



Dumfries & Galloway Group of Advanced Motorists and Motorcyclists
 run entirely by volunteers

Autumn 2026

STEERING A COURSE FOR SAFER DRIVING AND RIDING



<u>Group Committee Members for 2025/26</u>			<i>This magazine was published by:</i> Dumfries & Galloway Group of Advanced Motorists & Motorcyclists. <i>For more details of our activities see our web site at:</i> www.iamdumfries.org.uk <i>Contact the Group Secretary:</i> iamdumfriesgroup@gmail.com Facebook: Dumfries & Galloway IAM (Motorcycles) Group IAM Dumfries & Galloway (Cars) <i>Disclaimer:</i> The views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, Group or the Institute of Advanced Motorists, to which the Group is affiliated. Reg Charity No. SC 023511
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Wanted!	Vice-Chair & Committee Members		

What's on?: Check out events at www.iamdumfries.org.uk/events/
 Sunday 27th September - Wings & Wheels - 10am till 3pm - Dumfries Aviation Museum

Saturday 3rd October - Invitation to Networking Knowledge - Perth - Stephen Dawson & Alan Carmichael attending

Saturday 14th November - Dumfries Toy Run (Motorcycle) - Starting from Moffat

Venue for meetings: The Five Arches, 345 Annan Road, Dumfries, DG1 3JR. Starting 7:30pm except where otherwise stated

For membership and all other enquiries call: 07707 035518
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Photography notice: Occasionally we may take photos during meetings, guidance sessions or at other events in order to promote the Group and its activities. Photos may be reproduced in our web sites, our magazine or through other promotions. If you wish to withhold your permission for your image to be used please contact the Group Secretary.

Chairperson's Report

Here we are again and Summer is over in the blink of an eye. Unlike the South our weather has not been extreme heat, we have had our fair share of rain along with nice sunny days. Observing has been pretty good for both cars and bikes with some excellent results. On the bike side although we do continue to observe during the winter months, we will be looking to put forward our remaining associates as soon as they are test ready before the weather closes in and the daylight diminishes. Now is the time to be making sure that you and your means of transport is ready for winter and the adverse road conditions it brings. Get those tyres checked, make sure that your antifreeze meets the temperatures that we can expect, windscreen washer additive will not freeze, Maybe keep a rug or blanket in the car and a flask with a hot drink, plus all the usual things that we do when getting ready for any journey.

The group has attended a fair number of events and made a presence around the region. We have seen voluntary changes within the group, people retiring and new people taking on new roles. We wish both newbies and leavers well and thank them for their contribution.

We have worked with Police Scotland in a rider refinement course on two dates this summer, which was very successful, it was offered to the general public and will hopefully lead to safer riders and maybe some sign ups for the full advanced courses that we offer.

The Group has successfully raffled two advanced courses over the summer and the prize winners have chosen to take the advanced driver courses. Well done to the winners and good luck with the courses.

The Group has procured a new gazebo for events which is smaller but is branded and should be easier for transport and get us noticed more. We have also provided our new and existing members, observers, etc with new branded clothing. This all came from our group budget.

Being the 70th Anniversary year for IAM Roadsmart it has been very busy, I.T. Challenges and upgrades, Head Office relocation and changes in personnel with some taking on new territories and responsibilities. The websites and media platforms IAM Roadsmart now have are very good, with most, if not all the tools that we need to carry out our roles.

Events We've Attended This Year

Our group has been busy across Dumfries & Galloway, recently we have participated in:

- Easter Egg Run
- Nith Inshore Rescue Open Day
- Rider Refinement Course (with Police Scotland)
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Open Day
- Castle Douglas Soap Box Derby

Photos of these events can be found further on in the newsletter.

We offered 10% off Advanced Courses at all events.

Raffle Winners

- Gillian Grey - please contact Anthea to arrange your course.

Upcoming Events

- Wings & Wheels - Dumfries Aviation Museum - Sunday 27th September 2026
- Dumfries Toy Run (Motorcycle) - Starting from Moffat then on to Thornhill, Castle Douglas & Gretna. Finishing at Queen of the South Arena - Saturday 14th November 2026

Group Personnel Updates

Farewells

- Helen Cameron - Secretary- Stepping down after 25+ years. The entire committee thanks Helen for her dedication and hard work over her many years with the group
- Sam Carter - National Observer (Motorcycle) - Stepping back for health reasons

A New Chapter For Russ

Russ Oakes has completed his onboarding with support from Mark Miller. Russ is already well known within our community through his roles as Skills Day Instructor, Master Mentor and National Observer.

Congratulations, Russ!



New Appointments

Committee

- Group Secretary: Anthea Banks

National Observers

- Alan Savage (Motorcycle)
- Scott Bell (Car)

Advanced Test Passes - 2026

Advanced Test Passes

Motorcycle

- Peter Bryden - Pass - 08/05/2026
- John Carlyle - Pass - 26/07/2026
- William Cannon - Pass - 25/08/2026
- Terry McGuinness - F1RST - 04/09/2026

Car

All 6 associates who have been put forward for testing since the 1st of April have all passed. 5 of the 6 (83%) were even F1RST's.

Visits from Other Groups

The Kingdom of Fife Group spent two days touring Dumfries and Galloway, staying overnight at the Maybe Hotel.

They met with members of the Dumfries & Galloway branch for a social evening, where Eric Hill delivered a highly informative presentation on road safety engineering and collision investigation.

Police Scotland Joint Motorcycle Sessions

Short Rider Refinement sessions were delivered in partnership with Police Scotland. Feedback was excellent from all attendees.

New Group Gazebo

We have purchased a new branded gazebo for future events. It is lightweight, easy to transport, and clearly branded:

- IAM RoadSmart (roof)
- D&G IAM Group - Car & Bike (front pelmet)



We also sourced a replacement leg for the older gazebo, which we now plan to sell.

Seasonal Safety Reminder

As nights draw in and weather becomes unpredictable:

- Check your vehicle before every journey
- Prepare for changing road conditions
- Stay visible
- Stay alert

Safe motoring from all of us at Dumfries & Galloway IAM RoadSmart.

Is that really the DVLA or DVSA?

Fraudsters regularly send convincing texts and emails pretending to be the DVLA, DVSA, local councils, or road charging schemes.

Common scams claim you:

- Need to pay or reclaim vehicle tax
- Have an unpaid fine or penalty
- Must renew your driving licence
- Need to update your vehicle or driver details

These messages create urgency to make you click links or share personal and financial information.

Stay safe:

- Be wary of unexpected motoring-related messages.
- Don't click links in suspicious texts or emails.
- Visit the official website directly instead.
- Check web addresses carefully before entering any details.

IAM RoadSmart reminder

The same skills that make you a safer driver - observation, anticipation, and good judgement - also help you stay safe online. If you're unsure, stop, think, and verify before you act.

Roadcraft

Some useful definitions from Roadcraft that can be used in commentary/spoken thoughts:

Planning

The purpose of the plan is to put you:

- In the correct position
- at the correct speed
- with the correct gear engaged
- at the correct time to negotiate hazards safely and efficiently.

Using the throttle on bends

- Maintain a positive throttle (use the throttle to maintain a constant speed) through the bend.

A constant speed keeps your weight evenly distributed front and rear, and ensures maximum tyre grip.

Past Events In Pictures

Castle Douglas Soap Box Derby



Nith Inshore Lifeboat Open Day



SFRS Open Day



Curling Evening with Carlisle Group in Dumfries Ice Bowl

Fuel Theft Rises

UK petrol stations have experienced a significant increase in fuel theft since the conflict involving Iran caused fuel prices to rise. According to industry research, almost £200,000 worth of fuel is now being stolen from petrol stations across the UK every day.

Forecourt Eye reported that fuel theft has increased by around 20% compared with the five months before the conflict. The estimated value of stolen fuel has risen by 48%, reaching an average of £194,000 per day.

The research looked at 550 petrol stations and used the results to estimate the situation across the UK. The number of fuel theft incidents has increased from around 2,400 to 2,872 each day. The amount of fuel stolen has also risen by 24%, from approximately 87,000 litres to 108,900 litres per day.

Fuel theft includes drivers leaving petrol stations without paying or customers claiming they have no way to pay after filling their vehicles. Petrol station workers have also reported more cases of abuse, intimidation and violence from customers who are unhappy about the rising fuel prices.

Shailesh Parekh, who owns six petrol stations, said thefts are happening almost every day. He said the problem cost his business around £40,000 last year and expects the cost to increase because of higher fuel prices.

Police have said they are working to identify offenders, prevent repeat offences and make sure those responsible are held accountable. Forecourt Eye also plans to provide crime-reporting technology to more than 2,000 petrol retailers.

Calling Our Silent Members

We'd love to hear from members who rarely attend events, what would you like from your membership?

- Guest speakers
- Demonstrations
- Visits
- Training sessions
- Social rides/drives
- Skills workshops

Let us know!

Get Involved

Join the committee, attend events, take part in ride-outs or drives, or become an Observer.
iamdumfriesgroup@gmail.com

Dumfries & Galloway committee are looking for a vice-chair and committee members. If you would like to get involved with the committee please get in touch, everyone is welcome!

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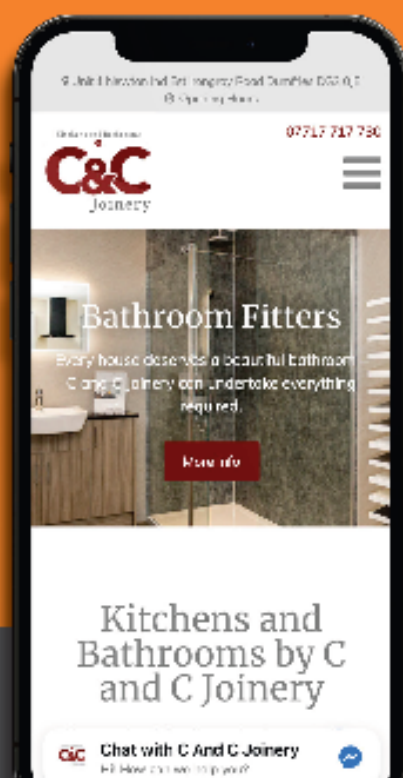
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