

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers



June Newsletter - 2026 (edition 132)

Should I talk about the weather?

We've had a couple of weeks of glorious sunshine, but this morning I was going to nip out for a quick walk around the block before work, but the heavens decided that a light sprinkling of rain would be better!

Last weekend I took the opportunity to go camping in Woolacombe. Whilst Woolacombe may be known as a surfer's paradise; those who know me, will know that activities involving the sea rarely feature in my life! I did, however, fit in a run (avoiding the marathon which was taking place on the Sunday morning), but I did venture into the sea coupled with my first attempt at body-boarding. This appears to be a skill which isn't natural to me, but the surrounding all it fun and I even managed to leave with a bit of a tan.

As per normal in the heat there were some disruptions to rail services, along with hundreds of flights being cancelled at Heathrow and Gatwick after hot conditions caused major thunderstorms in southern England. Certainly, I have seen some videos online of high streets turning into rivers in Glastonbury. Although I think for those of us on the south coast, we seem to have avoided most of the wet stuff, apart from the edge of a brief storm as it passed by (probably heading up north!). I can recall being out on my bike a good number of years ago on one particularly warm day and when I stopped, the metal cleats on my shoes started to sink into the particularly warm tarmac!

I've rambled on enough, so let's just hope the warm weather is here to stay for a bit longer – and that we make sure we are equipped for car journeys with the summer in mind! It is always worth packing that ex-



We opted to drive down on Friday afternoon, leaving Weymouth around 1630, arriving at the campsite about 2 ¾ hours later. The chosen route was to take the coast road to Bridport, over to Honiton, briefly into the M5 near to Collumpton and then over to Woolacombe. We had a few later arrivals, who seemed to have been cursed by the Google sat-nav gods and were sent on an extended detour of the country lanes after the M5! However, in the spirit of camping, we all clubbed together on his arrival and quickly got his tent set up!

tra bottle (of water) and ensuring your windows are clean when driving into the low evening sun.

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames

Membership and Newsletter Editor

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New Associate Members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group

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

Ethan Windsor	(pending)
Greg Mendelsohn	(pending)
Jennie Chapstick	(pending)
Ray Lovell	(pending)
Simon Craddock	(pending)

IAM Test passes for the Group

Congratulations to our latest Full members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group who have recently passed their IAM RoadSmart test (observer is listed beside them if known at publication):

Michael Burrage (F1RST)	Chris Smith & Wendy Hawkes
Noah Glasse	Alex Money

Great driving and thanks to our Observer Team for helping you achieve your pass and becoming a new member of the IAM RoadSmart family. We hope that all Associates who have become Full Members renew membership, both with the national Institute and with the local Group (we offer a free membership to the local group for ~1 year after passing your test).

Forthcoming Social events

2nd July 2026

Road Casualty Reduction Officer, Jason Green will be discussing everything from Road Safety to Road Traffic Collision with the Group.

Time: 1900

August 2026

No social is planned for August

3rd September 2026

(tbc)

1st October 2026

(tbc)

5th November 2026 (provisional)

David Sidwick, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset will be talking to the group finishing off with a Question and Answer session.

Time: 1900

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/>

IAM RoadSmart 70th Anniversary

As we approach IAM RoadSmart's 70th anniversary, we're putting together a special section on our website to celebrate the people, achievements, and memories that have shaped our organisation over the years.



We'd love to hear from your group. If you have any stories, memorable moments, historical highlights, or photos that reflect your group's journey or impact within your local community, please consider sharing them with us.

This could include:

- Notable events or milestones
- Longstanding or inspiring members.
- Success stories from associates
- Changes or developments within your group over the years
- Photographs (past or present) that capture your group in action

Thank you in advance for helping us celebrate this important milestone - articles can be published in this newsletter and also forwarded to IAM HQ for national use.

email groupcontact@bdiam.org.uk

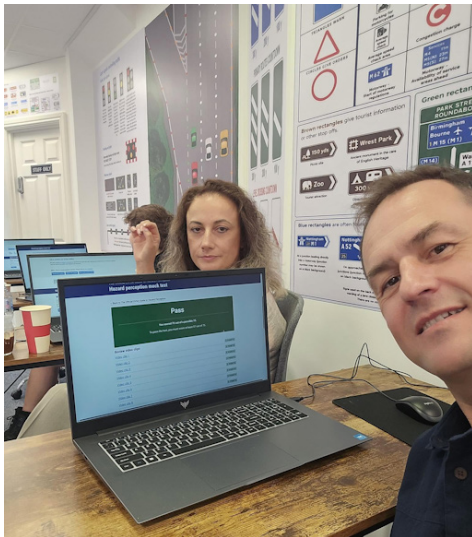
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Brushing up on our skills...

Advanced Driving isn't just about passing a test, there is always the opportunity to brush up on your skills, as nine of our members at were kindly hosted by VLD Driving School in Poole where Observers and Members gathered for a learning opportunity to increase their understanding of the Highway Code - theory and hazard perception.



The key message: Passing your driving test is just the beginning. Build your experience on the road, consider completing Pass Plus, and then take the next step with IAM RoadSmart to continue developing your skills and confidence.

Safer driving is something we can all share.

<https://www.bdiam.org.uk/join/>

Looking for a Dorchester meeting venue

Do you know of a venue where the Group could meet in the Dorchester area? Previously we've used the Sandringham Bowls club (on the east side of Dorchester). We're ideally looking for a venue with sufficient parking, internal capacity for around 30+ members. Bonus points if the venue has presentation facilities (either projector & screen or a large TV), and even more bonus points for an audio/PA system. Finally, coffee/tea/bar facilities would seal the deal.

Just let a member of the committee know if you are aware of a suitably priced venue which meets most (or all) of the requirements above.

Congestion and sat-navs diverting drivers onto higher-risk roads

from the IAM Newsroom

- New research shows more than half of drivers (54%) have diverted away from a motorway or main A road because of congestion over the last year
- UK Government data suggests the number of vehicles on the road has increased by 13% in just ten years

Millions of motorists are being diverted onto higher-risk rural roads as congestion, sat-nav rerouting and road closures reshape everyday journeys, new research shows.

Data published ⁽¹⁾ by road safety charity IAM RoadSmart shows that over the past 12 months, more than half (54%) of motorists have been forced to detour onto a rural road because of congestion on motorways, dual carriageways and other main A roads.



Four in ten (42%) of drivers have experienced a mid-journey change from their sat-navs which ended up rerouting them away from the main network onto country lanes while nearly two-thirds (60%) were forced to do the same thing because of a road closure.

Department for Transport data shows a significant increase in the number of vehicles on our roads in the last decade. By the end of 2015, there were 37,344,511 licenced vehicles in the UK, however by the end of 2025, this had increased by 13% to a near record 42,283,514 vehicles ⁽²⁾.

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Over the same period, average delays per vehicle on the strategic road network have increased from 8.6 seconds for the year ending 2015 to 11.2 seconds by September 2025 ⁽³⁾. Total vehicle miles reached almost 338 billion for the year ending September 2025, almost on par with the December 2019 peak prior to the COVID pandemic ⁽⁴⁾.



Despite carrying 45% of traffic, six in ten (60%) of all road fatalities occur on a rural road ⁽⁵⁾. Traffic shifting to rural roads may encounter additional hazards including tractors, wildlife, narrow lanes, restricted views from roadside foliage, as well as a lack of safe infrastructure such as pavements and cycle lanes meaning vulnerable road users are exposed to greater traffic danger. Many of these roads will have national speed limit status which means inappropriate speeds for road conditions are more common, often putting motorcyclists at danger from other traffic travelling too fast or being poorly positioned. Almost three quarters (72%) of IAM RoadSmart motorcycle members report that in the last 12 months alone, they had encountered an oncoming vehicle in the middle of the road as they entered a bend.

While the UK Government has committed to no new smart motorways following concerns about their safety ⁽⁶⁾, there is a risk that without new infrastructure and additional capacity on the motorway and wider strategic network that increasing gridlock will push more people onto unfamiliar rural routes with the additional hazards associated with those roads.

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and External Communications Nicholas Lyes said:

“Every year, more people are killed on a rural road than any other road type yet worryingly we’re

seeing a high number of people taking unplanned diversions to use them.

“Congestion is inevitable, but we would encourage people to question if a diversion onto an unclassified or single-track route is worth saving a few minutes considering the increased hazards they might face. Often, other people following sat-navs will similarly divert and you end up with traffic volumes that exceed what the road is designed for and may ultimately not save time the diverted driver expects.

“Traffic growth shows little sign of abating, yet without a commitment to increase capacity on the wider strategic network, we may see more traffic filtering onto the rural road network, with potentially grave consequences.”

⁽¹⁾ IAM RoadSmart Opinion Panel. Researchers Online95 surveyed 1,042 UK motorists in February 2026 and 114 IAM RoadSmart motorcycle members

⁽²⁾ VEH0101 Vehicles at the end of the quarter by licence status and body type: Great Britain and United Kingdom <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-tables>

⁽³⁾ Table CGN0405a - Average delay overall on the Strategic Road Network in England: Monthly and Year ending from April 2015

⁽⁴⁾ Sept 2025 – Quarterly traffic estimates TRA25 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-traffic-statistics>

⁽⁵⁾ Chart 10: Reported road casualties by severity and traffic proportion for different road types in Great Britain, 2024 RAS0302 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2024/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2024#casualties-by-road-type>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/plans-for-new-smart-motorways-cancelled> - no change in policy since change of Government in 2024