

I washed the car and then it rained

I think we all knew it was due to happen – the extended dry and warm spell, otherwise known as Summer has come to an end. Or at least it has for me, as I sit in Cheltenham for the week. I've had to carefully time my longer runs, and walks to the shops to avoid getting soaked.

This afternoon having finished work at midday I thought I'd risk it and wash the car. While I was able to do that quite successfully (with my preferred method a bucket and sponge – no hosepipe use for me!). I'd even got as far as a chamois rubdown, and had moved onto dusting the interior (as it had been camping the week previously in the Yorkshire Dales) before the clouds had decided I had spent enough time on the car. I've moved onto the next best thing, writing this month's newsletter (only kidding!), and thinking about what to base my editorial on.

Earlier this week I was walking through a supermarket carpark and had cause to use the handy pedestrian crossing in the form of a Zebra Crossing. I approached looking both ways to ensure I wasn't about to walk into a car and then decided it should be safe to cross. As I moved to place my first foot on the crossing an elderly lady, obviously desperate to get her frozen shopping home decided that stopping wasn't necessary. That got me thinking do motorists have to follow the normal rules of the road when they are on private property (such as a supermarket carpark).

As a pedestrian, with a marked Zebra Crossing on the ground you would think so, as why else would it be there? Consulting with the internet, so it must be true; I'm told: pedestrian crossings on private land are completely legal, but they do not have the same statutory enforcement as crossings on public highways. My take away from this, is don't trust a car to stop – pretty much as when you are on the public highway

too - better safe than embedded in a bonnet!

In my case, as the driver went past, I shrugged and raised my arms as if to say "don't worry about me, no need to let me cross". Needless to say, she certainly saw that based on her reaction. Thankfully I made it safely across and she didn't run me over after I'd completed my shopping mission! I do feel that in many ways we have sixth sense for these things and can tell if a driver is likely to stop, or exit at a roundabout even if they aren't indicating – not that we as advanced drivers would ever commit such a crime.

Stay safe & happy motoring,

Matt Ames

Membership and Newsletter Editor

Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers

membership@bdiam.org.uk

Gift Aid and how it can help support us

Did you know that the Bournemouth and District group has 204 members, but 170 of you haven't informed us if we can claim gift aid on your membership fees. Gift Aid is a UK government scheme allowing charities to reclaim basic rate tax (20%) on donations, boosting the gift by 25% (ie. your £10 donation becomes £12.50) at no extra cost to the member.

Group members must be UK taxpayers who have paid sufficient income or capital gains tax to cover the claim, and must provide a signed declaration.

We can use this money to help support the group in our key role within Dorset and the surrounding area – promoting road safety and helping to make the roads safer for all which use them.

August Newsletter - 2026 (edition 134)

If you have recently received an email from me asking you to either complete a Gift Aid form, or let me know that you are not a UK Tax payer then I would greatly appreciate a response. Once our records are updated you'll hear no more from me on this topic!

I believe that IAM HQ may have also been sending out reminders - Gift Aid forms can't be shared between charities, we each need our own signed copy.

Matt Ames

*Membership and Newsletter Editor
Bournemouth & Dorset Advanced Drivers
membership@bdiam.org.uk*

Forthcoming Social events

3rd September 2026

(tbc)

3rd September 2026

Darren Money from St John's Ambulance will be covering basic first aid skills. This is a chance to build up confidence, should your medical skills be required when out and about.

Time: 1900

1st October 2026

(tbc)

5th November 2026

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

Time: 1900

3rd December 2026

Christmas social meeting, with festive bites and a Quiz
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/>

New Associate Members of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group

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

Richard Cartwright (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):

Felix Carmichael	Peta Steadman-Bee
Lynne Hazelwood	Wendy Hawkes
Nima Cooper (F1RST)	Martyn McCarthy
Valentin Gavril	Alex Money
Vasile Crislin	John Graves

Great driving and thanks to our Observer Team for helping you achieve your pass and becoming a new member of the IAM RoadSmart family.

Charity provides free coaching for young drivers and riders

from the IAM Newsroom

- IAM RoadSmart-funded training programme young drivers and riders free expert coaching
- Latest figures show young drivers remain among the highest-risk groups on Britain's roads with 1 in 5 road collisions involving drivers under 25s

Young drivers and motorcycle riders have benefited from fully funded driving and riding training thanks to funds raised by IAM RoadSmart members and supporters.

The participants, aged 17 to 26, attended the fully funded 'Skills for the Road' days at Thruxton Circuit last week (5 & 6 August), where they received expert tuition designed to build confidence, improve vehicle control and encourage safer driving and riding behaviours. Additionally, riders were given valuable life-saving skills through event partners DocBike.

web www.bdiam.org.uk

facebook www.facebook.com/BournemouthDorsetAdvancedDrivers

email groupcontact@bdiam.org.uk

disclaimer The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Bournemouth & Dorset Group of Advanced Motorists. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles submitted for publication.

The initiative comes as young motorists continue to face a disproportionately high risk of being involved in a collision on Britain's roads. Department for Transport figures show that young drivers are involved in around one in five serious or fatal car collisions while one in ten motorcycle collisions involve an inexperienced driver; Young male drivers aged 17 to 24 are also four times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than drivers aged 25 and over*.

For young riders, the figures are equally as stark, with more than 1,700 riders under 25 years of age being killed or seriously injured in 2025.

IAM RoadSmart raised over £25,000 through its Big Give Christmas Challenge, enabling the charity to deliver dedicated Skills for the Road sessions aimed at helping both young drivers and riders to gain valuable experience and awareness through high-quality coaching and practical training.



Participants took part in a range of practical sessions covering vehicle handling, hazard awareness, road positioning, observation skills and vehicle maintenance. The training enabled them to safely explore the capabilities of their vehicles/motorbikes in a controlled environment while learning the techniques. IAM RoadSmart and DocBike were also joined at the event by Mental Health Motorbike.

IAM RoadSmart Road Safety Manager, Shaun Cronin, said: "Ultimately, we want to make our roads safer for everyone, and our young driver and rider days are a big part of that. Young drivers & riders remain among the most vulnerable road users due to their lack of experience which is why opportunities like this matter.

"Developing confidence, awareness and good decision-making skills early in a driver's or rider's life can

have a lasting impact. These sessions are about empowering the next generation to stay safe on the road, while making driving and riding more enjoyable. We hope to expand this programme in the future so that even more young people can benefit from this type of training."

Attendees praised the programme for providing valuable real-world learning in a safe environment.

Sally Williams from Liverpool, who attended the IAM RoadSmart motorcycle day, said: "I've been a rider for three to four years. Today has allowed me to focus on my technique in a safe environment. It's brilliant that these days are funded and accessible to someone like me as I just wouldn't have had the spare money otherwise. It's been so valuable especially as I have seen the impact of what happens when people don't have the skill set first hand. I don't want to become a statistic."

Connor MacKenzie from Hertfordshire, who attended the IAM RoadSmart Car Skills Day, said: "I've been driving for a year and a half and I thought it would be a good opportunity to grow my confidence as a driver and learn some new skills. I have learnt the importance of stability through corners and how road conditions can affect the handling of a car."

IAM RoadSmart believes improving access to post-test training is a vital part of reducing casualties among young road users and is calling for greater investment in initiatives that help new drivers and riders gain knowledge and experience safely.

The charity hopes to build on the success of the Skills for the Road sessions and deliver more opportunities in the future, ensuring that young motorists have access to the guidance, mentoring and practical experience needed to stay safe for life. Plans are already under way for the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2026, with the aim of raising enough funds to provide even more young people with access to advanced rider and driver training opportunities.

For more information about IAM RoadSmart and its young driver initiatives, visit www.iamroadsmart.com.