



June 2023 Newsletter

Coming up

(Dates to note in your diary, full details of these and for those later in the year are on our website)

24 June
9.30 am
Churchdown Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar

26th June
6.00 pm NEW EVENT: Drive-out—pls see page 6

29th July
10.00 am Drive Out
Pls see page 6

23 Sept Police Open Day
Police HQ,
Quedgley

7 Oct
9.30 am
Churchdown Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar

14 Oct
9.30 am
Churchdown Observer Develop.
Day 2

26 Oct
7.30 pm
Churchdown Group meeting
What is it like to own an electric car?

Chairman's Chat

Greetings. Summer has arrived along with this June Newsletter. Firstly, thank you to all Group members for supporting us with your subscription this year, your contribution is much appreciated.

At our AGM, we welcomed back Phil Tebble onto the committee as Vice Chair. Also joining the committee was Aron Mockford as our new Associate Coordinator and Carolyn Menteith as Media Manager.

Our meeting schedule will continue as usual with monthly meetings at Churchdown from October through to March, supplemented by social drive outs over the summer months. We also held a very successful Observer Development day in March with Observers from several other groups attending and more recently, our first member's drive day in which quite a few members joined us for a refresher drive with an Observer. There will be more of these events going forward as you will see from the meetings list.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Introduction to Advanced Driving Seminar on May 13th and have rescheduled these events this year. The next opportunity is on **Saturday 24th June**, so if you missed out on the May Seminar, please rebook for the June one.

If you are an Associate with us on your Advanced Driving course, you are always very welcome to attend our meetings and events, so please keep an eye on our website for information.

Our first show of the year was at the Prescott Hill Climb Classics on 14th May which was a very successful and enjoyable day.

Finally, we are offering a new incentive to introduce new members. If you introduce someone who subsequently purchases an Advanced Driving course with the Group, you will receive £20 for your efforts.

Drive safely over the Summer.

Rod Harrison

Your Committee 2023

Chair	Rod Harrison	chairman@glosiam.org.uk	07917 851706
Vice Chair	Phil Tebble	vicechair@glosiam.org.uk	
Secretary/Membership	Sue McClung	membership@glosiam.org.uk	07712 302509
Treasurer	Richard Lee	treasurer@glosiam.org.uk	
Chief Observer	Robert Pepper	coc@glosiam.org.uk	
Deputy Chief Observer (Training)	Gary Smith		
Associate Coordinator	Aron Mockford	asco@glosiam.org.uk	
Data Manager	Andrew Bowden	datamanager@glosiam.org.uk	
Marketing and media	Carolyn Menteith		
Newsletter Editor	Coral Pepper		

Welcome to New Members

Tim Ockwell	Richard Aldred
Donald Gillanders	John Redwood
Tom Clarkson	Isaac Meredith
Graeme Palmer	Hawrez Earl
Daniel Birch	Elliot Leech
Andrew Norton	

The current membership is:

IAM Members	Observers
Full members	Trainees
116	4
Associate Members	Local
32	1
Fellow Members	National
3	14

Congratulations on passing the Advanced Test

The following members recently passed the Advanced Driving Test

Associates	Observer
David Rees	Robert Pepper
Henry Clarkson	Colin Hooker
Karen Griggs	Sylvia Martin
Maggie Arlidge	Colin Hooker
Kevin Timney	Gary Smith
Christopher Tucker	Robert Pepper
Roger Johnson	Rod Harrison

Notes from the Chief Observer 25

I've just returned from a weeks holiday "oop North" as my friend in Hull says. It was a bucket list trip to see Hadrian's Wall. So on Monday we set off; A438 and then A417 to join the A49 just south of Leominster. Then follow that until you meet the M56. East to join the M6 and follow to Penrith. From Junc 36 onwards the scenery really does open up as the road passes between the Lake District to the West and the Yorkshire Dales to the East and suddenly you notice minimal traffic. It was like being back in the 60s.

From Penrith the journey became interesting. We joined the A686 and headed NE towards Alston. Here the vista was stunning as we climbed 624m to Hartside Height. No hedges or fences so a few sheep here and there crossing. We stopped now and then to take photos but looking at them now they don't do justice to the views we had. My driving skills were well put to the test as we climbed and rounded hairpin after hairpin. I couldn't get over looking in the mirror and seeing no vehicles behind nor in front for long periods then a local would appear and overtake me at speed on the outside of a left hand bend as we descended to Alston.

Our accommodation, Nent Hall Country House Hotel, was very welcoming, old but comfy and clean with excellent staff and food, set in a valley with little internet and mobile connection and no DAB radio reception.

Over the next four days we explored the forts and the bits of wall we could see without walking its length. We used several B roads and I can recommend the B6295, B6278 and the B6318.

This last is a beauty. Long undulating stretches of straight road (now where did they get that idea) with an interesting road sign, before a brow, I had not met before – a warning triangle containing an exclamation mark and beneath in a box "Severe Dip". It is the first time I have reached a brow and not seen any road beyond the bonnet, not even in the distance! Over we go and start the obvious descent and then the road appears ahead of you but you still cannot see the bottom of the dip and then you can where there are several gouge marks in the tarmac. There is however a small heart stopping moment, probably the same that Thelma and Louise felt.

Well worth a visit if you haven't already been, if only to go mile after mile without seeing traffic front or back and NO potholes for about 80% of the time and brilliant driver roads. Then back home. We'd done 985 miles and averaged 51.5 mpg (for those who do not know, in a Focus petrol 3cyl. 99bhp) and yes I did keep up to National speed limits.



Earn £20 Introduce an Associate

**Group Members and Associates
if you introduce someone to the Group for a
Free Taster Drive
who subsequently purchases an
Advanced Driver course,
you will earn £20.
Spread the word to your friends!**



Can you help the Group??

We are looking for a volunteer to act as Group Secretary.

The role is currently split between the Chairman and Membership Secretary, both of whom are very busy.

The role will involve acting as a contact for the Group, managing our meetings with Churchdown Community Centre, taking Minutes at Committee meetings (usually on Zoom), liaising with external agencies, sending out communications to Group members and organising the Annual General Meeting.

Applicants should have a good understanding of using Microsoft Office and use of the internet.

Your help would be invaluable to the committee so if you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Chairman

chairman@glosiam.org.uk.

Cyclists & Roundabouts

You should give priority to cyclists on the roundabout. Expect them to be travelling more slowly than motorised traffic.

Give them plenty of room and allow them to move across your path as they travel around the roundabout.



Take particular care when exiting a roundabout: a cyclist in the left-hand lane may intend to continue around the roundabout.

To remain visible to other road users, cyclists may ride in the centre of their lane. Do not attempt to overtake them within their lane.

Highway Code rules 72 and 79 instruct cyclists on road positioning when using roundabouts. Full details on the correct procedure for using roundabouts can be found in rules 184-190.

iam
RoadSmart

Social Drive Outs

We have booked two events so far for a new activity for this Group.
Each month during the Summer we will nominate a meeting place of interest for
a social get together.

Drive out to the place in your own cars, stay a while for a chat, leave when you are ready.

The first event is on **26th June**.

From 6pm at a Cult place for Motoring meets.

Caffeine & machine on the A422 at Ettington CV37 7NS.

The Chairman, Chief Observer and Deputy Chief Observer will definitely be there.

There are a lot of interesting events here at weekends too.

The Second event is on **Saturday 29th July**

from 10am at the Classic Motor Hub at Bibury GL7 5FF.

If you haven't been before it is well worth a visit,
there are some excellent cars on display,
a great coffee shop and a racing simulator.

We might set up a later event to use the simulator.

If you wish to attend, full details are on the website under 'Events

Observers, why not make it an Observed drive with your Associates?

If you have any questions contact Rod Harrison 07917 851706.



An Associate's Perspective of Advanced Driver course

As someone in their seventies, I have been aware the last time I had a driving lesson, or any formal training was around fifty-five years ago! In that time the Highway Code has changed beyond recognition, the technology of cars has advanced beyond anything we could have imagined. Many roads have developed into motorways to say nothing of a plethora of new road signs.

It was with this in mind that I thought it would be useful to have an impartial highly trained Observer sitting next to me who would give an unbiased opinion of my driving skills or lack of - warts and all!

Having now completed the course with a pass - I have to say I would not have missed it for anything. I enjoyed it to the point of boring everyone I met including my long suffering wife with all the technicalities of advanced driving.

I thought the course would entail refining my driving with a bit of correction here and there - but no way! It is a fundamentally different approach to driving involving observing hazards seen and anticipating those not seen, and maintaining the maximum car control in all situations as well. As a result it has made driving less of a mundane chore and a real pleasure as I now continue to hone the skills I have learned on the course.

The course is a great conversation topic too, because most people drive and are fascinated with the techniques the course covers. This has resulted in several folks talking about signing up and one member of the family definitely embarking on the course within the next few weeks.

Roger Johnson 23rd May 2023

Tell Us About Your Advanced Driving Experience

We would love to receive some short articles from you about your
Advanced Driving experience.

What did you gain from your course?

How has it affected your driving?

Do you have any interesting driving stories?

Drop a line to chairman@glosiam.org.uk and we will include your article next time.

I've been driving in my car...

Carolyn Menteith

National Observer, Masters Mentor and Skills Day Instructor

Travelling with your dog

It's that time of the year when dog owners start thinking about days out, holidays and exploring the countryside. For most of us, that means a trip out in the car – so how can you make sure your dog enjoys the experience as much as you do – and how can you keep them (and you) safe while you are taking trips out together?

When I am not driving my car or working with IAMRoadSmart Associates or Masters' clients, I'm afraid I have rather gone to the dogs! My day job is as a dog behaviourist and trainer – although after years of helping owners have the very best life they can with the dogs that share their lives, most of my work is now done for corporate clients or in the media.

One of those clients is Tails.com who produce and deliver tailor-made dog food direct to owners' doors – and part of their remit is to give canine guardians the best information to help keep their furry friends healthy and happy. And that's where I come in.

And so knowing my passion for driving and my involvement with IAMRoadSmart, as part of they asked me to write a blog about canine car travel.

Dogs – safety and comfort

There is no point heading out in the car with your dog unless they are happy to travel and enjoy the whole experience – as otherwise the stress of the journey will ruin any pleasure your dog will have from the destination.

The secret to having a dog who enjoys being in the car and looks forward to road trip is preparation long before you hit the road.

1. Think about where you want your dog to travel and how you are going to restrain them in the car. In most cases, (with a hatchback or an estate (or larger), the safest place is in the back of the car, behind the seats, in a purpose built, secured crate, or behind a well-fitted dog guard. This gives your dog a dedicated space where they are free to move around, get comfortable, and change position when they want to – and to be safe in the event of an accident.
2. If you choose to have your dog travel in the back, there are a couple of things to think about. The main one is 'can I keep my dog cool there?'. Most people have air conditioning and so think they can control the temperature of the car but don't realise that air conditioning is only designed to keep passengers cool, and so often doesn't reach the area behind the seats.

And of course, in the back of a hatch back/estate, there is a lot of glass on three sides that will magnify the heat of the sun from whatever direction it comes from.

3. Get someone to drive your car while you sit in the area your dog will travel. Is the air con reaching you? If not, you need a fan that you can direct onto the crate, to shade the windows (without obscuring or affecting your driving vision), and travel with windows slightly open to allow air to get to your dog. The advantage of a crate is that your dog doesn't have access to the open windows or if they are behind a dog guard, open the windows immediately in front of it. You don't have to open them far to get air flow into the car. Yes, I know that affects the effectiveness of your air con – but this is all about keeping your dog cool!
4. Make the space your dog is travelling is comfortable – so give them a soft surface to lie on. Veterinary bedding is ideal as it is soft, doesn't slide or bunch up, and is waterproof (just in case!). Or you can put your dog's bed into that space.

5. Some dogs travel better if they can't see out of the windows – other traffic whizzing past can be either scary or highly arousing, so consider window blinds if this sounds like your dog!
6. If you can't have your dog in the back for some reason, your options are either a car harness or else find a secure way to have your dog on the back seat. There are a variety of pop-up crates you can buy that are attached to the back seat using the seat belts – and these can be a great option.

Harnesses should really be a last resort for short journeys only, as not only do they keep your dog in one position and give them little chance to move around and get comfortable, but they are not secure (and lots of dogs either wriggle around in them or try and slip out of them) and they generally make your dog a distraction.

7. Travel with water and a bowl (a non-spill water bowl can be left in the crate if your dog won't chew it or throw it around!).
8. While it is an expensive option, if you are planning frequent journeys with your dog, it is worth buying a car that will be as good for them as for you. The best cars for dogs are ones that have a good safety record, and that do give you space to put a crate or a dog guard behind the seats. Usually these are hatchbacks or estates.

Preparation

Get your dog used to the area they will be travelling in and the car/movement before you head off down the highway. You want to teach them that the car is a great place to be

1. Start by putting them into the car (with the tail gate/door open), giving them a treat and taking them out again. You can even give them their dinner in there. Do this for a few days.
2. Repeat but this time shut the doors – first with you beside them but then with you in the driving seat.
3. If they are happy, repeat but turn the engine on while they are enjoying their treat/dinner
4. Next you can go to the end of the drive – or round the block – doing exactly the same thing.
5. Slowly you can build up the length of your journeys.
6. Mix up where you go to on these practice drives and how long the drives are – sometimes for a nice walk other times just to sit in a car park! You don't want your dog to think that every journey is really exciting - or they can get slightly car crazy!

The nut behind the wheel!

Safety on the roads is down to the driver – and so we owe it to our dogs to be as safe as we can be when we take them out on a journey.

Like it or not, having your dog in the car is a distraction – and distractions can and often do result in accidents.

Having a safe and secure place where your dog is happy to travel is key to them not being a distraction to you. Having your dog wriggling around or struggling to escape, trying to clamber over seats, or shouting out of the window, is a huge distraction to your driving. You find yourself worrying about them, checking out what they are doing, trying to keep them quiet or reassuring them – and your driving and safety suffer as a result.

Also dogs chewing seat belts is a leading cause of them snapping or giving way when you need them most!

If you think your dog is likely to be a distraction to you, first re-think whereabouts in the car your dog travels and try and find a way to keep them secure and more relaxed.

Make your early journeys with a friend or family member - whose only job is to sit beside or near your dog to make sure they are happy and relaxed so it is something you don't have to worry about.

There is also a recent study that indicates that dogs might well travel better in electric cars – and they don't like bad gear changes or jerky driving! To be honest, who does?

Many people who do an advanced driving course/test do it to make sure they can keep their family members safe when they are driving them. Maybe it is worth considering doing just that in order to ensure we are the very safest drivers we can be for our dogs too!

For more information about dogs – or to read more of my ramblings – go to tails.com/blog/

