

**Royal Crescent, Bath**



# **Advance**

**Newsletter of  
Bath and District Advanced Motorists**

**“Making Bath and District a safer place to drive”**

**[www.badam.org](http://www.badam.org)**

**Registered Charity No 1050592**

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<b>External e-mail enquiries about BADAM</b>		<a href="mailto:enquiries@badam.org">enquiries@badam.org</a>	<small>[Please pass this on to potential new members to join BADAM.]</small>
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<b>Web Co-ordinator – Julian Adams, email: <a href="mailto:webupdate@badam.org">webupdate@badam.org</a></b>			
<i>[Raffle Tickets are available at Group indoor meetings from Thomas Flynn]</i>			

# Bath and District Group of Advanced Motorists

(Registered Charity No. 1050592)

MAY—JULY 2016

**Advance**

Issue 163

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## **BATH FESTIVAL OF MOTORING**

We shall again be attending the Bath Festival of Motoring to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 18th and 19th June, at the Walcot Rugby Club (directly opposite the Lansdown *Park & Ride* terminus at the top of Bath's Lansdown Hill).

The Festival was formerly the Bath Pageant of Motoring and according to their website will be: 'featuring an eclectic display of classic and vintage cars and motorcycles, the event will be a fun-filled weekend for all the family'. Please come and join us at this event and if you would like to volunteer to help man our gazebo, please let Ruth Reeve (tel: 01761 420643; email: ruth.reeve@yahoo.co.uk) or any committee member know as soon as possible. One of our Observers will be undertaking free demonstration drives around a pre-determined course so please encourage your friends to come and see an example of advanced driving.

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest edition of *Advance*. The main part of this issue is the report of the AGM which was very well attended with nearly fifty people present, a record attendance which the speaker, Tom Docherty, Regional Operations Manager for the Southern Region of the IAM, described as 'fantastic'. He gave an informative talk about the rebranding of the IAM to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. See page 7 onwards for details of what Tom had to say.

Details of elections to the committee are on page 6 and the committee's details are on page 2. You will notice that there are still two vacancies on the committee, for a Newsletter Editor and a Committee Member, but in fact we also have two other vacancies, which have been unfilled for a very long time. In the past we have had an Events Co-ordinator and a Publicity Manager. The work of both these positions is currently being undertaken by the committee as a whole but we would very much welcome people coming forward to fill any of these positions. If

you feel you could help the group in this way, please speak to any member of the committee.

Your Temporary Newsletter Editors would like to thank all those who have supported them by submitting articles for inclusion in *Advance*, and our invaluable proofreaders, Callum MacLeod, Helen Schofield and Ray Robbetts. In this issue we have a new article from Susan Date which is particularly topical in view of the recent news that North Somerset Council are finally, after nearly ten years, hoping to gain the civil powers to enforce no parking on double yellow lines. Currently it is up to the police to enforce the rules and they have other priorities but as from later on this year parking on double yellow lines in North Somerset will incur the usual penalties – visitors to Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon, among other places, be warned!

*Clare Hogg*

*Sue Phillips*

**The next edition of *Advance* will be published in August 2016. Please submit motoring-related articles and / or digital photographs to the Temporary Editors (*who reserve the right to edit them*) by Friday 1st July at the latest. Names of authors and their home addresses should be disclosed to the Temporary Editors who will withhold them from publication on request.**

**Bath and District Group of Advanced Motorists**  
**Minutes of 31st Annual General Meeting**  
**19.30 – Tuesday 8th March 2016**  
**Held at Wessex Water, Claverton Down, Bath.**

The Chairman, Dave Gosling(DG), opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, especially the representatives from Weston and Mendip and Taunton Groups, and two special guests, Tom Docherty, Regional Operations Manager(Southern Region) (TD) and Irene Stewart, B&NES Road Safety Officer(IS).

**1). Present:-** 8 Committee Members, 25 other Full Group Members, 4 Associate Members, 2 representatives from Weston & Mendip and Taunton Groups, 1 IAM visitor and 6 guests.

**2). Apologies for Absence:-** David Sibley, Robin Harris, Callum MacLeod, Ruth Reeve, Chris Parker, Rita Tappenden, Bristol Group.

**3). Minutes of 30th AGM – Tuesday 10th March 2015:-** There were no matters arising and the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4). Reports**

**a) Chairman – Dave Gosling**

2015/2016 has yet again been a wonderful year for the Group. Not only did we manage to get the new Web Page up and running with a new design layout but we have also been able to keep abreast with development and updates which was very useful – it was interesting to see how many hits our web page had got at any time.

This brings me on to our proposals

for this coming year: we must put very considerable effort into attracting more young people to our organisation. To this end, we will be doing a publicity drive in the next few weeks, with some of our Observers volunteering to do limited free drive checks at car parks within the Bath and District area. We have started to design posters aimed at 17-25 year olds and hope to display them in Colleges, Youth Centres and B&NES buildings very soon.

I have been very impressed with the way your present Committee have taken up the challenges put before them in the past twelve months and they have all worked hard to make the Group proud of their efforts. Not only have we kept our numbers up, but there has also been a slight increase in the number of members attending group meetings.

Our finances continue to be in good order thanks to our Treasurer, Clare Hogg.

Our Chief Observer, Clive Merchant (CM), has worked very hard this year, in spite of health problems and moving house.

I should like to thank him and Don Escott, our Vice Chairman, for their hard work during my illness.

I should also like to thank Andy Poulton for his input into the Group over the last twelve months.

## **b) Treasurer's Report – Clare Hogg**

As you will see from the Income and Expenditure side of the Accounts sheet the income and expenditure for the year were very closely balanced, as they were last year. The main increase in expense compared to the previous year is in the Observer Training item and this reflects the work Clive Merchant has put into Observer training and also the new polo shirts which Observers have been given.

Once again, Ken Fryer, our former Treasurer, audited the accounts and I am very grateful to him for this.

Acceptance of the Reports was proposed by Clive Merchant, seconded by Don Escott and approved unanimously by those present and voting.

## **5). Election of Officers for 2016/7 (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer).**

The election of the Officers was conducted by Helen Schofield(HS).

HS noted that BADAM is thriving, thanks to the Committee. Fortunately the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are prepared to stand again, but we do need other positions filled, for example, Newsletter Editor, as well as general Committee members. She asked members to think carefully and let the Officers know if they would be willing to fill a post.

As the Officers were not being challenged, she proposed to do the voting en bloc.

**Chairman** – Dave Gosling (DG), proposed by Robin Harris, seconded by Ian Lassman.

**Secretary** – Ray Robbetts, proposed by Ralph Nunn, seconded by Roger Smith.

**Treasurer** – Clare Hogg, proposed by Ian Lassman, seconded by Sheila Theaker.

There were no other nominations for the posts and they were elected unanimously by those present and voting.

## **6). Election of other Committee members:-**

DG conducted the election of other Committee members.

Don Escott, Vice Chairman,  
Clive Merchant, Chief Observer,  
Sue Phillips, Minutes Secretary,  
Julian Adams, Web Co-ordinator,

The members were elected unanimously by those present and voting.

## **7). Any Other Business:-**

CM noted the increasing numbers in the Group, and more Associates, and said more Observers are needed. He asked that any volunteers should contact him.

## **8). Presentation of trophies and certificates:**

DG asked TD to present the awards.

**a) Vivian Robert Batstone Cup** – (a special award made to a member in recognition of support for the Committee over the year) awarded to Julian Adams for his hard work transforming the web pages.

**b) Group Special Award** – (for a member who has assisted the Committee) awarded to Clive Merchant for taking on the Chief Observer role.

**c) Observer of the Year** – awarded to Pat Hemmens.

**d) Trainee Observer of the Year** – awarded to Thomas Flynn.

**e) Chairman's Cup** – awarded by

the Chairman to David Sibley for all his hard work on behalf of the Group as Associates Coordinator.

**IAM Certificates**, presented by TD

- 1) Roger Smith – Observer, Clive Merchant
- 2) Lee Robert Golledge – Observer, Ian Lassman
- 3) Charles Thomas-Cronin – Observer, Frank Gould,
- 4) Vincent Ramond – Observer, Clive Merchant

**Special Presentation:**

HS noted how successful our Group can be and said BADAM is privileged to be receiving sponsorship from B&NES Road Safety Team, led by Irene Stewart who has now decided to take the challenge.



President Helen Schofield is on hand to see Tom Docherty present Irene Stewart with her Skill for Life package

**9). Certificate of Appreciation**

Andy Poulton presented a Certificate of Appreciation from BADAM to Alistair Andrews. This is in recognition of all his hard work, expertise and dedication in training BADAM's Local Observers, National Observers and Masters to Test Pass Standard.

**10).** Refreshments were then taken.

**11). Guest Speaker: Tom Docherty.**

DG welcomed Tom Docherty to talk about Roadsmart.



BADAM President, Helen Schofield, speaking during the AGM

TD's introductory remarks stressed the importance of BADAM's Committee. He said that without a Committee, BADAM would not be able to function. The last group to which he had spoken had had to fold as there were no volunteers to stand on the Committee. He thanked BADAM's Committee for their hard work and also thanked the Observers.

He remarked that the attendance at the AGM was fantastic!

The main focus of the talk was to introduce IAM's rebranding, to explain why it was necessary, how it had been achieved and why the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAM was the catalyst for change. Under the new CEO, there was a new momentum and energy within the IAM and a need for change.

The problem is an ageing membership, increasing irrelevance to younger drivers and too many brands.

The solution is the rebranding of the

IAM to IAM Roadsmart – one IAM brand, a change of colour from ‘aggressive’ red to a ‘more friendly’ blue, a new tone of voice, new images and a drive to ensure younger drivers are engaged and the customer experience is consistent and reliable. TD showed a number of slides to illustrate his talk, showing examples of the new website, the new course



IAM Regional Operations Manager, Tom Docherty, during his talk

logbooks, and new modular online courses to complement on the road and classroom courses.

He explained that a number of focus groups, such as *mumsnet*, and other potential customers had been asked for their views, and found that people wanted more online, remote and virtual training.

Skill for Life will be relaunched as Advanced Driver/Rider and there will be a new focus on customer requirements and experience.

New membership categories will also be introduced:

Fellow Membership – retest after three

years from passing test.

The annual membership will be £38 including retest.

Active Volunteer – Elevated and Recognised status, benefits to be defined.

The planned start up date is April 2016.

Driving and Riding Standards roll out has begun and there will be a Group Handbook update to include IAM Standards information.

The plastic Membership card will be withdrawn and Active Volunteers and Full Members will be given paper cards instead to reflect a new greener image.

After commending the changes to members, TD continued by talking about the activities planned for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IAM, including events at Birmingham for bikes and at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon for cars.

He concluded by saying it’s time for a bright new future.

DG sincerely thanked Tom Docherty for his interesting presentation and gave him a token of appreciation from the Group.

## **12). Final Comments:**

AP said that research showed that B&NES was one of the safest areas to live and drive – thanks in no small part to BADAM.

DG thanked the President, HS, and gave her a token of appreciation.

The Raffle draw then took place.

DG concluded the evening by saying it had been an eventful evening, and thanked everyone for attending.

**DG closed the meeting at 21.05.**

## THE AGM AWARD CEREMONIES



The Vivian Robert Batstone Cup is presented to Julian Adams by Tom Docherty

Tom Docherty presents Clive Merchant with the Group Special Award



Tom Docherty presents Thomas Flynn with the Trainee Observer of the Year Trophy

Pat Hemmens is presented with the Observer of the Year Cup by Tom Docherty



**BATH & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

<b>Statement as at:</b>	<b>31/12/2015</b>	<b>31/12/2014</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Full Membership Fees	<b>1,426.00</b>	1,473.00
Gift aid	<b>356.65</b>	324.23
Associate Membership Fees	<b>744.00</b>	651.00
Door takings	<b>177.23</b>	179.27
Canteen takings	<b>49.73</b>	44.80
Raffle Profit	<b>267.08</b>	231.06
DVD library	<b>8.00</b>	19.00
Clothing	<b>56.00</b>	0.00
Crashmates	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Sundry income	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Donations	<b>61.66</b>	0.00
Interest Received	<b>2.23</b>	2.39
Total:	<b><u>3,148.58</u></b>	<b><u>2,924.75</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Newsletter expenses	<b>1,099.47</b>	1002.94
Stationery	<b>209.45</b>	589.91
Telephone	<b>235.99</b>	232.85
Advertising & Promotions	<b>348.01</b>	324.14
Room Hire & Speaker Expenses	<b>384.30</b>	311.94
Canteen	<b>53.29</b>	43.63
Group Insurance	<b>90.00</b>	90.00
Observer Training & Manual production	<b>207.35</b>	28.10
Conferences	<b>178.80</b>	169.60
DVD Library	<b>58.42</b>	0.00
Clothing	<b>56.00</b>	0.00
Crashmates	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Quiz prizes	<b>11.00</b>	12.76
Website	<b>36.00</b>	45.52
AGM expenses	<b>99.00</b>	50.89
Sundries	<b>79.64</b>	21.78
Total:	<b><u>3,146.72</u></b>	<b><u>2,924.06</u></b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b><u>1.86</u></b>	<b><u>0.69</u></b>
Brought Forward	<b>3,996.20</b>	3,995.51
Carried Forward	<b><u>3,998.06</u></b>	<b><u>3,996.20</u></b>

**BATH & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Cost brought forward	0.00	0.00
brought forward – written off	0.00	0.00
disposals	0.00	0.00
additions	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Depreciation brought forward	0.00	0.00
brought forward – written off	0.00	0.00
charge for year	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Book Value	0.00	0.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bank Account – deposit	3,904.99	4,502.76
Bank Account – current	298.07	245.84
Cash	0.00	0.00
	<u>4,203.06</u>	<u>4,748.60</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accruals	15.00	15.00
Creditors (insurance not paid)	90.00	90.00
Debtors (conference expenses not refunded)	0.00	-52.60
BANES sponsorship money	100.00	700.00
	<u>205.00</u>	<u>752.40</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>205.00</u>	<u>752.40</u>
<b>NET WORKING CAPITAL</b>	<b>3,998.06</b>	3,996.20
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,998.06</b>	3,996.20
<b>UNRESTRICTED GENERAL RESERVES:</b>	<u><b>3,998.06</b></u>	<u><b>3,996.20</b></u>

The accounts were approved by the committee on 26th January 2016

Dave Gosling (Chairman)

Clare Hogg (Treasurer)

The accounts were independently examined on 26th January 2016 by

Ken Fryer (Chartered Accountant)

## MORE PRESENTATIONS FOR THE AGM

Roger Smith is presented with his test certificate by Tom Docherty, accompanied by his Observer, Clive Merchant



Tom Docherty presents Lee Golledge with his test certificate in the presence of his Observer, Ian Lassman

Tom Docherty presents Charles Thomas-Cronin with his test certificate



Vincent Ramond is presented with his test certificate by Tom Docherty with his Observer, Clive Merchant, looking on

Andy Poulton presents Alistair Andrews with a Certificate of Appreciation for his hard work supporting Observer training



## BADAM STATISTICS FOR 2015-16

The group presently has 171 members, with one or two members still to renew, so we are maintaining our membership.

19 new Associates have been welcomed since the last AGM, a decrease of five over the previous year. There were three lapsed memberships by Associates who did not wish to continue the course – two fewer than last year.

There were 14 successful Test passes (two more than last year) and only one failure who subsequently passed on re-test.

Our Observers have been working very

hard over the year and there has been a steady conversion of the former Group and Senior Observers to the new IMI Local and National Observer status. We currently have: 14 Observers in total and one trainee Observer. More details of our Observers are given in the Chief Observer's Notepad on page 16 (where the figures have been updated since the AGM).

The Newsletter, *Advance*, has continued to be produced quarterly with issues containing from 16 to 24 pages depending on the material for inclusion.

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## GROUP NEWS

**At our January meeting Clive Merchant** introduced the Associates Lecture on IPSSGA by asking for audience participation and, using the information given by the Associates in the audience, he said that IPSSGA is a driving technique and explained the meaning of the initials.

He also introduced another acronym to help: TUG.

T for Taking in information; U for Using information; G for Giving information.

He suggested that when driving in town, windows should be down so that information can be gleaned from using ears as well as eyes and sense of touch.

He stressed the importance of the driver's door mirror, which is a legal requirement in addition to the interior mirror. Using the door mirror is particularly important when turning to

the right.

Andy Poulton had brought along booklets on various subjects for use in home based learning and said people could email him if they wanted a copy.

He spoke about a document called Common Confusions for Observers and Associates and warned against trying to justify mistakes!

He also had handouts from his November talk on Preparing the car for Winter and Winter Driving.

In his own inimitable way he told the meeting about recently released figures of casualty rates in the UK. The highest casualty rates are those recorded in the rural areas of Banff and Buchan in Scotland, but the lowest figures are recorded in Bath and North Somerset.

Pat Hemmens then introduced the Hazard Awareness DVD. This has

been used before but is good practice for Associates and Members. The DVD has various clips of town and rural driving and awards marks for spotting hazards. There was some initial reluctance for people to step up and spot the hazards but a number of Observers showed the way and scored well.

It was interesting that some people spotted the hazards too early and thus didn't score!

The video gave rise to interesting discussions about the hazards and it was an entertaining session.

**Clive Merchant, our Chief Observer, led the February meeting** on the subject of 'limit points'. He made good use of Chris Gilbert's second Ultimate Driving Craft DVD which has a very good section on limit points with videos showing clearly how the limit point moves as you approach, move into and leave a bend in the road. Clive started by using illustrations to show the method of using limit points to negotiate bends which is based on the principle that you should always be able to stop on your own side of the road within the distance you can see to be clear.

Showing clips from Chris's DVD Clive first showed a video of an airbag deploying and the importance of

holding the steering wheel correctly; if your hands are crossed on the wheel, you can suffer serious injury if an airbag is deployed. The audience was considerably startled by the dramatic conclusion to this clip in spite of being warned that they would hear a sudden noise.

The video clips from the DVD illustrate very well the method of using IPSCA to approach a bend – slowing to determine the speed at which to negotiate the bend as the limit point moves closer, selecting the correct gear, driving through the bend at a constant speed and then accelerating as the limit point moves away. This is much easier to understand from seeing the procedure in the clips than it is to describe and this DVD is well worth watching. We are not allowed to rent out the DVD but Chris does allow us to show it at our meetings. Please ask if you want any advice on how to get hold of it. Remember, too, that you should apply the limit point technique to junctions as well as bends, and that a humped back bridge, or the brow of a hill, is a 'vertical' bend.

Andy Poulton then led a very useful discussion with good audience participation.

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## FEBRUARY AWARD CEREMONY



Peter Huntington is seen receiving his test certificate from Vice Chairman, Don Escott, in the presence of his Observer, Pat Hemmens. Peter was a B&NES sponsored candidate.

## *We Welcome New Associates*

<b>Amanda Alexander</b>	[Observer: Terry O’Sullivan]
<b>Natalya Bull</b>	[Observer: Val Czerny]
<b>Richard Dzien</b>	[Observer: David Moreman]
<b>Roderick Flower</b>	[Observer: Pat Hemmens]
<b>Leilana Lea</b>	[Observer: Giselle le Fort]
<b>Adam Nash</b>	[Observer: Robin Harris]
<b>Patrick Patterson</b>	[Observer: Pat Hemmens]
<b>David Rudge</b>	[Observer: Pat Hemmens]
<b>Irene Stewart</b>	[Observer: Alistair Andrews]

## **We Also Congratulate**

### *IAM Test Pass*

<b>Lee Robert Golledge</b>	observed by Ian Lassman
<b>Peter Huntington*</b>	observed by Pat Hemmens
<b>Vincent Ramond</b>	observed by Clive Merchant
<b>Roger Smith</b>	observed by Clive Merchant
<b>Charles Thomas-Cronin</b>	observed by Frank Gould
<b>Paul Watts</b>	observed by Pat Hemmens

[\*B&NES-sponsored candidate]

## CHIEF OBSERVER'S NOTEPAD

I have been Chief Observer for just about a year.

First of all I would like to offer my thanks to those who have helped throughout the past year:

Alistair Andrews for his tireless work with Observer and Masters training;

Andy Poulton for the support he has given me throughout the past year. At Observers' meetings he has given feedback and advice on the many aspects of advanced techniques;

Thomas Flynn and Don Escott who have supported me throughout the year.

After taking up the post I looked at ways we could take the group forward.

First of all the committee has financed the supply of polo shirts showing the group's name together with the Observer's name and position within the group. This I believe gives the Observers identity when taking out Associates and attending functions with other groups.

We are holding Observers' meetings every three months. These are basically for all the Observers to get together to have a good chat and bring up items they feel need addressing. They generally are well attended and tend to be quite lively. I believe that those who join in with the meetings enjoy the chat and the coffee and biscuits.

We have held practical driver training

sessions and have joined in with other groups' training activities.

We currently have seven National Observers, three of whom are also Local Observer Assessors, four Local Observers and two Group Observers. We also have two trainee National Observers and two trainee Local Observers. Four of our Observers also have their Masters qualification.

We are continuing with the training of new Observers and the upgrading of existing Observers' qualifications.

We are continually looking for members of the group who are willing to take up the challenge of observing.

I would like to encourage more Observers to join in our recruitment drives, talking to members of the public when we use our display equipment.

Thomas and I attended the Regional Forum Meeting in September 2015 at the Fingle Glen Hotel near Exeter to sound out what other groups were doing and what was in the pipeline for future training.

If you would like to join our growing team of Observers please let me know. You can contact me by phone or email.

My details can be found on the inside of the front cover.

**Clive Merchant.**

**Chief Observer.**

## ON THE ROAD by Susan Date

“Do you mind awfully if I park there in front of your window?”

“Of course not.”

The Estate Agent smiled at the potential Customer; the yellow lines were fairly new and business was slack, the customer would not stay long and the car only partially prevented people from scrutinizing the displayed property details.

“Of course not,” he repeated.

“Thank you so much.” The Customer smiled too; soon they were absorbed in scrutinizing the local houses for sale.

“Oh hell! A traffic jam, this is going to take hours, I only came out for milk!” Paul had come from the supermarket and driven as far as the painted roundabout.

“Not even a proper roundabout, I'll never be able to get into the line coming up from the station – the London train must have arrived. Here we go, London driving – nothing coming on my right I'll try now; *please* give way; ah, yes! I can slip in here. Thank you. No, mustn't use my right hand, should keep that on the wheel.”

He waved his left hand to the vehicle behind and settled into the stop-start of the traffic jam. What normally took him two, maybe three minutes, took ten this morning. He was not pleased. “Must be something on,” he supposed as he arrived at the junction. The traffic in the opposite direction came in spurts. “Must be traffic lights at some more new road works” he thought.

The route he had to take to the centre of town was also solid and he had to turn right into the flow. He eased

forward checking the road on either side of him several times.

“London driving again, I'll go to the middle then trust in the good will, or driving skills of the other drivers.” Still in first gear he got to the centre – would someone give way? A red mini stopped, should he go into the space? There was no sign from the mini driver, he decided to go – it was the correct decision.

Yet another painted roundabout; down the hill past the pubs, church and restaurants, all stop start, the temptation to slip the clutch was enormous, should he use the hand brake? This was incredibly boring. He turned on the radio, that was boring too – they moved another few inches – he turned off the radio.

Finally he rounded the corner and could see ahead. There were no road works! Perhaps the traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing had jammed on stop; or school children were having fun crossing backwards and forwards – unlikely. The lights were green, not a child in sight. The cars edged forward and suddenly he saw the cause.

There, on double yellow lines outside the estate agent's, was a PARKED CAR restricting the traffic flow into a single line. All this delay, the long queues on the three roads that fed the main street, the frustration, the missed appointments, the people waiting, all were caused by a single lazy driver.

Why hadn't the estate agent asked him to go to the carpark behind the block?

# IAM PRESS RELEASES

## Driving on urban roads

Changes in the weather will obviously impact on road surfaces, so your driving should reflect this. For example on wet roads, you should increase your stopping distance, and keep an eye on any pedestrians – splashing someone when driving is an offence.

If you're driving behind a bus or school coach increase your stopping distance to allow for passengers getting off. In busy conditions avoid overtaking as there may be people crossing in front or behind the bus.

Delivery vans may stop and park in tight spots so make sure you give them a wide berth – you never know when someone might suddenly get out in front of the vehicle without looking.

At light-controlled crossings avoid moving forwards on the flashing amber or green signals – wait until all pedestrians have cleared it.

Many accidents occur near junctions and road crossings so make sure you keep your eyes peeled at all times – look out for elderly pedestrians and anyone wearing headphones or using their mobile phones.

So long as you drive at a steady speed and be mindful of everything around you, your journey will be a smooth one.

## Preparing your car for its MOT

Many people don't prepare their car for an MOT at all, when a set of simple checks could save you time, money and inconvenience. Many cars fail on the basic items we're about to highlight, leaving you rushing around attempting to fix them at late notice and possibly great expense.

Mark Lewis, IAM director of standards, says start on the outside:

Wash your car. This will allow you to see any damage, especially to wheels.

Check tyres. Make sure there is no damage and there is a tread depth of at least 1.6mm across the central three-quarters of the tyre width and around the whole circumference of the tyre.

Clean your windscreen so you can see any cracks.

Make sure all lights are working; get someone to help with brake lights or look at a reflection in a shop window or garage door.

Lift the wipers and check the feathered edge (the thin part of the blade that touches the screen) for any damage. Then wipe them with a damp cloth.

Look under the car to see if there are any fluid leaks.

Make sure all fluids under the bonnet are topped up – these areas are often marked in yellow.

Make sure the windscreen washer nozzles are working and aim at the windscreen.

Don't forget about the rear wash-wipe if your car has one.

Make sure the horn works.

Does the parking brake hold the car?

Pull all the seat belts out the entire way and make sure they retract. Unwind if necessary.

Mark said: "These basic checks will help make your chances of passing an MOT much greater. So many fails are as a result of these issues.

"But what I have suggested should not just be a once-a-year activity – these are checks that should be part of a weekly routine to ensure your car is safe to be driven day in, day out."

[Editors' note: The advice given in the IAM Press releases is aimed at the general public. IAM members will be doing car checks regularly anyway.]

## Forthcoming BADAM Events – 2016

*[All indoor evening events will take place at Wessex Water's HQ on Claverton Down Road, Bath, BA2 7WW, commencing at 19.30.]*

**Updates on all future events will be posted on the BADAM website.**

**Tuesday, 10th May.** The Associates' Session will follow a presentation by Martin Evans of the Bristol Advanced Motorists Group on the progress of the Bloodhound project. This will be very topical as they hope to attempt the record sometime in 2016.

**Tuesday, 14th June.** The Associates' Session will follow another visit from Lewes Hambrey, optometrist, of the Young Clinic in Shepton Mallet. Lewes will be considering some case studies of vision problems affecting driving.

**Tuesday, 12th July.** The Associates' Session will follow an 'In House' Open Forum. Please come prepared with questions on any aspects of driving to put to our panel.

**Tuesday, 9th August.** A visit is planned to the new Avon Fire & Rescue Station at Hicks Gate. We will meet at the fire station at 7.15pm for a conducted tour of the station.

**Tuesday, 13th September.** BADAM will be hosting the Inter-Group Quiz at our September meeting this year and hoping to retain the trophy which we won last year. Further details will be in issue 164 of *Advance*, due in August, and on the website.

*Please note there will be no separate Associates' Session on this occasion.*

**Tuesday, 11th October.** The Associates' Session will follow a return visit by David Douch of Swindon group who will talk to us on the subject of "Cars for the 2020s – new technology".

**Tuesday, 8th November.** The Associates' Session will follow a talk by a new member of BADAM, Charles Thomas-Cronin, who is a solicitor working in police stations and criminal courts and who takes a keen interest in road traffic offences. He will be speaking on "The law surrounding the Highway Code".

**Tuesday, 13th December.** Christmas evening – buffet and quiz. Further details will be announced in issue 165 of *Advance*, due in November, and on the website.

*Please note there will be no separate Associates' Session on this occasion.*

***It is a requirement of their training programme that, whenever an 'Associates' Session' is scheduled (see above), all our Associates, together with their Observers, should attend each of these essential and informative sessions.***

### **PLEASE NOTE**

The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the Committee of the Bath & District Group of Advanced Motorists, nor by the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Due acknowledgement is made whenever material is taken from other sources.

BADAM keeps names and addresses of members on computer to assist in Group administration. This information will not be passed outside the IAM.

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