

THE LATEST FROM THE LINCOLN GROUP

What's new?

Welcome

Firstly, an apology, as it's been a while since our last newsletter - 10 months in fact, as our last one was distributed in Winter 2013!

Normal service resumed - we will be returning to our usual quarterly distribution, beginning here with Autumn.

After many years of our old style newsletter, we had a chat at a recent Committee meeting and decided to make a few changes to keep things interesting. We hope you like what you see and find the information useful!

We're also keen to hear your feedback and constructive criticism, so feel free to make some suggestions by emailing the address below. Thank you!

Members Update



We are pleased to update you that 27 Associates passed their Skill for Life test in 2013 and became Full Members of the Lincoln Group.

At the time of writing (6 October), we have had 8 test passes in 2014 and currently have 8 Associates who will be test ready before the end of October and a possible 5 more by the end of the year!

There are 10 Observers within the group.

Overall, the group has 105 Full Members and 18 Associates!

Competition Time

You'll probably have noticed a slight space at the top of this issue - the lack of a newsletter name!

This is where you come in. We would like your help to pick a new name for our newsletter. Can you think of something relating to both Lincolnshire and driving? If as many of you could get involved as possible that would be great! Please send ideas and suggestions to the email address below or contact us by phone on **0300 365 0152**.

The winner will be picked in time for a new name on our Winter edition! We look forward to hearing your suggestions!

Contact the Newsdesk

Have you got something you'd like to share with our members in the newsletter? Send it to us at lincolnadvancedmotorists@gmx.com We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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YOUR COMMITTEE

Committee Update!

We would like to introduce you to your Committee Members. Most of the names will probably be familiar to you, but there is one new face (more about that on the next page)! As suggested by some members, this information can now also be found on our website. The Committee meet once a month to discuss matters relating to the group which includes finances, associate updates, and arranging forthcoming events and training evenings.

Chairman — Neil White

Vice-Chairman — Ken Green

Chief Observer/Group Contact — Roger Hicks

Treasurer/Event Organiser — Julia Vause

Communications/Membership — Ashley Behan

Committee Member — Gary Hill

Committee Member — Tony Lofts

Committee Member — Mike Hill

TEST PASSES 2014

Congratulations!



Paul Blackwell – 20 February 2014

Peter Hinton – 26 March 2014

Jonathan Scarborough - 27 March 2014

Christine Scott – 5 April 2014

Rebecca Webster – 9 May 2014

Hannah Pearce - 2 August 2014

Matt Skinner - 2 August 2014

Peter Kowalczyk - 23 September 2014



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A NEW FACE - ASHLEY BEHAN

Bringing the average age down?!

Beginning to think about writing - or typing - this quick introduction turned my attention to first my introduction to the IAM. I was about 10 years old (which takes us back about 13 years - yes only 13 years!). I was riding along in the back of my fellow Committee Member, Mike Hill's car. Mike's wife, Sue, was my child minder. I can't remember where we were going, but Mike's introduction to the system sticks in my mind.....

..... So that was that. When I grew up, as well as becoming a Jedi-Knight with a green lightsaber, I was also going to join the IAM!

I'm a Lincolnshire lad and was brought up in Bardney, Washingborough and latterly Saxilby.

I left school at 16 and began an apprenticeship with Lincolnshire County Council working for their Highways Department Administration team at City Hall in Lincoln. I have worked at the Council for 6 and a half years now and although I've mainly worked for Highways, I've had brief spells with the Lincolnshire Road Safety

Partnership and the Economic Development Team. In July 2013 I decided to take a step away from admin to join the 'technical' side of the highways staff becoming an Assistant Highways Officer - which basically involves all sorts of general highway maintenance.

I watch a lot of football and have a season ticket at Sheffield United.

In the midst of that, I met my partner Kate in 2009 and we had our first baby, Felix, in 2013.

My driving career is fairly limited compared to some. I passed my driving test in mid-2009 along with my Pass-Plus and joined the Lincoln Group in 2012, eventually

gaining my Sfl thanks to the patience of my Observer, Tony Lofts.

I became a Trainee Observer with the group in late 2013 and was pleased to be invited to join the Committee earlier this year by our Chief Observer, Roger.

My first task was achieved reasonably easily. And in fact without lifting a finger I was able to 'bring the average age' of the group down. I've since taken over Communications for the group and the role of Membership Secretary.

Thanks for reading and I hope to see you at a social meeting soon!

Ash

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FORDIE'S WORLD

Thoughts of our Group Member, Graham Ford!

I was somewhat surprised, and flattered, to receive an email from Ashley asking if I would re-instate Fordie's World. Since retiring, 6 years ago (Lord, is it that long?) I don't travel about like I used to do so, therefore, I don't find the examples of dubious driving that I once did.

Anyway, looking around Lincoln, I still find more than a passing few to comment on, not least, lane discipline and lack of signalling. The attitude, to me, seems to be "if I can get to the front of the queue and not tell anyone which way I'm going, I'll get a good head start on these old dodderers!" Yes, they probably succeed but I bet their nerves are frazzled at the end of the day, are people's lives so full that they barely have the time to do anything - properly? Maybe they long for a touch of "Beam me up, Scottie!" How do I deal with them? Let'em get in front, I can see what they're up to then and take appropriate avoiding action.

Now then, on a totally different note (no pun intended) I am a great lover of the music from the mid-20s to the early fifties, you know the sort of thing trad-jazz, the big dance bands, Latin American rhythms et al and to that end I have quite a substantial collection of CDs, records and tapes. CDs were supposed to be the last word in recorded music but odd tracks can vanish or more annoyingly stick or skip, spoils a good Saturday night when I'm enjoying my beer and crisps, hidden under my headphones. Fortunately, there does seem to be a remedy, if I play them on my computer, I can then download them and, with a bit of luck burn them onto a new CD and provided I can get the full compliment of tracks, my enjoyment is restored!

Still on the subject of music there have been three occasions this year where the "Memsahib" and I have enjoyed a musical experience, first, in May at the Performing Arts Centre, we saw The Chris Barber Big Band, an evening of trad-jazz, needless to say, I was in my element, at 84 years old Chris Barber plays a mean

trombone and still sings well. Sadly the other two greats of English jazz, Acker Bilk has retired and Kenny Ball passed away fairly recently, so Chris upholds the banner and long may he continue.

The second was in Skegness, at the Embassy Theatre, this was a show featuring excerpts from a number of well known musicals but performed, in the main by pupils of the Janice Sutton Theatre School. What a night! Those youngsters worked their socks off, their skill and energy was palpable! We came out of the theatre and felt we could skip all the way back to our hotel!

The last occasion was a concert, of classical music, given by the Lincoln Pro Musica string ensemble in St Anne's Chapel near the hospital. Liz, of course, grew up with classical music and over the years I have come to appreciate it more by listening and having various aspects explained to me. At about an hour and twenty minutes it was long enough (for me) but I quite enjoyed the evening, even finding my feet tapping more than once.

Just in case anyone remembers, or is even bothered, I still have my Honda Superdream, surprisingly, it seems very reliable (bet that's torn it) and I'm considering having a stainless steel exhaust system made for it just to smarten it up a bit. Two years on though, I cannot get used to the idea of having a high revving engine, it goes totally against my senses so finances and health allowing I may have to revert to a big, thumping single.

With winter and inclement conditions approaching, drive carefully, all the idiots aren't locked up yet!

Fordie



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A new era - without the tax disc!



DVLA
Driver & Vehicle
Licensing
Agency
@DVLAgovuk

From tomorrow (1 October 2014), you'll still need to tax your vehicle but you won't get a tax disc.

But what does this mean for me?

On 1 October 2014, the tax disc was scrapped, the DVLA choosing to rely solely on their electronic records. The plan was announced by the treasury in early December 2013 in a move which will save around £7 million per year in administration costs and "moves the government into the modern age".

Vehicle Excise Duty, commonly known as car tax, was first introduced in 1888 with the tax disc becoming compulsory in 1921. The use of the DVLA's electronic tax register and with automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) devices on many police cars has rendered the tax disc redundant. ANPR is used by various police forces - it uses CCTV or static traffic cameras to instantly identify vehicles without a valid MoT test certificate and vehicles without valid tax or with unlawful number plates.

Can I take my tax disc out of my window straight away?

In short, yes. Even if it's got some months remaining.

Will it cost more?

Paying annually is the same. 6 monthly and monthly instalments (which you can now do) will cost you an extra 5%. There is still a £2.50 charge on credit cards.

How will I remember to pay?

Yes, unfortunately, although the tax disc is gone you will still have to pay the tax! You will still be sent a renewal reminder by the DVLA and can renew online, by phone or at the Post Office®.

Tax is no longer transferable?

Tax no longer transfers when buying/selling a vehicle. The seller gets a refund on full months only, the buyer will have to tax the car immediately

And won't the lack of the visible tax disc lead to more tax evasion?

A study by the RAC in September claimed that the change would result in extra tax evasion amounting to about £167 million. The survey of 2,000 also showed that 36% of drivers were unaware of the changes, while 47% were unaware of when they came into effect. But the survey was branded 'nonsense' by the DVLA.

Any thoughts? Member comments?
Send them to our email address to be published in the Winter Edition

Article Sources:

www.rac.co.uk

www.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/news

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External Promotions

Flowserve

We were recently asked to attend an employees and families Safety Day at Flowserve in Newark. Flowserve employ some 260 people who are engaged in the manufacture of all types of pumps for worldwide distribution. They are a very safety conscious organisation and the purpose of their Safety Day was to promote the concept that safety does not stop at the factory gate.

It was therefore agreed that we would attend, set up driving skills competition, run a road safety quiz and set up a stand to deal with enquiries. Following a couple of planning meetings the Lincoln Group Team, consisting of Neil White, Gary Hill, Tony Lofts, Ashley Behan and Roger Hicks organised and ran what turned out to be a very successful event. We were certainly the main attraction on the day and we generated a lot of interest amongst the employees and their families. Most importantly as a team we gave a good account of ourselves, smartly dressed in our corporate polo shirts, we were excellent ambassadors for the IAM and Lincoln Group of Advanced Motorists

As a result of our efforts we recruited five new associates and I am confident of more to come from this event.

Long Bennington Young Drivers Day

We received an invitation from Long Bennington Parish Council to attend a Young Drivers Awareness event to promote the principles of advanced motoring to young drivers. The catalyst for the event was a recent fatal accident involving some young people from the village.

The event was very well organised and was attended by representatives from RoSPA, HPC and Ashley Behan and Roger Hicks from the IAM. After an excellent presentation by the organiser, Stephen Fuller, who is also an IAM member we carried out a series of observed drives and demonstration drives around the local area. Hopefully we had some positive influence on the young drivers who attended and who knows we may get some new



associates as a result.

Other Events

We continue to give presentations to groups, such as the Women's Institute (WI) and more recently the British Gas Retired Employees Association. The presentations are carried out by Neil White and Julia Vause and are well received.

Roger Hicks – Chief Observer

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Autumn Driving

Don't get caught out by seasonal changes...

Leaves on the trees turning golden and falling to crunch under our feet is one of the first signs of Autumn.

But what hazards does this season present for road users?

Car Maintenance: It's now a good time to give your car a thorough visual pre-winter check. You can do this using **POWDERY**:

Power (petrol, diesel, LPG)

Oil (and other fluids/reservoirs)

Water (screen wash, engine coolant)

Damage

Electrics (lights, horn, other electrics)

Rubber (tyres - tread/pressure, wipers)

You (are you fit to drive)

Low sun: Ensure your windscreen is clean inside and out, and is clear of ice or condensation before you set off. Ensure your mirrors are clear too! If you lose vision, lose speed.

Weather: Heavy rain, fog, ice and snow to name some. Slow down or avoid puddles to avoid aquaplaning. Turn on your headlights. Fog lights can be used in visibility of less than 100m.

Road Conditions: Wet leaves can be as dangerous as hitting standing water take care and reduce your speed before driving onto them. As ice forms so do potholes.



Peter Rodger, IAM's Chief

Examiner says: "Bear in mind that leaves can be slippery, especially when wet. Avoid hard acceleration or braking as it can cause skidding. And be aware that there may be a dip, pothole or other road hazard hiding under those leaves covering the road."

Clear out plenum chambers the tray-like area under the bonnet, below the windscreen. This can fill up with water when it gets blocked with leaves. This water can seep into the car's electrics, causing expensive and potentially dangerous damage.

Autumn can also take its toll on car batteries keep the top of the battery clean and dry and make sure the terminals are tight and free from corrosion. If a

battery is more than three years old, checking it now; you might save yourself many a frustrating start to a morning."

And finally, always consider your driving plan: *What you can see, what you can't see, and what you can reasonably expect to develop!*



Article Sources:
www.theaa.com
www.iam.org.uk

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KNOW YOUR STUFF

Left, Left and Left? But what do they mean?



Ask yourself: How often do I approach a traffic sign and not know what it means?

As the majority reading this will either be current or aspiring advanced drivers, the answer is most likely not very often at all, perhaps, not ever...

Circular signs give us orders. Blue circles generally give us a mandatory instruction, for example "turn left".



Our first sign means 'Keep Left'. This means vehicles must pass on the side indicated on the sign.

These are typically seen when turning on to busy junctions on centre island bollards or at the start of dual-carriageways.



Our second sign means 'Proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow', in this case proceed to the left. These are typically seen with a supplementary "One Way" plate.



And finally, our third sign means 'Turn left ahead'.

Double white lines where the line nearest you is solid

This means you **MUST NOT** cross or straddle it unless it is safe and you need to enter adjoining premises or a side road. You may cross the line if necessary, provided the road is clear, to pass a stationary vehicle, or overtake a pedal cycle, horse or road maintenance vehicle, if they are travelling at 10 mph (16 km/h) or less.



Many of the rules in The Highway Code are legal requirements. If you disobey these rules you're committing an offence

MUST/MUST NOT

Legal requirements, and you're committing a criminal offence if you disobey these rules.

Should/Should not/Do/Do not

Advisory wording, and may be used in evidence in court proceedings to establish liability.



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SPOT THE HAZARDS IN LINCOLN



Photo 1 Answers: Cars in front braking and turning left, junction ahead busy– lorry, one lane of tidal flow closed. Can you spot more?



Photo 2 Answers: Wet road conditions, busy car park entrance on the left with a car and pedestrians either side, junction at the end of the road?! Can you spot more?



Photo 3 Answers: 2 pedestrians about to cross the road between the cars, driveway further up on the left. Can you spot more?



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Registered Charity: 1049400



Events Calendar

There have been several events since our last newsletter in Winter 2013. Our Annual AGM was held in May and attended by Andy Bolton, IAM Regional Operations Manager. Guest speakers have included the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and Councillor Richard Davies from Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department. Reports of these events can be found on our website.

Forthcoming Events

- 21 October 2014 – *Driver First Assist (David Higginbottom)*
- 11 November 2014 – *Winter Driver Development Evening*
- 9 December 2014 – *Christmas Social*
- 10 February 2015 – *Lincs Road Policing Unit (RPU)*
- 10 March – *Driver Development Evening*
- 14 April 2015 – *LRSP Collision Investigation Unit*
- 12 May 2015 – *Annual AGM*

Where to find us

Our meetings begin at 7:30pm and are held at Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue HQ, South Park Avenue, Lincoln, LN5 8EL. See the map on the right for directions!

Free drive with the IAM!

Experience and enjoy the benefits of advanced driving



By using this **FREE** one hour introductory voucher. **Available for family and friends of Lincoln Group members**

A FREE one hour 'Enjoy your Driving' session

A simple, enjoyable way to have your road skills assessed and receive a demonstration of advanced driving techniques with a Lincoln Group Observer

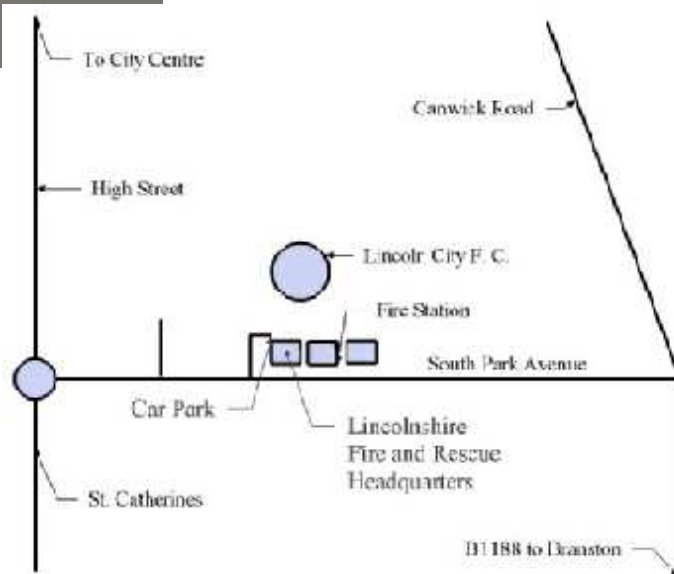
To book call 0300 365 0152 or bring this voucher to our next group meeting!

*This free session takes place using your own car with a qualified IAM Observer. Dates and times will be confirmed by the Lincoln Group. This voucher has no monetary value and is valid until 31st March 2014

Winter Edition

www.lincolniam.org.uk

**NEXT EDITION:
WINTER 2014!**



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