



July 2024

Chairman’s Chat

I am pleased to tell you that the merger of the Cirencester GlosIAM is now complete, apart from a few small administrative tasks. All past Cirencester members (including Observers) have been moved to GlosIAM in the IAM Headquarters records.

This month there have been a few changes to the committee. For personal reasons Aron Monkford has resigned as Associate Coordinator and as a committee member. He is also taking a temporary break from observing. On behalf of us all, thank you, Aron, for all that you have done to assist us in maintaining the smooth running of the group. We wish you well in the future.

Aron’s position as ASCO has been taken over by Rod Harrison and Rod’s previous position of Media Manager has been filled by Vince Harris, who also now joins the committee.

Gordon Burley, previously chairman of the Cirencester group, joins the committee as the representative for the Cirencester area.

There are some interesting articles in this edition of the newsletter, so sit down and enjoy a good read.

Phil.

Your new Committee 2024

Chair	Philip Tebble	chairman@glosiam.org.uk	07484 271553
Secretary	Christing Coughlan	secretary@glosiam.org.uk	
Treasurer	Tim Ockwell	treasurer@glosiam.org.uk	
Membership Secretary	Sue McClung	membership@glosiam.org.uk	07712 302509
Chief Observer	Gary Smith	chiefobserver@glosiam.org.uk	
Associate Coordinator	Rod Harrison	asco@glosiam.org.uk	
Data Manager	Andrew Bowden	datamanager@glosiam.org.uk	
Media Manager	Vince Harris	media@glosiam.org.uk	
Richard Lee			
Cirencester Rep.	Gordon Burley		
Newsletter Editor	Robert Pepper	editor@glosiam.org.uk	

Welcome to New Members

Anne Barbarubsa	Michael Hooper
Simon Callow	Glynn Hudson-allez
Samuel Cotton	Daniel Hutchman
Marie Davies	Kirsty Meredith
Martin Davies	Clive Pendry
Thomas Evans	Richard Price
Julian Stoker	

The current membership is:

IAM Members	Observers
Full members	Trainees
178	3
Associate Members	Local
39	3
Fellow Members	National
4	21
Masters	
10	

Congratulations on passing the Advanced Test
 The following members recently passed the Advanced Driving Test

David Allen
Louise Brannon
George Derbyshire
Gareth Jones
Richard Smith
Danny Sutton

An event not to be missed—put it in your diary NOW

At the group meeting on 24th October Rod Harrison will present his illustrated talk
 “A Nomad and his Flying Machines”

For those of you who don’t know, Rod served as a jet pilot with the RAF, Royal Air Force of Oman and BAE Systems.

Advanced Driving Courses

The group's Observers are currently very busy due to a sudden intake of Associates, including Young Drivers and there is a substantial waiting list of more than 20 for Advanced Driving courses and Taster drivers.

Therefore there will be no active recruitment, except at the South Cerney and Speech House shows, until the waiting list has been reduced.

However, as usual we will no doubt continue to receive applications via the group website and via the IAM.

Electric cars (EVs)

I am considering attempting to arrange a visit to a group meeting by a car manufacturer or dealer to give members the chance to gain information on, inspect, and hopefully drive EVs. I will contact manufacturers and dealers who offer a range of EVs rather than just one or two models.

Before I embark on the task of contacting suitable companies, **I would be grateful for an indication of the level of interest from members of the group.**

It may be some time before the event can take place. If you would be interested in attending this then please send me an email with the subject line EV and a simple message of YES; although additional comments or suggestions will be welcome.

Phil

Young Drivers

As from April 2024 Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service have sponsored the group to enable 15 young drivers (under 26) to benefit from a free Advanced Driving course.

By early May we had received applications for all 15 courses.

This was partly due to an advert placed on Facebook by the Media Manager (then Rod Harrison).

SHOWS WE HAVE ATTENDED SINCE APRIL

Since the last newsletter the group attended the Prescott Hill Climb on 12th May. A sunny day (I managed to become lightly sunburnt) brought a good attendance and we received interest that has resulted in a young driver signing up for the Advanced Driving course and another for a Taster Drive. We had an excellent pitch, as in previous years, close to the pedestrian bridge, just outside the club house where many visitors pass or enter for food and drink. As is usual at this event many visitors who spoke to us were from outside of Gloucestershire and were advised to contact their local IAM group.

On 6th July the group attended the Stow Motor Show. The weather was not so good as at Prescott. We were there from 10am to 4.15pm and there was probably only a total of one hour when it wasn't raining. As expected the number of visitors was down on previous years. I was interviewed over the public address system regarding the work of the group in Gloucestershire with a couple of questions on road safety at road junctions.



This Bentley Brooklands is a rare beast. There are only 50 left in this country, out of a total built of 426.



Bristol 400—what a pretty car. A friend of our Editor is currently restoring a 403.

Our next show is at South Cerney and is a three day event on **Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2-4th August**

Why is it more difficult to hold a speed using a Digital Speedometer?

As an Observer I often notice that drivers who have only a digital speedometer in their cars tend to hunt up and down through the speed that they are trying to hold.

In a previous life, I was involved in flying aircraft with a Head up display. The early versions had a digital only speed display and we found great difficulty judging the rate of change of speed as we decelerated to join formation with another aircraft. The Head Up display (HUD) updated every ½ second so the apparent rate of change remained constant. The HUD was then improved to supply an analogue representation in addition to the digital speed which cured the problem.

Your car digital display has the same issue – you can't see a needle moving so there is no rate information. It is difficult to interpret numbers changing as rate information. The digital display is also more sensitive as it increments up and down by 1 mph. An analogue display in the car is not quite so sensitive. Try to avoid chasing the numbers and if you have an analogue display too, then use that and you should find it easier to maintain that speed. *RH*

Seminar

There were twenty people in attendance at this quarter's Seminar.

Mike Addis, one of our local IAM examiners, was in sparkling form with his illustrated interactive talk on the Advanced Driving Course.

Those present were comprised of existing members, Observers, Associates and interested members of the public who turned up on the day.

Some of us attend regularly at these free Seminars held four times a year and always learn something new.

The next Seminar will be held on **Saturday 12th October at 9.30 a.m.** *Ed.*



Here are a few of the leading causes of a crash that you should be mindful of this year!

Rain

Yes we do have a lot of it these days. Heavy, wind-swept rains can significantly reduce visibility and flood out roadways in a matter of minutes. Make sure you're prepared by checking your windscreen wipers before you start driving to make sure they are functioning correctly. At first sight of raindrops, turn on your wipers and headlights. Slow down and keep a safe distance between your car and other drivers.

Children

After spending long periods cooped up inside, most children can't wait to get outside and play when good weather comes. While kicking the ball or playing with friends, many children are not always aware of their surroundings. If you're driving in a residential neighbourhood, then you should always pay attention to your surroundings. Reduce your speed significantly and keep an extra eye out for children playing, rolling balls etc., in the road.

Two wheelers

Motorcyclists and cyclists tend to hit the roads in large numbers in the summer, and this added traffic can make the roads more hazardous. It can be difficult to see them due to the reduced profile these vehicles have compared to cars. The best course of action to reduce these dangers is to minimize all distractions while driving and pay close attention at junctions, try to keep a safe distance and reduce your speed to ensure everyone's safety.

Sun Glare

A beautiful drive can quickly take a turn for the worse, thanks to the sun. Glare is a leading factor for accidents, and the hazards of sun glare are most often seen during sunrise and sunset when it is low on the horizon. Polarized sunglasses can help shield your eyes from the blinding sun glare. You can also increase safety by keeping your windshield clean, on the inside as well as the outside. Also, you could reduce the danger by changing the direction and route that you take during the springtime. Instead of east and west try going north or south if possible.

Potholes

Inclement weather can make it difficult to see potholes before you hit them. A shower can fill and disguise the hazard. If you hit a pothole, your car can suffer severe damage, which can be expensive to fix. So, keep a close eye on the road during spring and leave ample space between you and the car in front.

Of course as an Advanced Driver you will be aware of these hazards and always be in the correct position at the correct speed with your brain in the correct gear.



FUTURE EVENTS

2nd—4th August

All day

We will be exhibiting at The Gloucestershire Vintage and Country Extravaganza at South Cerney Airfield

12th August

9.30 a.m.

Introduction to Advanced Driving—4th Seminar at Churchdown

14th August

7.30 p.m.

Committee meeting at Churchdown

19th October

9.30 a.m.

Observer Development Day at Churchdown has been cancelled. New date is pending.

24th October

7.30 p.m.

'A Nomad and his Flying Machines', Rod Harrison, Churchdown



This is the first time we have exhibited here. If you can help on any or part of a day please tell our Chairman asap.

Mileage and entry expenses will be reimbursed.

Something for FREE

Highway Code

The latest version of the Highway Code is available FREE on-line at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code> Split into sections, with index and search facility.

MORE ON POTHOLES

According to the RAC, there are currently more than one million potholes in the UK.

It is estimated that, on average, there are about six potholes per mile on council-controlled roads in England and Wales. A pothole is a depression or hollow in a road surface, caused by ground water and traffic. Most of the UK's potholes form in the winter months, with water seeping into the road via small cracks which form a pothole when it freezes and forces the road surface to break up. The UK's high traffic levels also increase road wear, which means the roads are more likely to become cracked or damaged.

The RAC attended nearly 8,000 breakdowns in the first quarter of 2024 due to bad road surfaces, up 53% on the last three months of 2023, a clear sign that the UK is suffering a pothole epidemic as roads continue to crumble.

Southend, proud home of the world's longest pleasure pier, now has another, unwanted claim to fame — Britain's most potholed roads. One in four of the Essex coastal city's B and C roads, and 15 per cent of its A roads, were identified as in need of resurfacing from 2018 to date and Edinburgh is the most potholed city. *May 2024*

Is it illegal to fill a pothole in the UK?

The local authority may be able to hold you liable under the law of nuisance for any perceived damage caused in conducting that repair. For example, the local authority may incur costs to remove material from the pothole in order to repair the pothole in line with their own procedures and standards. *May 2024*

Potholes in the UK cost the economy over £14 billion a year, new research has found. *Apr 2024*

Why don't they fill potholes with concrete?

Concrete is impermeable, meaning it will create runoff around the edges which will lead to an increased level of erosion. In short, unless you replace the entire paved surface with concrete, you're going to get a higher level of erosion and degradation all around the edges of the original potholes

Why are potholes so bad now?

Poor road maintenance - Local councils deal with road maintenance in the UK, but with tight budgets in recent years, many councils have been cutting investment in road maintenance. Poor construction - Inadequate road construction using poor materials can contribute to potholes.

Gloucestershire is not in the top ten England areas with the worst roads according to recent figures produced by Motorscan. However the Council has this year invested £500,000 in a pothole-busting machine to help fix the county's roads. The 13-tonne JCB Pothole Pro can repair a pothole in eight minutes. *JCB* Have a look at this machine on Google. *Ed.*