

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



October Newsletter - 2024 (edition 113)

Out of time

I always like to push the limits of time by leaving the production of this newsletter to the last minute, but unfortunately this time the clock has finished ticking.

I can't even use the excuse of the clocks moving forward last Sunday and the loss of an hour, but I can say that was a bonus hour asleep! Hopefully a week on no-one is still fighting with that last clock/microwave/oven and wondering how annoying technology can be!

Sunday morning saw me getting up to drive up to Shillingstone to run in a race called The Stickler, which has another name 'The Three Peaks of Dorset', taking in the hills of Okeford, Hod & Hambledon (I think) with about 1640 ft of elevation over its 10-mile off road distance. This year, rather surprisingly the water meadows towards the end were dry in contrast to last year where the water was pretty much over the bridge in the middle of the field. Still, it always ticks the boxes as one of my most favourite events each year.

I'm hoping to have a bit more free time in November and December, so hopefully that will make up for this short newsletter. Currently both my work colleagues are out, so this is the best I can manage in an hour's lunch break.

However, if there are any articles or discussions you'd like to see covered, then please do let me know. Sure, you all have topics close to your hearts rather than reading about my running and cycling exploits

My next pressing last, under the guise of Membership is to contact all members from the ex-Dorset Group, and those from the ex-Bournemouth & District Group who have not yet set up their Standing Orders for ongoing group membership. These are

due on the 1st December, so there is roughly a month to get all your paperwork in order (and inform me that you've done it!).

Finally, I shall also be sending our Gift Aid forms, which allow the group to claim back ¼ of your membership fee (if you are eligible tax payer), this is at no cost to you, but helps the Group with its funding.

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames

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Growing concern over road rage – with Gen Z and Millennials the angriest drivers from the IAM Blogs

More than half (63%) of motorists aged 17-34 have sounded their horn to express anger at the behaviour of another road user in the past year, adding to concern about increasingly aggressive drivers.



Of the 2,000 people surveyed by IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest independent road safety charity, one in six (66%) said they are more concerned than last year about aggressive drivers.

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Gen Z and Millennials are the angriest age group, with 63% of those aged 17-34 admitting to sounding their horn with fury, compared to just 42% of those aged 70 and over.

More than eight in ten (81%) of those surveyed have been tailgated - which is a contributory factor in 1 in 8 collisions^[ii] - in a 30mph road in the past 12 months. Three-quarters reported being tailgated on a motorway or dual carriageway, with men more likely to fall victim than women.

Middle lane drivers are also a source of wrath, with 63% confessing to have undertaken, or seen someone undertake a lane hogger, risking points on their licence or a £100 fine. More than eight in ten (83%) strongly support the use of cameras to detect and prosecute tailgaters.

Department for Transport figures reveal that one in 10 of the 1,454 deaths on Britain's roads in 2023 were linked to aggressive behaviour.

According to the research, traffic is a hugely aggravating factor in road rage incidents, with a third (31%) admitting to beeping their horn to get the driver in front to hurry up in a jam. More than half (63%) are more concerned about traffic jams than they were 12 months ago. Department for Transport figures^[iii] show that car volumes are broadly consistent with pre-pandemic levels, however weekend vehicle use appears to be higher. This indicates that it is congestion on leisure rather than commuting journeys that is causing frustration.

The news comes as celebrity Rylan Clarke sparked debate after complaining about pedestrians who walk across zebra crossings without thanking drivers, saying he was 'stuck in traffic and annoyed'.^[iv]

Nicholas Lyes, IAM RoadSmart Policy and Standards Director, said: "Motorists are faced with more challenges than ever – traffic, potholes and roadworks to name but a few, but that's no excuse to take it out on fellow drivers. We've all got to share the road and keep in mind that aggressive tactics like tailgating someone will not to save you any time, but it will make it more likely you'll have a collision. Drivers need to be aware that sometimes there are things out of their control.

The best way to avoid stressful journeys is to plan your route before you leave and allow yourself plenty of time to reach your destination."

Source/references: <https://media.iamroadsmart.com/pressreleases/growing-concern-over-road-rage-with-gen-z-and-millennials-the-angriest-drivers-3349279>

Autumn Budget 2024 – IAM RoadSmart reaction

Fuel duty (frozen)

IAM RoadSmart Policy and Public Affairs Manager William Porter said: "We welcome the Chancellor's decision to maintain the fuel duty cut, at least for now. Motorists have endured a torrid few years of high prices at the pumps and this decision will give them a much-needed boost. We separately welcome the commitment to introduce the Fuel Finder scheme by the end of 2025, which should increase pricing transparency at the pumps."

Pothole funding (proposed £500m boost)

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: "Any additional funding to fix our crumbling and potentially unsafe roads is welcome, but with one-off repair bill of over £16bn, the amount promised by the Chancellor is a drop in the ocean of what is required. Given the risks that potholes pose to both drivers' wallets and riders' safety, we need a longer-term approach to funding so councils can prioritise resurfacing work where it is most needed."

Vehicle Excise Duty (increased on first year)

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: "Increasing vehicle excise duty on all but zero emission vehicles in the first year will hit those buying new conventional vehicles in the pocket. A better solution to incentivise the take-up of electric vehicles would have been to cut VAT on the sale of new electric vehicles with list price of £40,000 and under."

Read more here: <https://media.iamroadsmart.com/pressreleases/autumn-budget-2024-iam-roadsmart-reaction-3351879>
