

## THE LATEST FROM IAM LINCOLNSHIRE

### *Autumn news*

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.

We would encourage you to follow us on social media @IAMLincolnshire to keep regularly updated on our work.

A range of useful videos are now available on our YouTube channel. Click [here](#) or search for IAM Lincolnshire.

### *In this edition*

**Page 2**  
*AGM update*

**Page 3**  
*Advanced Test Passes & Online Events Programme*

**Page 4**  
*An interview with Rich Hardesty*

**Page 5**  
*Young Couple Advance Together*

**Page 6**  
*Braking News tips from IAM*

**Page 7**  
*Tyre Safety Month*

**Page 8**  
*My Fellow Journey - Simon Clayton*

**Page 9**  
*Fordie's World*

**Page 10**  
*Know Your Stuff*



**Contact us...** something you'd like to share in the newsletter?

**By phone:**  
0300 365 0152

**By email:**  
[iamlincolnshire@outlook.com](mailto:iamlincolnshire@outlook.com)

**By post:**  
IAM Lincolnshire, 33 Flaxley Road, LINCOLN, LN2 4GL

Join us on     @IAMLincolnshire

IAM Lincoln - Issue 23 Autumn 2020  
Registered Charity Number: 1049400



## AUTUMN 2020

### SUCCESSSES SHARED AT AGM

*Our Annual General Meeting was held on 13 October*

Our first online AGM held via Microsoft Teams painted a positive picture of our work. It was also the first time our AGM has been live tweeted during the event by Social Media Officer, Richard Hardesty.

30 members logged into the meeting to hear more about the charity's activities during the previous financial year. The meeting was also recorded and can be made available for members to view on request.

Reports were presented by Roger Hicks, Ashley Behan, Geoff Coughlin and Richard Hardesty and the meeting buzzed with enthusiasm throughout. Some of the main highlights included:

#### 2019/20

- 53 passes in 2019 - a third of which were F1RSTs
- 104 new associates
- 13 Confident Driving presentations to local groups
- 120 Free Taster Drives
- A 'top performing' audit review by IAM RoadSmart
- 100 under 25's free Advanced Driver courses launched

#### 2020 so far

- 70 Associates, 30 test passes
- 70% of observer team and associates returned after lockdown
- 168 local group members
- A SWOT analysis prepared by Geoff Coughlin to be developed into a 3-5 year plan shortly
- Continued successes on social media, BBC TV and radio led by Richard Hardesty

Platform	2019/20 Stats	2018/19 Stats
Twitter	1179 Followers / 67,000 monthly reach	836 Followers / 39,000 monthly reach
Instagram	267 Followers	191 Followers
Facebook	161 Followers	39 Followers
YouTube	46 Subscribers / 4279 Views	5 Subscribers / 398 Views

The meeting was followed by an informative talk by John Siddle, Engagement Manager at Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, who talked of the well-respected relationship between LRSP and IAM Lincolnshire. John spoke about casualty statistics in the county and the work going on to educate drivers

All of the AGM documents can be viewed on our website [here](#).

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Roger Hicks  
Role: Chair & Chief Observer  
Member: 10 Years  
First Car: Ford Popular

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Ashley Behan  
Role: Vice Chair & Secretary  
Member: 9 Years  
First Car: Ford Fiesta

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Richard Hardesty  
Role: Social Media  
Member: 20 Years  
First Car: Mk1 Ford Escort

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Peta Steadman Bee  
Role: Events & PR  
Member: 35 Years  
First Car: Renault 10

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Tony Lofts  
Role: Fundraising  
Member: 13 Years  
First Car: Hillman Imp

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Geoff Coughlin  
Role: Quality Management  
Member: 3 Years  
First Car: Mini 850cc

**iam**  
RoadSmart  
Lincolnshire  
Committee Member

Name: Les Robey  
Role: Treasurer  
Member: 2 Years  
First Car: Ford Corsair

## AUTUMN 2020

### 30 new advanced drivers so far in 2020 - congratulations

Associate	Pass Date	Observer	Check Drive Observer
Daniel O'Leary	11/10/2020 F1RST	Martin Dodsworth	Ashley Behan
Colin Robotham	11/10/2020 F1RST	Simon Clayton	Ashley Behan
Paula Bowyer	11/10/2020 F1RST	Tony Lofts	John Edwards
Harry Kisby	11/10/2020	Martin Dodsworth	Ashley Behan
Sophie Leggott	19/09/2020	Mat Goddard	Ashley Behan
Josh Flavell	13/09/2020 F1RST	Tom Burton	Ashley Behan
Madeleine Wood	04/09/2020	Mat Goddard	Ashley Behan
Kiera Woods	03/09/2020	Tony Lofts	Ashley Behan
Ella Pearson	01/09/2020	Simon Clayton	Ashley Behan
Millie Turner	28/08/2020 F1RST	Peta Steadman Bee	Ashley Behan
Bethany Hallam	24/08/2020	Tony Lofts	Ashley Behan
Sam Angus	14/08/2020	Richard Hardesty	Ashley Behan
Thomas Nadin-Hepburn	10/08/2020	Ashley Behan	Peta Steadman Bee
Thomas Holm-Johansen	31/07/2020 F1RST	Andy Coward	Ashley Behan
Robin Twelftree	16/03/2020	Steve Waltham	Alan Jackson
Sam Hurry	12/03/2020 F1RST	Ray Whitaker	Roger Hicks
Dean Chapman	08/03/2020	Bob Bates	Ashley Behan
Jack Taylor	07/03/2020	Mike Hill	Ashley Behan
Isabelle Siddle	29/02/2020	Kelvin Simmonds	Geoff Coughlin
Bethany Howells	29/02/2020	Geoff Coughlin	Ashley Behan
Geran Jackson	26/02/2020 F1RST	Tony Larvin	Steve Waltham
Vicky Willan	26/02/2020	Alison Shelton	Roger Hicks
Alan Jackson	09/02/2020 F1RST	Tony Larvin	Roger Hicks
Jacob Dossett	03/02/2020	Simon Clayton	Ashley Behan
Kevin Lemon	02/02/2020	Tony Larvin	Steve Waltham
Gemma Melhuish	26/01/2020 F1RST	Bob Bates	Peta Steadman Bee
Elliot Stones	26/01/2020	Ashley Behan	Peta Steadman Bee
Valerie Gibson	26/01/2020	Roger Hicks	Geoff Coughlin
Dylan Cheetham	22/01/2020	Geoff Coughlin	Roger Hicks
Diana Darley	19/01/2020	Keith Lovering/Ashley Behan	Peta Steadman Bee

## OUR VENUE

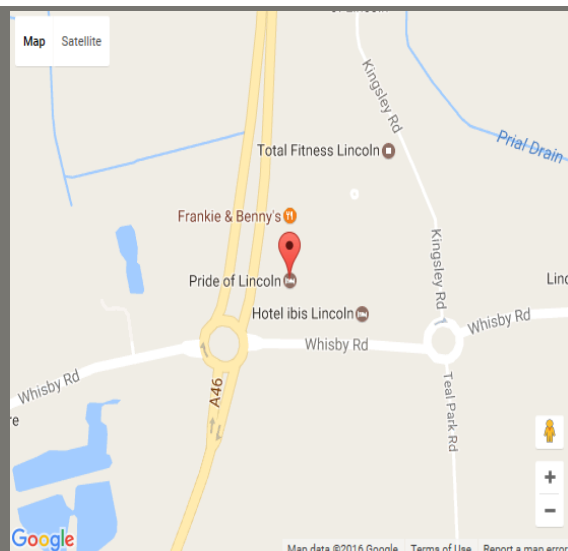
### WHERE TO FIND US?

Windmill Farm Function Room for a  
7.30pm start Kingsley Road off Whisby  
Road Lincoln LN6 3QZ

## 2020 ONLINE EVENTS

Tuesday 10 November 2020  
*Driving After Lockdown, Microsoft Teams Webinar*

## NEXT EDITION Winter2020



## AN INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD HARDESTY

*Richard Hardesty, National Observer and Committee Member talks to digital marketing agency, Zazzle Media, about his IAM Lincolnshire role and his views on 'vehicle telematics' (Trackers / Black boxes). This is due to be published on some leading motoring websites soon.*

### Could you tell me briefly about your role with IAMRoadSmart?

I'm a volunteer National Observer for the IAM Roadsmart Lincolnshire Group - which means I coach drivers as part of their IAM Roadsmart Advanced Driving Course. I am also a Committee Member, Trustee, Training Officer and run the Group's social media.



### When did you first get involved with IAMRoadSmart? Why was that? Why do you do it now? What do you love about it?

I took my own Advanced Driving Course and test twenty years ago. I'd been driving for nine years and realised that I'd not ever really learnt to drive properly, as in truly control a car. As I loved driving it seemed like a natural thing to do. Fast Forward to about three years ago, I connected to IAM Lincolnshire via social media - and asked if they could check if my driving was still up to an Advanced Standard. It was, and they quickly recruited me as a Local Observer (I've since qualified to National Observer standard). Being an Observer gives me the opportunity to pass my skills and

experience to help improve road safety in Lincolnshire. There's nothing better than to see people's driving standards, and often confidence, improve because of my coaching.

### What would you say to others considering getting involved with volunteering to help drivers improve?

Do it, as it's so rewarding...but first you must become an advanced driver yourself first!

### What would you say to motorists about whether they should consider advanced driving training?

Do it, as it's so rewarding...and you will learn so much more than you can imagine. Most people take driving for granted and it's an integral part of many people's lives, but at the same time it's one of the riskiest things most people do. It's also an activity where a split-second lapse of concentration can result in fatal consequences. When was the last time you drove somewhere, then arrived to realise you can't quite remember much of the journey? Advanced driving techniques help people become much more conscious (in the moment) whilst driving.

### Crash rates are high across Lincolnshire (especially in East Lindsey, which at the most recent count had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of fatal and seriously injured crashes in the East Midlands) – do you think further driver training could help? Could you tell me how and why?

Yes, and it is proven to be the case. All drivers in the UK must take a driving test to be able to drive alone, with most of those taking maybe ten hours of training to prepare for their driving test. Drivers are taught to pass the test and then, as such, learn to drive through experience over the coming

months and years. In a job, staff generally receive continual training opportunities throughout their careers; why should driving be any difference?

### Do you think more telematics use could help? How and why?

Yes absolutely. Telematics make drivers conscious of their actions, in that they are scored on their driving behaviours. In some cases, they're also notified if they consistently perform badly and on occasion drivers have had their insurance policy cancelled as a result.

### Official figures seem to show a high number of road accidents in Louth and Horncastle in 20mph zones in 2019 – any thoughts on that?

I wasn't aware of this data, albeit my gut feel is that drivers either aren't generally aware (or respect) 20 mph zones; despite the fact they're normally near schools! The 20 mph zones are also generally located where there is a higher risk of conflict between cars and pedestrians.

### It looks like there is some early work being done to investigate if telematics data could help inform road improvements; by telling authorities if there are spots where people have a tendency to brake hard, corner heavily, speed etc. Any thoughts on that?

This seems like a great use of data at face value. My only concern would be that such as harsh braking, for example, is often caused by something 'unexpected' happening. Things don't suddenly happen. It's often the case that drivers aren't fully concentrating, or planning ahead, and as a result end up reacting to things...with the brake pedal. The data could therefore trigger a lot of occurrences which aren't, for example, as a result of the road layout.



## YOUNG COUPLE ADVANCE TOGETHER

*Jacob and Ella celebrate advanced course success*

A young couple have become two of the youngest advanced drivers on the road after spotting the IAM RoadSmart advanced course advertised on Facebook.

Having passed their driving tests in 2019, Jacob Dossett, 19, from Woodhall Spa and Ella Pearson, 18, from Nettleham thought the course would be the perfect way to make them more confident on the road. Jacob said "I saw the Police and Crime Commissioner advertise the courses on Facebook and spoke to Ella about it, we decided to apply. Luckily we both got places."

The couple were paired with the same observer for the course and were able to share their experiences and encourage each other. Jacob became one of the first young drivers on the Police and Crime Commissioner Project to pass his test earlier this year, whilst Ella had to wait a little longer due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Both passed almost a year after their standard driving test and feel the course has made a huge difference to how they drive.

Jacob started a job as a supermarket delivery driver earlier in the year and the company were really impressed with his advanced driver status. "I'm the youngest driver at work and they were surprised when I told them I'd passed my advanced test. The course has definitely improved my driving, especially as the vans at work are tall so using limit points to read bends properly has really helped."

Jacob also found the course had a great impact on his car insurance renewal. "I drive a Peugeot 208 GTI and adding my advanced driver on when I renewed the insurance brought it down by around £150 which was brilliant."

Ella said "I really enjoyed the drives with my observer, Simon, and my confidence has improved so much. It's a good thing to do at a young age whilst you have the time and before too many bad habits creep in!"

The pair are now heading off for university but say they would like to stay involved with IAM RoadSmart and become observers in the future, to help share their new skills with others. They have already been trying to convince their parents to take the course themselves. "My Mum didn't really trust my driving." Jacob explained "She's more relaxed now I've passed, which is great." Ella added "we'd definitely recommend other young drivers to do it. We're already trying to persuade our parents and hopefully they'll decide to give it a go."



# BRAKING NEWS - DEVELOPING SAFER DRIVING HABITS FOR LIFE

## *Tips from IAM RoadSmart*

Our driving habits start being set from the moment we venture out alone after passing our driving test, try to retain the good ones that your instructor instilled. It's said it takes 17 repetitions of something to make it a habit, so whether you've just passed your test or know someone who has, here are some tips from Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's Head of Driving and Riding Standards, to help you develop safer driving habits for life. These tips could also help save you some money on things such as insurance, wear and tear of the car and building your No Claims discount.

### **1. Safe speed**

One of the best pieces of advice I was ever given about driving was 'have the confidence to drive slowly'. It's easy to get carried away speeding or feeling like you need to speed, especially if you are in rush, but the last thing you want is to be involved in collisions or accumulating unnecessary points on your licence. It's important to keep an eye on your speedometer and always look out for speed limit signs, as they can change based on your surroundings. Staying at a slow, steady speed when driving around built up areas, where there are pedestrians around is important, this aids in anticipation and helps you react to situations better.

### **2. Smooth Acceleration**

Different cars have different temperaments when it comes to accelerating, but generally being easy on the right foot does the trick, business-like when required but always smooth. This tip is beneficial as it will ease pressure on your speed when approaching pedestrian crossings, traffic build-up and traffic lights. And as a bonus, you will save on fuel.

### **3. Gentle braking**

It's always good to rein in bad braking habits from the start, you don't want to be giving yourself or your passengers a scare by braking suddenly and harshly. Instead, try to plan and give yourself time to change your speed. If you know you are approaching your destination, built up areas, crossings etc., lower your speed and gently cover your brake pedal with your foot until you need to stop.

### **4. Keep your distance**

Were you ever told by your instructor to always keep your distance? This was to ensure you have some space to react to what the car in front of you is doing, in case they decide

to emergency or harshly brake. Remember only a fool breaks the two second rule, and this is an absolute minimum.

### **5. Comfortable cornering**

It can be tough mastering corners and the last thing you want is to get into collision with another car when turning or going around a corner, especially if it has a blind spot - quite common on country lanes. Slowing down before approaching a corner helps you avoid unwanted situations and hazards and can also enable you to take the corner accurately without panicking or emergency braking.

### **6. Phone Distraction**

Our phones are used for everything these days and many find it hard to navigate without them, but they are such a big distraction when driving. Ideally your phone should be put away out of sight and on silent make the glovebox your phone box when you drive. If calls need to be made, you should park up and switch the engine off before doing so.

### **7. Stay focused**

Often, we can encounter road works, collisions and other obstacles along our journey and on routes we know well. So, it's important to stay alert and level-headed when these situations occur. Often, we also travel with passengers, where we can easily be distracted. When in these situations, it is very important to let your passengers know politely that they will have to keep the noise down or behave appropriately for you to keep your focus throughout the journey.

### **8. Review your journey**

Once you have completed your journey, it can be good to review and reflect. Like you would have done with your instructor.

Richard said: "Even now - a good few years into a driving career - I still hear the voice of various instructors and mentors offering advice. When I hear that voice in my head, I know to press the reset button and revert to what I was taught. This can help you anticipate situations and analyse your driving, pushing you to investigate improving the way you use the road and give you the added patience."





## THE IMPORTANCE OF TYRES

*Advice shared for Tyre Safety Month in October*

This year's TyreSafe campaign covers all three key areas of routine tyre maintenance: Air pressure; Condition; and Tread depth – ACT. The campaign seeks to encourage motorists to check their tyres at least once a month every month, and before long journeys. Don't ignore your tyres, check:

- **Air pressure:** Use an accurate tyre pressure gauge to check tyres' air pressure is at the recommended settings. Check the vehicle's owners' handbook or fuel filler cap
- **Condition:** Lumps or bulges in a tyre may indicate internal damage and increase the risk of a catastrophic failure. If these, or cuts and cracks, are found while checking a tyre, the tyre may need replacing and professional advice should be sought.
- **Tread depth:** Tread depth should be checked with an accurate gauge to ensure it is above the minimum legal limit of 1.6mm. If you don't have an accurate tread depth gauge, a 20p can be used as a guide to how close your tread is to the limit if you don't have a tread depth gauge available.



iamlincolnshire One of our observers found a screw in his tyre this morning, as part of their weekly checks.

It's not losing air but is likely to at some point. Thankfully the car is in for four new tyres tomorrow.

Check your ACT:

- Air
- Condition
- Tread

### 20P TEST



### PRESSURE



### CONDITION



### TREAD DEPTH



### *National Tyres and Autocare (NTA) offer*

IAM RoadSmart members can benefit from 17.5% discount off the price of tyres online and in branch.

They also offer a 50% discount on MOTs.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the offer.

There are two NTA branches in Lincolnshire (Lincoln and Grantham).

### MY FELLOW JOURNEY

*National Observer, Simon Clayton, shares his experience of the Fellow assessment*

I started my journey with the IAM in 2014. I had just changed my car from a 1.9 diesel Skoda to a 2.7 V6 diesel Audi A6. My dad was an observer with the Sheffield Advanced Bike Group (he's still riding motorbikes at the young age of 83) and he had been saying for years I should join the IAM - the bigger engine and better performance of the Audi made it an ideal time to join.

I was paired with Ken Green who a lot of you will know as an elder statesman of the Lincolnshire group and after a few observed drives I passed my test. I was very soon a Local Observer and then a National Observer, where I have met and helped some wonderful people to gain their Advanced certificate. In 2017 I got to thinking, how do I maintain my standards especially in a position where I am passing that knowledge on to Associates, so I put myself in for the Advanced Driver Re-test. In August 2017 I met up with Tim Stanley one of the Examiners who covers Lincolnshire and after a most enjoyable drive ended up with a F1RST. It was around this time that the Fellow Membership had started and I upgraded my membership to become an IAM Roadsmart Fellow. For those of you who are not aware of the Fellow Membership, Fellow members have committed to keeping their advanced skills current and refreshed by retesting every three years. In return IAM offer additional insurance benefits from IAM Surety and other priority offers from time to time. Which bring me to now, August 2020. On the August 12th in dropped an email from IAM Roadsmart: "It's time to showcase your advanced skills and re-qualify as a Fellow member. Your details have been passed on to a local examiner who will call you to arrange a time and date etc".

I was allocated to Ross Glover, who some of you will know, as he was an Observer with our group. Ross contacted me and we arranged a date and time to meet in Witham St Hughs. Wednesday 26th August - today's the day. I moved the car



to a better position and did my POWDERY checks. Diesel? Need to fill up on my way, AdBlue? ok. Oil? Good. Water? Filled my washer bottle, coolant ok. Damage? None. Electrics? Everything working. Rubber? Tyre pressure checked and adjusted where necessary. You? Inhaler in the car, fresh face-mask in the car. A little nervous but ok! Additionally, the car is clean and the inside has been cleaned with wipes. Happy with the car (and me) I arrived at the meeting point 30 minutes early, having given myself extra time for the bypass roadworks between home and destination.

Rather than sitting in the car, I sat out on a bench in the seating area of the car park. Ross was there at 16:45hrs and we spent about 15 minutes talking cars and motorbikes before doing an eyesight check and making our way to my car. When we were seated comfortably Ross gave me a brief on what we would be doing, that he would give me directions as necessary and to enjoy the experience. When we were ready to start, I did my cockpit drill and set off. The drive was mostly on roads that I had not driven on - a mix of A & B roads, towns and villages and a stretch of dual carriageway on the return leg. There was plenty going on and the skills gained by observing and coaching really paid off. There were pedestrians, cyclists, animals, parked vehicles, moving vehicles and all types of hazards to keep me busy but my Spoken Thought kept me on top of it all. I was able to use Limit Points to help me on unfamiliar roads and also position myself well for a nice overtake. We were out for an hour and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, it was an excellent route. When we got back Ross asked me to find a space and reverse park, I reversed in and shut down the engine.

Then came the question they always ask; how do you think you did? I said that I had really enjoyed the drive, that I thought the route was terrific and I felt I had a good drive. Ross finished my paperwork and handed it to me to see if I had and questions about it, saying I had a terrific drive and I had got a F1RST! We said our goodbyes and it was time to head home. I now have 3 years until my next re-test and the pressure is on to maintain my personal standard.

My Fellow test report can be read [here](#).  
**Simon Clayton National Observer,  
IAM Lincolnshire**



## FORDIE'S WORLD

*IAM Lincolnshire Member, Fordie, gives his lockdown musings*

Throughout the length of Covid lockdown, I, like many others have resorted to texts, phone calls and emails. I don't possess a "smartphone" so have to rely on old style mobiles. What I would like to see is an "old-fashioned trimphone" style of instrument with all the capabilities of the modern mobile system. My reason for this is because my hands and fingers are not particularly sensitive and with a physically bigger instrument, hopefully I won't suffer the indignity of cutting off calls because I've inadvertently pressed the wrong button on the keypad. This, dear reader, is one of the downsides of ageing, one is not so nimble as of yore!

Recently, I have watched programmes about building expensive cars e.g. Bentley's, Aston Martin's, Morgan's et al, fascinating, but I would have liked to start at the very beginning, for example, how the initial members of the floorpan are formed before assembly into one unit. It seems that many modern car bodies are glued together now, not welded, technologically very clever, but should a major body repair be needed, what happens then, scrap the car and buy another one? The car that came nearest to tradition was the Morgan, though it had the clever modern chassis, the body frame was still made from wood (ash?) then clad in aluminium panels, very nice, if you have 70/80 thousand pounds to spare and are prepared to wait ages for your car to be made, I still want one! To me, the most interesting was the new style "London Taxi", again body parts "glued together" seating for six, the driver separated by an "unbreakable safety screen" and powered by electric but with a 1500cc petrol engine to recharge the batteries during operation, the petrol engine does NOT power the vehicle on the road.

I note a considerable increase in adverts for electric cars on TV, so I wonder what's driving these adverts? Are the manufacturers trying to outdo each other, are they being given a "backhander" from the "Green Lobby" or is the government "leaning" on them? As I've noted many times before, there are not the facilities in place to charge a nation of electric cars. We need a few more power stations for a start and with so many cars parked on the streets, will there be a charging point kerbside for every house? Can't see that! Another point, and a favourite of mine, when a battery can be charged as fast as filling a tank with fuel and with multiple charging points at all filling stations in the country, then maybe we can think about going fully electric. One more point, has a battery been made yet that retains full functions as the charge drops? E.g. maintain range and speed whilst

using full headlights, heater, radio, sat-nav etc. Sorry! I still think hybrid is the best way to go.

I also note that engine capacity is coming down, engine manufacturers are squeezing ever more power out by turbo-charging and fancy electronics even going from 4 cylinders to 3 in many cases. True manufacturers haven't quite given in just yet, there is the odd straight 6 or v8 to be had with capacities from two litres to perhaps five and a half (Jag v8?) I suspect one will need deep pockets for such a car though.

How many of you have been watching the "Bangers and Cash" programmes on freeview TV? Mathewsons Garage in Thornton-le Dale, North Yorkshire holds monthly auctions of mainly older British cars but also sells the odd lorry, motorbikes, tractors plus all sorts of motoring ephemera that can be sold and much of it makes very good money! If I were to make a small criticism, the programmes tend to focus on one make of car at a time. There are many cars in the showroom/garage, if the cameraman would have a good pan round now and then I, for one, would love it. However, it's a well-made programme, the boss and staff are all "naturals" no one plays to the camera but I suspect that language is kept "under control" on occasions.

At last! Formula 1 has returned to our screens, granted it is a packed and curtailed season, but we're racing! Mercedes once again is dominant but Red Bull with Max Verstappen is threatening, Ferrari, temporarily, have lost the plot and the likes of McLaren, Renault and Racing Point are all in the mix. The saddest or oddest part is the lack of spectators, somehow that makes for a lack of atmosphere, drivers, mechanics and staff all have to wear masks, it just doesn't feel right. According to the various authorities, if we breath unfiltered air, we're all going to catch Covid 19 and DIE! Sorry! I think many of these restrictions are over the top but that is a very personal opinion, I grant you.

Still, if the participants are willing to race their cars, motorbikes lawnmowers etc I, for one, will support them from the comfort of my armchair in front of the tele. 2021 can only be better, whatever the powers decree is the "New Normal"!

Stay safe and keep motoring!

*For die*



## KNOW YOUR STUFF

*Do you know your driving laws? We take a look at some of the lesser known rules*

You may not have heard of them and it may be unlikely you will receive a fine for breaking them - but are you aware of some of the lesser known driving laws? Let's find out:

### *Night time parking*

You must not park your car at the side of the road after dark against the direction of traffic – unless in a recognised parking space. Rule 248 of the highway code covers this one. The exception is if you are parked in a recognised and marked parking space.

### *Don't splash pedestrians*

As advanced drivers, we are constantly Taking, Use and Giving (TUG) Information whilst driving. So spotting pedestrians early will be second nature, but do you think about any water in the roadside next to them? Splashing pedestrians could result in a fine for driving without reasonable consideration for others - £100, 3 points.

### *Make appropriate progress*

Although speed is the most common driving offence, driving too slowly can also be dangerous. As advanced drivers we are encouraged to get the right balance between good progress and restraint. Remember the speed limit is a "limit not a target" but if it is safe to do so we should look to achieve the speed limit. Driving at speeds low enough to endanger other road users could see you be given a £100 fine and three points. This is most commonly seen on a motorway or dual carriageway.

### *Flashing*

You shouldn't flash your lights to warn other drivers about speed cameras ahead. Flashing – could be deemed wilfully obstructing an officer in the execution of duty and carries a £1000 fine under the Police Act 1996. You should only use a flash as a warning. It is also worth saying here, that you should not flash to let other motorists leave junctions - you never know who may react to the flash. Instead, try to allow others room to make the decision for themselves.

### *Snow*

As we head towards winter, it is time to consider preparing our vehicles for ice and snow. If snow comes, you must make sure all your windows and mirrors are clear of the snow – and that it's removed from your roof. Rule 229 of the Highway Code dictates that drivers must demist and clean all mirrors, clean all lights, ensure number plates are visible and make sure they can see out of all windows before starting any journey. Failure to comply could lead to a fine under the banner of careless driving.

### *Responding to emergency vehicles*

All drivers want to do their best to allow emergency vehicles past, however, you should always ensure you are doing so safely and should avoid going through red lights to let an emergency vehicle past (unless directed by a Traffic/Police Officer). Rule 219 of the Highway Code states: "When an emergency vehicle with flashing lights approaches, take appropriate action to let it pass, while complying with all traffic signs." You should also avoid mounting the pavement where you could endanger pedestrians.

