

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



January Newsletter - 2025 (edition 116)

New Year same broken headlights

Thursday 2nd was my return to work after the festive break, so to get myself in the mood, I started the stay with a couple of miles walk around town. I was blessed to partly-see some early morning commuters out and about in their cars. Given the reduced traffic, as I'm guessing as staff didn't go back until the following Monday that probably 75% of the cars and van I saw on the road had a broken headlight or sidelight bulb. I'm guessing that Santa did read the drivers Christmas wish list very well, or maybe more likely the driver simply don't care.

That then makes you wonder if the driver of a vehicle can't be bothered to fix some very obvious defects, what other issues are lurking in the background? For any of us who are mechanically minded then I'm sure that we keep on top of all our car maintenance, but for those who aren't, they tend to be reliant on the combined yearly service and MOT (well once the car is old enough to require an MOT).

What happens in those first 3 years of ownership of a new vehicle? The answer is probably nothing, apart from topping up the windscreen wash solution.

If I look back at the service history of my current car, which I've had about 7 years all it has needed beyond the standard "oil change & filters" has been two water pumps (mainly due to a design fault by VAG), so it has also had 2 cambelt changes well before they were due, and it had one set of pads and disks changed all round whilst in my ownership (and some ~150,000 miles), oh and the a gearbox service every 40k.

Even once a vehicle has reached the age of requiring its first MOT, it is more than likely that the service will be carried out at the same time, thus the only time a mechanic's eyes are passed over the car is yearly. We should be asking in that frequently enough? Personally, for the non-mechanically minded I don't think it

is. The quick win could be try and make the annual service be offset by 6 months from the MOT. Arguably that shouldn't really cost the owner any more money, as they are still paying for a service and MOT. For some, splitting the cost may be financially advantageous too. What do you think?

Something else which caught my eye in the press recently was the idea of digital living licenses being introduced for those of us with smart phones. I rarely carry a wallet, as most of my cards are loaded into the virtual wallet of my phone, so this could be rather handy. More to follow in a future issue when I've had a chance to do a little more research.

It is probably time to cut this short, and apologise in advance for any typos or errors which have crept in. I'm currently sat in a hotel room down in Cornwall wondering what Storm Eowynis going to do! That does mean I am without the luxury of printing the newsletter out and giving it a proper proof read, so please forgive me if the standards have slipped a bit in this edition. Hopefully we'll be back on track for the February issue.

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames

Membership and Newsletter Editor

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers

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New Associate Members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group

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

Melanie Taylor	-	(pending)
Petyer Taylor	-	(pending)
Philip Rogers	-	(pending)

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Forthcoming Social events

January 2025

No event is scheduled

6th February 2025

Martin Stewarts of Stewarts Garden Centre will be here, so get your green fingered thinking caps on for a few challenging questions!

Note alternative venue: Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Bournemouth

BH10 7LH

Time: 1900

6th March 2025

David Lane from Wessex National Flood Rescue will be talking to the Group about the vital work they carry out.

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/>

The Science and Innovation Park – a day out

Martyn McCarthy

The day was planned in detail. A challenging and spirited cross-country drive by David Groom that would bring a smile to his face as, with panache, he exploited the power of his Jaguar XFR supercharged 5.0 Litre V8, with me sitting alongside navigating in the old dying style of dead reckoning and map reading. While the road surfaces left a lot to be desired, the early start brought an ethereal morning light as we traversed Salisbury Plain, especially so as we passed through the two rows of standing stones that track the road at Avebury, each stone rising up through drifts of wispy mist to emphasise their mystic purpose.

The day was planned around David and me being two of the first visitors to former RAF Wroughton on the

outskirts of Swindon, now the home of the Science and Innovation Park, a collection of 300,000 historic objects from the Science Museum Group Collection.



Source: Science Museum Group

In 2018, the Science Museum Group embarked on a project to create a purpose-built facility transforming the care of larger items in their collection while providing visitor access. Put another way, taking items stored out of sight in London, or in the hangers of RAF Wroughton, transferring them to a temperature and environment controlled building the size of 4 football pitches that making them accessible to the public. The culmination of that project was the opening the Science and Innovation Park to the public on 28th October 2024.

After the formalities of security and a safety induction, basically, 'Don't touch anything on display!', we were led by a tour guide into the Park's main hall. Immediately, we were visually assaulted by the immense size of the hall and the spectrum of colours of its content of cars, lorries, a tram, fire engines, a trolley bus, a train carriage and, sitting high up on racks, an apparent bumper to bumper traffic jam of various designs of invalid carriages. As the tour guide led us into and through the displays, shadowed by an overly keen security guard ensuring we didn't come close to let alone touch any of the exhibits, she picked out, and talked knowledgeably about, a number of the displayed items. We got to meet a Dalek and a Cyberman, stood side by side between a decommissioned nuclear tipped missile and, for those of a certain age like me brought up on Blue Peter, the RNLI in shore life boat that John Noakes and Shep got so very excited about one Monday evening and, while on holiday in Littlehampton in 1967, I excitedly dragged my parents along to see.

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On the racking below the invalid carriages, still on its delivery pallet, was a Rolls-Royce Griffon engine. The Griffon, last produced in 1955, was designed to power aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm, reflecting the evolution of the more famous, but similarly named after a bird of prey, Merlin.



Source: Martyn McCarthy

Away from the main hall, the tour guide led us through rows of racking that included the contents of Stephen Hawking's office, the facility being named after him, and a grubby rubber duck with pen marks on its surface. We were informed that the duck was a significant piece of scientific equipment, having been used by scientists at the European Space Agency to plan the landing of the Rosetta spacecraft on Comet P67P in 2014. The Comet, so we learned, is shaped like a rubber duck. As to those pen marks, they marked prospective landing sites on the Comet's surface!



Source: Science Museum Group

After 90 minutes, the visit ended too quickly.

RAF Wroughton covered a site of 545 acres, now containing the UK's 10th largest solar farm, there's lots of space for development by the Science Museum Group. It'll be interesting to see, over the coming years, how the Science and Innovation Park facilities evolve.

As we drove back toward Poole, I wondered aloud as to what's not on public display? What's in the hangers dotted around the decommissioned runways or elsewhere in the Science Museum's collection?

<https://www.scienceinnovationpark.org.uk/visit-us>

Martyn McCarthy
November 2024

Members Advanced Driver Refresher Course

Neville Kapoor
Chief Observer

Course Overview

The Refresher is a great opportunity for IAM RoadSmart members (past or present) to go out on three to four 60-90 minute rides with an skilled Observer. It may be quite some time since you passed your Advanced test, or you may just want the opportunity to brush up on a few advanced driving skills. All you need is a full valid licence, full membership status and your own car.

About the Session

The Member's Advanced Driver Refresher has been designed to focus on maintaining Advanced Driving skills with reference to the competencies in the Advanced Driver Logbook. Your Observer will be able to identify some areas to work on and you will be encouraged to input into the focus of each session to gain the most benefit. There's no test and there's no pressure – just enjoy the sessions!

What's included?

The first session will start with introductions and a discussion of your goals. Sessions 2 and 3 will focus on revision of IPSCG and developing skills individual

to the driver. Session 4 is an optional session to recap on learning and bring everything together. The course is likely to take a couple of months depending on how often you meet. Between your sessions, you'll have the opportunity to put into practise your learnings.

If you are interested in enjoying the prospect of being out with one of our experienced Observers, who will provide you with "Help, Advice and Guidance" to refresh your skills, then please go to the IAM RoadSmart website and look through the Course list. It is virtually at the bottom of page two. Otherwise, please follow the following link.

[https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses/members-advanced-driver-refresher-course-\(car\)](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses/members-advanced-driver-refresher-course-(car))

It would be really nice to see you.

Thanks best wishes,
Neville

Skills Days are back for 2025

Skills Days are circuit-based days where you use your own car or motorcycle to develop your skills, with qualified instructors, using the track as your classroom. You'll develop full control of your vehicle using the [IPSGA framework](#).



How to book:

Tickets for the 2025 Skills Days will be on sale from 8pm on Wednesday 29 January on the Skills Day webpage, which will take you through to purchase via the Ticket Tailor platform. All bookings must be made online via Ticket Tailor, as we are unable to process bookings by phone.

Each rider or driver must purchase their own ticket, you will not be able to purchase multiple tickets. To ensure as many people as possible have a chance to participate, each person can book one ticket per event. After 28 days, if spaces remain available, you may book an additional event.

If your preferred date is full, you can join the waiting list via our website. Please note that waiting list requests are managed via Ticket Tailor only.

Full terms and conditions and details about the Skills Days 2025 refund/ exchange policy can be found on our website.

2025 tracks and dates

We listened to your feedback and have refined our schedule for 2025 to offer a more focused selection of Skills Days for drivers and riders. We're pleased to introduce new tracks and opportunities for 2025:

Motorcycle Skills Day - Knockhill

We're thrilled to announce that in 2025 we're bringing a Motorcycle Skills Day to Scotland! This is a traditional circuit based Skills Day which will take place at Knockhill Racing Circuit, starting in the afternoon and finishing in the evening.

Car Skills Day Plus - Thruxton

Gain personalised, one-on-one instruction from IAM RoadSmart qualified instructors on Thruxton's iconic circuit, PLUS practice slippery surface control with a Thruxton Experience Instructor on the Skid Pan.

Motorcycle Machine Handling - Bicester

Taking place at Bicester Motion Experience and Demonstration Track, this event is perfect for newer or less experienced riders. It is designed to help riders improve their skillsets and safety awareness across various conditions, focusing on the rider, the machine, and their interaction with the environment.

Visit our website today to learn more and then secure your spot on Wednesday 29 January.

Visit the [Website](#) for more details and to book.



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