist them to improve their skills and introduce them to IAM RoadSmart Advanced Driving Courses.

Building on successful speaker appearances Nick had arranged for the existing Group the idea started to grow. Supported by Stuart Haythorn, Area Service Delivery Manager, an audit highlighted the desire to develop and build more local relationships. Enthusiasm was sparked to increase skills in drivers of all ages and Nick and Alex started to shape the plans for several interactive events.

Previous Speakers

Dr Richard Burke, who presented his views on Advanced Propulsion in July was keen to get involved in the project. Dr **Burke** Professor at **IAAPS** - Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems having previously worked with IAM RoadSmart presented the opportunity to engage with three of his post graduate students to cement the partnership.

The TVGAM team also reached out to the local Crime Commission Inspector and Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, who agreed to speak to the Group in September on [Vision Zero](#). Nick and Alex used the opportunity to connect and explore further partnerships.

Community Funding

Barber suggested applying for a Community Fund (previously called the Police Property Act Fund), launched in September 2021 which was created from the proceeds of sale of goods recovered by the police that cannot be returned to their original owner. In accordance with the Police Property Act Regulations (1997) all awards from the fund must be for charitable purposes.

Following an intense round of evaluation by the panel including staff from the OPCC and PCC, on 5th November 2021, 117 applications were reviewed and the results were announced. In total, the grant awards were shared between 30 organisations with total funding of £107,670. Thames Valley Group of Advanced Motorists (TVGAM) were successful and received an award of £1,000 award to assist with their concept.

Unfortunately, the presentation of the award was cancelled due to Covid, but Matthew congratulated the team on their submission and proposal. Commenting on how delighted he was "The funds will be used to support your road safety project that

is being developed right now for 2022 involving up to eight locations in the Thames Valley area”

Plans in development

The Roadshow continues to gather pace and is currently in the later stages of planning with Nick, Alex, and event manager William Phaure finalising formats.

Nick enlisted further support from the IAM RoadSmart Policy & Research Department (PRD) to utilise the themes from the 2021 Safety Culture report. Introducing the PRD team to IAAPS and the two PhD students to further discussion and ideas. Catherine Naughtie and Rita Prior Filipe, with IAAPS Co-ordinator Yvonne Ascott are championing the relationship. A presentation on The Safety Culture Report will be delivered to the university students by Neil Greig, Policy & Research Director and Rebecca Ashton, Head of Policy & Research on 8th March 2022.

Currently the roadshow continues to gather pace with IAM RoadSmart, TVGAM and IAAPS finalising topics, presenters from all three organisations, attendee numbers and targets, venues and much more. Developing both physical and online attendees' opportunities, partnerships with local businesses and county councils, links, and landing pages to host recordings of sessions will be utilised to reach a wider audience.

Further details of how TVGAM plan to take the message to drivers, not wait for them to reach out, will follow in the next edition of Inform. Dates and locations will be shared as they are secured.

If you would like to contact Nick or Alex to find out more, please contact Nick on chair@tvgam.org.uk

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