

THE LATEST FROM THE LINCOLN GROUP

What's new?

Welcome

It doesn't seem a year ago since I started to work on the group newsletter for the first time. The Autumn14 edition was our first since Winter 2013 - I hope that its return has been a success and everyone enjoys the read. We're always keen to hear from our members and gain new ones, so a reminder to contact us if you'd like to and join us on social media (details below).

A reminder that the IAM are offering free driving assessments worth £39 until the 31st December 2015. These are ideal for people taking the first steps to improve their skills. They are carried out locally with a qualified National Observer. Sign up online at www.iam.org.uk/lovedriving or call 0300 303 1134.

In this edition we'll bring you the latest highway code updates, motoring news and much more.

Ashley Behan - Group Secretary

Members update



The group currently has 105 full members and 15 associate members. The numbers are roughly similar to this time last year.

We have had several new associates join throughout the year and numbers have also been boosted by several former members re-joining us. Whilst this is positive, we have lost several members who decided to not renew, which accounts for the overall membership total remaining the same. We are working hard to engage all of our membership and encourage everyone to enjoy the benefits of being a local group member.

We have 12 Observers, eight of those being qualified to the new IAM National Observer standard - our Chief Observer, Roger Hicks will update you further on page 3 of the newsletter.

2016 Events

We're currently in the process of organising our social events for 2016.

We're well prepared and already have some good evenings planned. We'll confirm the full list before the end of the year, but would like to invite suggestions from all our members - remember you pay your membership fee, so where we can we'll try and find something related to your suggestions...

Along with our usual evening meetings, we plan to organise a separate day trip in the summer next year; our initial thoughts being a day at Cadwell Park races and/or drives at the LRSP Skid Pan RAF Scampton.

Organising these depends on the interest and support we get from members, but we hope we'll have enough interest for at least one. If this is something you'd be interested in or have some other ideas for day trip events, please get in touch!

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 or contact us on 0300 365 0152

 Join our Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/iamlincoln

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SKILL FOR LIFE UPDATE

Congratulations...

We would like to congratulate the following 22 members who have all passed their Skill for Life test in 2015! We're hoping to be close to the 30 mark by the end of the year.



Associate	Pass Date	Observer	2nd Opinion Observer
Mike Perridge	14/09/2015	Ashley Behan	Gary Hill
Andrew Wylie	12/09/2015	Ashley Behan	Gary Hill
Trevor Kerry	28/07/2015	Gary Hill	Tony Lofts
Tom Burton	24/07/2015	Terry Johnston	Gary Hill
Sarah Hall	13/07/2015	Roger Hicks	Ashley Behan
Ian Firth	19/06/2015 FIRST	Roger Hicks	
Martin Nash	12/06/2015	Ashley Behan	Gary Hill
Janusz Lebioda	29/05/2015	Terry Johnston	Gary Hill
Bernard Beacroft	29/04/2015	Ashley Behan	Gary Hill
Alison Wyatt	22/04/2015	Ashley Behan	Roger Hicks
Alex Richardson	17/04/2015	Kelvin Simmonds	Roger Hicks
David Langsford	15/04/2015	Roger Hicks	
David Black	22/03/2015 FIRST	Mike Hill	Ashley Behan
Chris Smith	14/03/2015	Roger Hicks	
Phyl Farmer	13/03/2015	Tony Lofts	Ashley Behan
John Walsh	13/03/2015	Tony Lofts	Mike Hill
Sophie Wheeler	21/02/2015	Julia Vause	Ashley Behan
Nick Carding	19/02/2015	Roger Hicks	Neil White
Simon Clayton	26/01/2015	Ken Green	Tony Lofts
Rupert Vause	26/01/2015	Gary Hill	Tony Lofts
Stephen Bates	26/01/2015	Gary Hill	Mike Hill
Harriet Brown	03/01/2015	Ashley Behan	Gary Hill

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F1RST FOR FIRTH

New IAM Regional Manager passes!

We were pleased to receive the new Skill for Life associate details for Ian Firth shortly after he joined the IAM as Regional Operations Manager for Central England and Wales. Ian's training was undertaken by Chief Observer, Roger Hicks, who found him to be the perfect associate. Ian had already passed his Advanced Rider test some



six months before joining the IAM and was soon test ready. Ian took his test on 19 June 2015, some seven weeks from starting the course. His examiner was Andy McManus who gave him a F1RST! The above photo shows Roger Hicks, left, presenting Ian with his certificate. *Congratulations Ian!*

CHIEF OBSERVERS REPORT

This year has been a very successful one for our observer team with 22 passes already and every chance that we can achieve close to 30 passes by the end of the year.

I am also very pleased to report that we now have five more observers who are qualified to National Observer standard bringing the total number of our observers qualified to this high standard to eight! This is far higher than the IAM target or indeed the regional average so well done to all concerned. We also have two trainees who are on the Local Observer programme, who I am confident will qualify very soon. Two further associates have also confirmed their interest in training as observers so as a result we currently have a strong, well trained and well-staffed team.

Our performance bears this out with a pass rate of 93%, compared with a regional average of 86%. Our average number of days to 'test ready' is currently 117 days compared with a regional average of 193 days and an IAM target of 170 days.

I am sorry this report is somewhat analytical but hopefully it shows how well we are performing as an observer team which in turn can only reflect positively on the Lincoln group.

ROGER HICKS – CHIEF OBSERVER

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IN THE NEWS

Highway Robbery

They deliberately crash into your car and demand cash on the spot. Beware of this terrifying new insurance scam. It is a variation of the scam that already exists and known as “crash for cash” fraudsters deliberately cause an accident by unexpectedly slamming on their brakes or reversing into the vehicle behind. The law states that it is the driver behind who is at fault. They then claim on your insurance for damages and whiplash injuries and for more people who are in the car at the time. Instead of claiming on the insurance they now demand cash at the site there and then. Typically asking for £50 up to £200, mostly from the elderly or young mums with children in the car they then may claim on your insurance. This is costing the insurance companies £400 million which is then passed on to the customer. A camera in the car is a good way to prove what has happened. If this happens call the police, take pictures with the disposable camera you should be carrying. Never admit guilt or hand over any money. Take the other driver’s name, address, phone number, and registration number. Report the incident to the Insurance Fraud Bureau’s Cheatline 08004220421. These staged motor accidents are carried out by highly organised criminals and are putting motorist lives at risk.



Groups news: Lincoln group extracts fire service insight at meeting

Andy Dixon, extrication team manager at Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, was the special guest speaker at Lincoln Advanced Motorists’ October meeting. Andy gave some useful insights into his work and the intricacies of what the service does. As a thank you the group presented Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue with a donation of £150 to the Fire Fighters’ Charity. The picture shows Ken Green, the group’s vice-chair, presenting the cheque to Andy. Ashley Behan, group secretary, said: “We are grateful to LF&R for their continued support to our group and use of the facilities at their Lincoln HQ for our meetings and social events.”

Run out of fuel?

Nearly a million motorists a year breakdown after risking near-empty fuel tanks. Research shows the number running out of fuel has risen every year since 2011, when the figure was a third lower. Men made up most of the 827,000 who ignored the fuel warning light.

The study by insurer LV= found that 1 in four drivers think they can travel 40 miles or more in the red zone. But half of cars cannot manage that distance.

Two thirds of drivers say they never fill their tank to the top, while slightly under a third admit to putting in as little as £5 of fuel to keep them going!

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IAM

DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

WHO'S WHO

Lincoln IAM Chairman, Neil White...

I must rank amongst those who have taken the longest time between starting their advanced driving training and passing their test! I had always had an interest in driving, and driving well, even before I was old enough to drive. On leaving University and getting a job with Ruston Gas Turbines, I found myself working in the same department as Mike Hill and Derek Allerton, who were both on a campaign to drum up new members. Accordingly, one Sunday morning in 1980, I went for a taster session with an observer whose name long eludes me, in my trusty 1977 MGB GT. I was told I was quite OK, and that it wouldn't take too many sessions to get to the required level, I just had to avoid changing down through the gears (all four of them!) and avoid overlapping braking and gear changing. I applied the technique to my driving from then onwards, plus other things I gleaned from my 1970's copy of Roadcraft.

Roll on twenty-eight years of busy career until early retirement put time back in my hands, and a Skill for Life course duly bought. Whilst I lived (and still do) between Newark and Nottingham, my allegiance was still to the Lincoln Group, which I duly contacted and joined. I was allocated Steve Hopkins as my observer (by Steve Hopkins!), and commenced the first of eight sessions with him around the Grantham area. Steve made a brilliant observer, with a very good manner, and a good sense of humour. On one occasion, I was leaving Grantham towards Boston on the A52, doing my very best commentary. Having got to a large roundabout and taken the first exit, Steve said "you didn't mention

the cyclist..." With an obvious air of panic I said "which cyclist", to which he coolly replied "the one you might have seen if you had bothered to look in your nearside door mirror". Of course there was no cyclist, but a point well made and a lesson learned.

My test was with Richard Baker, and started at Ravenshead, between Nottingham and Mansfield. It was very icy, making my Jaguar XJ6 a bit of a handful, but I got through it alright and did well enough to be eligible for a First when that system later came along. I got all ones except for a two for not quite making enough progress. We agreed to disagree on that point, and I still think not risking the heavy rear-wheel-drive car swapping ends in the ice and snow on one's advanced test was the right call! A couple of interesting things cropped up along the way. First was the direction to "turn right at Brian May's house", as if everyone knows where the Queen guitarist lives (on the A60 but you can't see the actual house for trees!). The second was during my commentary, mentioning a white van, to which Richard commented "If I was in my patrol car now I would pull him over. My copper's nose tells me there's something dodgy about it. I don't know if it's the van, the driver, or the contents, but something is definitely dodgy!"

Soon after I passed my test, Terry Johnston approached me to ask if I would join the committee to assist with marketing type activities, for which I have previous convictions. I said yes, and there started my time on the committee. Since then I have gone on to do other



roles, finally becoming Chairman three years ago. In all that time we have built a strong committee, and have become recognised amongst our Region of the IAM as one of the more progressive Groups. I am keen to continue this progress, not to blow our own trumpet, but to operate smoothly, professionally, and with a sense of fun. We continue to attract new recruits, and I am keen to thank everyone on the committee and in the Group for their support in helping us create more and more advanced drivers. You will have noticed that the bulk of the committee have put themselves through the National Observer assessment (and passed!), so we continue to move onwards and upwards.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Neil White

ASSOCIATE VIEW

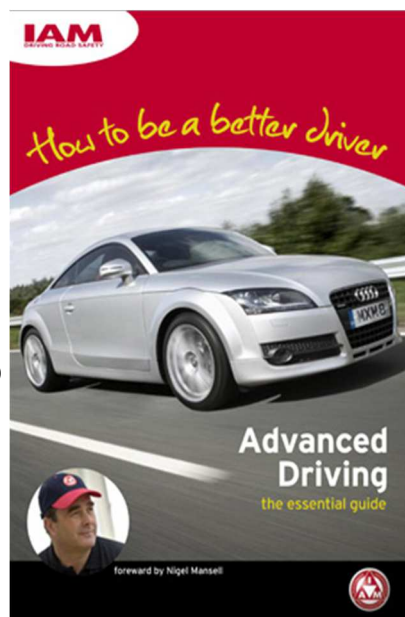
My experiences as a Skills for Lifer

I had been driving for fifty plus years when my elder sister became an advanced motorist at the age of 82. Not wishing to be out-done I too enrolled thinking I probably wouldn't learn much but what's the harm?

As soon as I got the data pack and started to read the IAM Advanced Driving Guide I realised that I was going to have to stop and think about how I drove. I wasn't sure what that would entail or what nasty habits it might

uncover. I think my biggest problem was a reluctance to find out that I wasn't as good a driver as I would like to think I was. This wasn't helped when I met my observer who wasn't even born when I started driving! All that went out of the window: 10 minutes into my first observed drive I was hooked. It was fun. For the first time in many years I was enjoying the experience of driving.

On that first drive the most significant thing I learnt was that I drove on autopilot – I didn't think about how or when I changed gears or braked any more than I thought about blinking or breathing, I just did



it. More significantly, I realised that my driving vision was focussed very much in the near-field. My observer was seeing so much more than I was and so much earlier. Clearly there were improvements I could make.

Over the course of the next few drives I found that paying attention to the detail of what I was doing meant that I had to think ahead. In order to think ahead I had to lift my driving vision so that I had time to plan what I wanted to do. For me that was the most important change. The rest of the modifications to my driving style were, relatively, just details.

Before I knew it the day of my assessed drive was upon me. It was really important to me that I passed this at my first attempt – passing my original driving test took three goes. The assessor made me feel completely at ease so that I was able to focus normally on my driving. The route covered most normally encountered road conditions – it even rained – and before I knew it we were back where we started from. I'm pleased to say I passed.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course which I am convinced has improved both my driving and my enjoyment of it.

Written by Mike Perridge who passed his Skill for Life advanced test in mid-September. Mike was Observed by Ashley Behan, Second Opinion with Gary Hill.

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EVENTS UPDATE

Barrie Heath Trophy Evening

Ashley Behan reports from another enjoyable Barrie Heath Trophy Evening.

This years quiz was held on Wednesday 14th October - it takes place annually between local IAM groups in memory of Barrie.

Scunthorpe won it last year, so it was their turn to host at their usual venue, the Redbourn Club in Scunthorpe. We arrived with a new team member: Simon Clayton joining myself, Tony Lofts and Mike Hill to make up our team of four. The other three will tell you that I'm extremely competitive, so after a rousing team talk, we began...



L-R: Ashley, Tony, Simon and Mike.

We started brightly and headed into the break after four rounds with a one point lead over the Lincolnshire Bikers, with Grimsby & Louth in third place. Time for the buffet which was excellent as usual... even had enough to take home for my lunch at work the following day.

Unfortunately the food finished us off and the last two rounds just slipped away from us - Round 5 was place names from pictures and Round 6 a series of motoring related questions from history and saw us score 7 out of 20 points!

Final scores were:

Lincolnshire Bikers 63

Lincoln IAM 60

Grimsby & Louth 53

Bikers to host again next year! It was a good night as always and opportunity to socialise with our other local groups.

Our congratulations to the bikers and thanks to Terry Heath and his team at Scunthorpe IAM who organised an excellent evening.



Barrie Heath pictured with his prize and trophy for winning Ambulance Driver of the Year.

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FORDIE'S WORLD

Group Member, Graham Ford!

Back at the end of July I renewed my motorcycle insurance, same company as last year. As the machine is regarded as a "Japanese Classic" (over 30 years old) there is not quite the distinction between fully comprehensive and third party, fire and theft. The quote was reasonable, considering the benefits attached to the policy but then the "voice" on t'other end of the phone did his level best to sell me cover for my riding gear, a personal accident policy – in case I get knocked off by a careless driver and to top it all – a luggage protection policy. He seemed rather miffed that I wouldn't take these extras. Trying to persuade the operative that in a good year I ride about 1500 miles and I DON'T tour, judging by the youthful tone of his voice, I've probably sat at red traffic lights on a motorbike longer than he's been alive! I imagine they are under pressure to make maximum sales, but when a client is adamant that a particular class of cover is required and that only, why the heck can't it be left at that!?

Gripe number two; at "Ford Towers" we are very fond of a number of motorsports particularly F1 and Moto G.P plus others but what is niggling us is the commentators. At times, they sound almost hysterical, never shut up dammit!! We can see ourselves what's going on as well as them, most of the time.

Are these commentators under some sort of instruction to keep waffling in case "the poor, misguided viewer" thinks that the "tele" has packed up! It's not just motor-sport where these loonies abound, we've been watching the athletics from China (end of August), rugby, football, etc; all these sports suffer from the same "overkill" of words and waffle!

It is a given that this scribe will use six words where one would do, but I have at least two A4 sheets to and type into the computer, you have the choice to READ it or not,

you don't have to listen to my voice droning on and on! The September meeting was an interesting diversion, I had volunteered to take an observed drive in my own car. Ken Green, unluckily, drew the "short straw", so as we settled into the car, belted up etc, I felt obliged to tell Ken he was about to travel with an arrogant, retired old truckie, that I had passed my commercial advanced test in a 44 tonne lorry, that I didn't agree with much of the "system" and that I was one of Lincoln's leading cynics! Ken didn't seem unduly perturbed, so we set off on the course, I did manage to keep some sort of commentary going, interspersed with more general observations.

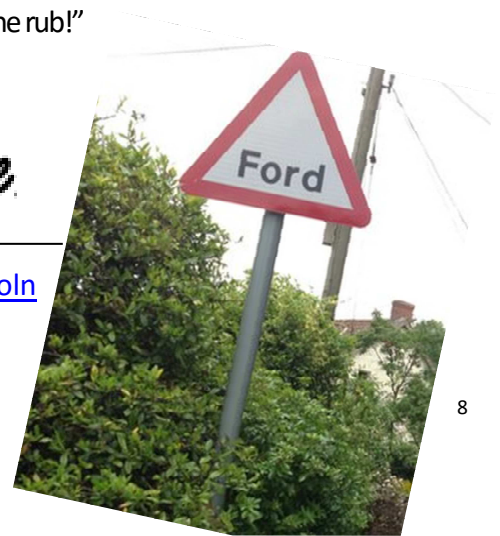
Apart from a bit of map "misreading" in Waddington, we completed the drive within the law. Ken was generous enough to give me a "clean sheet", his hair had not turned white with fear nor had he tried to bail out of the passenger door, so I must have done it about right – better than I dared hope!

This year has not been one of my better motorcycling years, what with not very good weather, a few medical problems plus the effects of "Anno Dominitus", I find my enthusiasm waning. So now I question whether I should stick with two wheels. I passed my test at 17 so I've been a "rocker" for 55 years (do the maths yourselves) I find myself being drawn to a scooter, twist and go, built-in weather protection, easy to mount, maybe I can become a "mod" without loss of face.

I read the motorcycle press and drool over brand new bikes –and restored old ones do I really want to give up – "Aye—there's the rub!"

Stay safe

Fordie

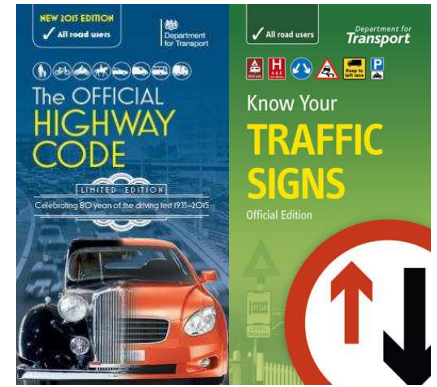


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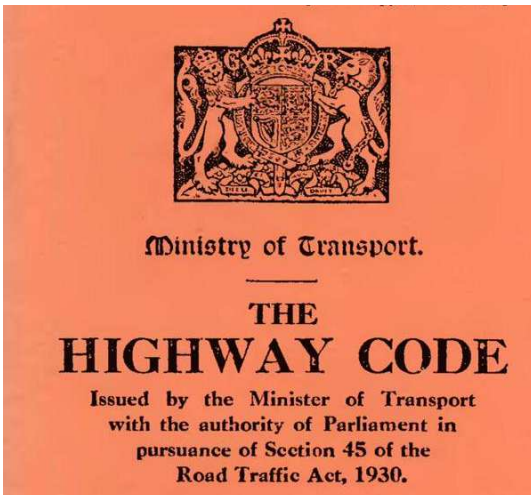
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KNOW YOUR STUFF

Highway Code changes!



A recent survey carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) found that only **23% of road users have read the highway code** since passing their practical driving test. The DVSA are encouraging all drivers to sign up for their weekly highway code updates and information. The majority of people who have signed up for the updates say they have used the roads differently since signing up. You can sign up for email notifications at www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code.

1. **The national speed limit for lorries on a single carriageway in England and Wales.** *The national speed limit for lorries on single carriageways increased from 40mph to 50mph on 6 April 2015.*
2. **The maximum fine for dangerous driving.** *The £5000 limit on serious offences was removed on 5 June 2015. It's now unlimited.*
3. **Driver Vehicle Standards Agency Officers have the power to stop vehicles on all roads in England and Wales.** *The DVSA replaced the Vehicle and Operators Services Agency in April 2014. They will attract your attention by flashing amber lights. It's an offence not to comply with their directions.*
4. **The legal limit for breath alcohol in Scotland is now 22 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath.** *The legal limit was lowered in Scotland on 5 December last year. The limit remains 35 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath in England and Wales.*
5. **It's illegal to smoke in an enclosed private vehicle carrying passengers under 18 in England and Wales.** *Drivers MUST NOT smoke or allow anyone to smoke in a vehicle carrying someone under 18, including motor caravans. This became law on 1 October 2015.*

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Events Calendar

Reports of our events can be found on our website.

Forthcoming Events

13 October 2015 – Lines Fire & Rescue (Extrication Team Manager, Andy Dixon)

10 November 2015 – Winter Driver Development Evening

8 December 2015 – Christmas Social/Group History

2016 Events

We are working hard to secure speakers and trips out and about in 2016. We are basing these around the suggestions received from members at our last AGM and will confirm the full 2016 events calendar in next months newsletter! If you'd like to recommend a speaker, event or there's a driving related topic you'd like to find out more about please feel free to contact us with your suggestions.

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

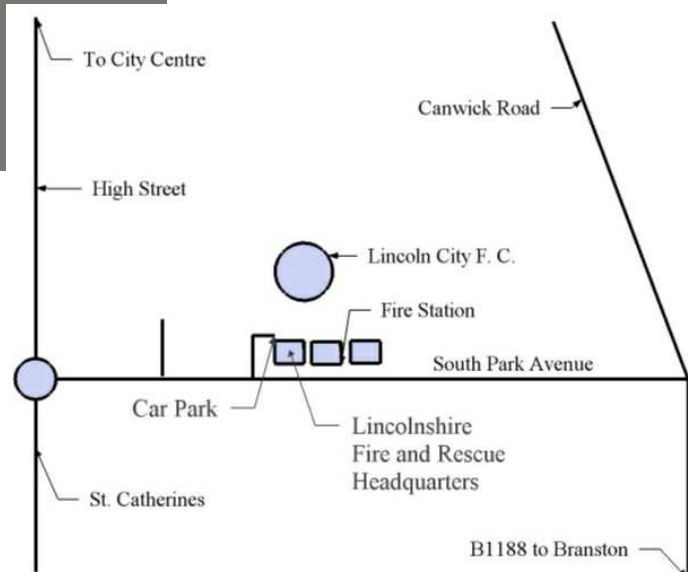
To book call **0300 365 0152** or bring this voucher to our next group meeting!

*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 December 2015

Autumn Edition

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NEXT EDITION: WINTER 2015!



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