

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



April Newsletter - 2024 (edition 107)

Up against the wire

I really have run out of time this month, so rather than skipping a month of newsletter production, which I am sure would set a dangerous precedence I'm going to go with a very short and sweet issue!

It could be a good opportunity for me to ask for members to submit any articles or thoughts they have. If they are interesting to you, then I am sure they would be interesting to our fellow members.

I shall end of a brief observation (every possible pun intended!), about what a fantastic set of passes we've had over the past few months. Everyone who has passed, or passed with a F1RST should be very proud. Both your desire to learn and improve coupled with the skills of our team of Observers help to make this possible. Congratulations all.

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames

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New Associate Members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group

We welcome the following new Associate members who have recently joined the Group. Observer allocations, where known are shown below:

Hannah Challis	-	(pending)
Sam Densem	-	Nigel Bailey
Andrew Penny	-	(pending)

IAM Test passes for the Group

Congratulations to our latest Full members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group who have passed their IAM RoadSmart test this month:

Baris Saglem	-	Nigel Bailey
Olivia Kettlewell (1st)	-	Martyn McCarthy
Chris Westwood (1st)	-	Nigel Bailey
Arthur Poulton (1st)	-	Alan Glover
Nancy Ryder	-	David Groom

Great driving and thanks to our Observer Team for helping you achieve your pass.

Forthcoming Social events

2nd May 2024

Our speaker is Jonathan Greetham who is a First Responder from SW Ambulance Service.

Time: Doors open from 1900

Location: Wimborne Town Football Club, Ainsley Road, Wimborne BH21 2FU

Drinks can be purchased from the bar from 1900, talk starts at 1930. Accessing Wimborne Town football club can be a bit of a fine art. Recommended access is to follow Lonsdale Road (from the B3073) through the new housing estate, and then turn left onto Ainsley Road, and park in the ground's carpark on the right.

As always the latest information about Group Social evenings can be found on our website at: <https://www.bdiam.org.uk/social-events/>

email groupcontact@bdiam.org.uk

web www.bdiam.org.uk

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The human cost of the pothole pandemic from the IAM Blogs

Britain's pothole pandemic is leaving drivers tearing out their hair and the state of the road network is laid bare by the publication of the AIA's annual Alarm report earlier this month. It found that less than half (47%) of local road miles were rated as being in good condition, with 36% adequate and 17% poor.

The RAC estimates that, on average, there are around six potholes per mile on council-controlled roads in England and Wales. Depending on their size and depth, potholes can cause expensive damage to vehicles and pose a danger to motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and those using e-scooters.



Research conducted by IAM RoadSmart found that more than half of drivers (56%) have swerved or braked sharply to avoid a pothole in the last 12 months, with a third (32%) even changing their route to avoid a pothole-riddled road. These actions put drivers and other road users at risk, either because of evasive swerving or because drivers are forced to use unfamiliar routes. DfT (Department for Transport) data suggests that nearly 500 collisions were caused by poor or defective surfaces, resulting in four fatalities. For those on two wheels, hitting a pothole can cause them to come off their bike and injure themselves on impact with the road, or even collide with other traffic.

While potholes can be unavoidable, here's some tips to help minimise pothole panic.

Are you alert?

One of the simplest ways to protect you and your vehicle is to stay sharp and focused when driving and watch your speed. Be extra cautious when driving at night.

Keep your distance

Try to maintain enough space between you and the vehicle in front. This will allow you to clearly see the road ahead and keep an eye out for any rough surfaces. Only where possible and safe, drive around puddles too as there could be holes hidden beneath patches of water.

Make sure your tyres are in good condition.

One effective way to reduce the risk of damage to your vehicle is to ensure your tyres are in good condition and have the correct pressure. You can find more advice about tyre safety here.

Sharp braking can make things worse

Sharp braking for a pothole not only creates risk of a collision if the vehicle behind is too close, but it can also make impact with the pothole worse. Brakes will put added energy into the wheel which can cause greater damage. You are better off braking gently prior to going over a pothole and gently coasting.

Get a grip.

Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel. When most of us are driving or riding we'll be surrounded by other vehicles. So, it's important to mention that swerving an oncoming pothole can be incredibly dangerous.

Damage

If you hit a pothole, even at a low speed, it can cause damage to your vehicle. It's important you pull over when it's safe to do so to inspect any visible damage to your wheels and tyres. Also, listen out for any new noises your vehicle may be making. If you can't see any visible damage, and you believe it's safe, continue your journey. Keep checking to make sure your steering wheel remains centred and isn't pulling to one side. Aside from punctures, potholes tend to cause most damage to suspensions and shock absorbers.

Detail it and report it

Take notes – Park somewhere safe and write down all the details of the incident including the location of the pothole and, if you can, its rough size and depth. If your car is damaged, you may be able to claim compensation. Check here to see who you need to contact. Remember, if the highways authority is unaware, then it will take longer to fix.

Give cyclists a wider berth

Drain and manhole covers are often on the left-hand side of the lane, which is where cyclists tend to position themselves. If a cyclist needs to take evasive action to avoid a pothole, it's far safer for them to have extra space.

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: "Potholes are not only a nuisance for drivers, but for those on two wheels they are a road safety hazard. Sadly, the state of our roads is becoming something of a national embarrassment. We need urgent action from the UK Government to ensure proper funding is brought forward to get our road surfaces fixed as soon as possible."

IAM RoadSmart launches first ever Young Drivers Skills Day this summer

from the IAM Blogs

The UK's leading road safety charity IAM RoadSmart is delighted to announce a partnership with Thruxton racing circuit to host a new Young Drivers Skills Day on 22nd August 2024 at the Hampshire track.



Tickets for this half-day experience are open to any young driver aged 17-30 and go on sale from today at a special price of £149. Sessions are split into a morning or afternoon gathering and attendees can get behind the wheel of a variety of vehicles, including the latest Porsche Cayman on-track or a Land Rover for some off-road experience.

This new event builds on our existing experience in delivering popular Skills Days across the country. Young drivers will learn new driving techniques with some of the country's most experienced instructors including:

- Circuit Driving (Porsche Cayman): Experiencing a 2.9ltr Porsche Cayman on one of the UK's most advanced circuits which also hosts British Touring Car Championship races.
- Skid Pan: In a safe and controlled environment, we will help you develop the skills needed to correct and control a sliding car, a situation that you may encounter on public roads. Not only is this great fun but more importantly it's a hugely worthwhile investment in your own and your passengers' safety.
- 4x4 off-road: Develop skills of patience, caution and controlled aggression as you take on the 4x4 course tackling steep inclines and declines, rocks and tricky terrain.
- Autotest: Using control, precision and speed to navigate around a course of markers in a Mazda MX5 to achieve the fastest lap time with the fewest penalties.

According to latest Department for Transport (DfT) figures, younger drivers in Great Britain experience* higher rates of injury in road collisions compared to motorists of other ages. IAM RoadSmart recognises the importance of early intervention in shaping responsible and skilled drivers. By providing practical experience in a controlled environment, this exclusive event will equip younger drivers with the tools they need to help them stay safe on our roads.

The sessions are open to full licence holders, whether you're an IAM RoadSmart member or not.

IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive Antony Kildare said: "We're hugely excited to be launching this scheme for younger drivers which will not only be immensely enjoyable, but crucially will help them develop key driving disciplines. We're proud to be working with an established partner like Thruxton to deliver this."

Thruxton Circuit Sales Manager Lorne Mitchener said: "Thruxton Circuit is not only a place associated with great days out, but it is also a place where we can help make younger drivers of today better drivers of tomorrow. We're delighted to partner on this scheme with the UK's leading road safety charity."

Tickets can be purchased here: www.iamroadsmart.net/yd-skills-day

email grouppcontact@bdiam.org.uk

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