

## THE LATEST FROM THE LINCOLN GROUP

### *Christmas message from the Chairman...*

At this time of year it is usual to look back and reflect on how things went, as well as to make plans for the year about to start.

I am pleased to say we can all look back on 2015 with both pride and satisfaction. Recruitment of new members has continued to be strong, and it has been particularly pleasing to see the return to our midst some former members. Our social events have been well attended, and have represented something for everyone, it seems from the feedback.

On the training side we have had a bumper year, with a total of 27 test passes, including four F1RSTs, exceeding our own targets, and, we believe, setting a record for our Group. Our pass rate of a round 95% is high compared to the country as a whole, and we are now well stocked with National Observers to continue to take this work further. An excellent result for associates and observers alike, well done all.

Looking forward to this year, we are basically planning more of the same - an interesting mix of social events, focussed recruitment campaigns for new members, and the continuous improvement of our training methods and techniques. The Newsletter and our website will continue to keep you up to date with developments.

I would like to record my thanks to the Committee for their support, hard work and dedication throughout the year, and finally I hope you had a peaceful Christmas with your families and friends, and wish you a safe and prosperous New Year.

**Neil White**

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

**By phone:**

0300 365 0152

**By email:**

[lincolnadvancedmotorists@gmx.com](mailto:lincolnadvancedmotorists@gmx.com)

**By post:**

Lincoln IAM, 38 Salisbury Drive, Bracebridge Heath, LINCOLN, LN4 2SW

**By social media:**

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## SKILLS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

### *Lincoln & Boston Group team up with new offer...*

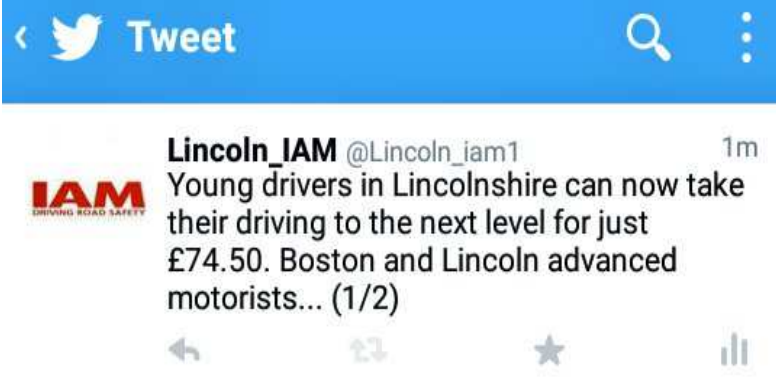
17-24? Lincolnshire's roads were crowned the most dangerous in 2015, coupled with rising national road deaths and injuries. With this in mind, we all have our part to play in keeping ourselves safe, especially in our own area.

The IAM Skill for Life course offers the training and experience any driver needs to make themselves safer, more skilled and less likely to become another statistic!

Sign up for the Skill for Life and the Lincoln &

Boston IAM groups will give you 50% back once you've taken the test - regardless of the outcome.

This makes the full Skill for Life course just £74.50!



**Lincoln\_IAM**  
@Lincoln\_iam1

... have joined to refund 50% of the Skill for Life course fee to young drivers when they take their test  
[lincolniam.org.uk/pages/home/you...](http://lincolniam.org.uk/pages/home/you...) (2/2)

### *Don't become a 17-24 statistic...*

- Drivers under 25 are the most at risk of being killed or seriously injured on the roads (*Brake*)
- 12% of all people killed in a crash involve drivers 17-19 (*RAC 2014*)
- The most common type of crash involving younger drivers is at junctions on both urban and rural roads (*IAM*)
- 15% of 18-24 year olds admitted taking a 'selfie' whilst driving within the last month (*IAM July 2015*)
- 50% of younger drivers admit to not concentrating 100% of the time. 24% give daydreaming as the most common reason (*IAM*)

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## SKILL FOR LIFE ROUND-UP

*2015 ends on a positive...*

Congratulations to our associates and observers who have all worked well together to achieve 27 Skill for Life test passes throughout 2015.

These include four F1RSTs, the top end of the SfL test pass - these are the groups first such passes since 2013!

We are hoping for a positive start to 2016 and similar results by this time next year.



Associate	Pass Date	Observer	2nd Opinion Observer
Chris Colgan	21/12/2015	Kelvin Simmonds	Roger Hicks
Mark McKinlay	12/12/2015 F1RST	Kelvin Simmonds	Roger Hicks
Chris Canner	02/12/2015 F1RST	Tony Lofts	Gary Hill
Sue Holtby	01/12/2015	Julia Vause	Ashley Behan
Ian Jones	28/11/2015	Tony Lofts	Gary Hill
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	24/0/2015	Terry Johnston	Gary Hill
Sarah Hall	13/07/2015	Roger Hicks	Ashley Behan
Ian Firth	19/06/2015 F1RST	Roger Hicks	
Martin Nash	12/06/2015	Ashley Behan	Gary Hill
Janusz Lebiada	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 F1RST	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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## WE GIVE YOU...

### *... The Famous Five!*

No not the Enid Blyton Famous Five but the five Lincoln Group observers who all passed their National Observer assessments with flying colours and all at the same time! This brings the total number of observers qualified to National standard in Lincoln group to eight out their total of ten qualified observers. A further two trainee observers are expected to qualify as Local Observers before the end of the year and two more will take their National Observer assessments in early 2016.

The picture shows Chief Observer, Roger Hicks (L-R) presenting certificates to Gary Hill, Tony Lofts, Julia Vause, Neil White and Ashley Behan.



Pete Doherty, IAM Regional Quality Manager for Central England and Wales said:

"I met several members of the group whilst conducting the assessments and have to say I am very impressed with the positive attitude towards the role of observing.

Andy Giddings and I conducted five assessments and we were really pleased with the high level of observing and driving along with the general bubbly atmosphere at the end of the day. Roger and his team have done really well. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all members of the group for their hard work this year and hopefully next year will see many new associates taking advantage of the coaching skills of the National and Local IMI qualified observers.

I wish the group all the success they deserve in the new year."

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## IN THE NEWS

### *Lincolnshire country's worst for drink drive crashes*

Drivers in Lincolnshire are more likely to be involved in a crash whilst under the influence of alcohol than anywhere else in the country, a national study by Road Safety Analysis has said.

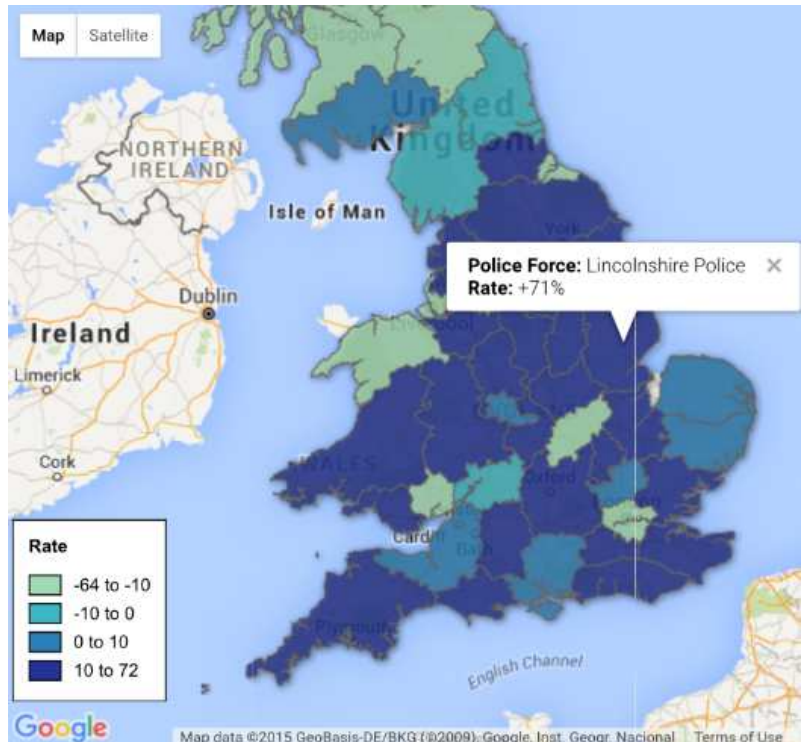
The study looked into the number of car drivers who had been drinking before a police attended injury collision. The overall trend highlighted 2.7% of crashes involved drivers who were considered drunk at the wheel. Against this figure, Lincolnshire topped the drink drive rate with 71% of drivers likely to be considered over the limit than the national norm.

Car drivers from London were the least likely with a risk rate of 63% lower than the national average.

The Road Safety Analysis report said: "The vast majority of British drivers are responsible and wouldn't think twice about drinking and driving. In rural areas this is much harder with the cost of getting home safely much more expensive than in towns. Drivers are urged to plan ahead at all times of the year to have 'none for the road', reducing the temptation to drink".

The figures were broken down into police force area. The analysis was carried out on over 500,000 car drivers involved in police attended injury collisions between 2010 and 2014.

(Road Safety Analysis, The Lincolnite)



### *What the IAM say...*

A recent IAM survey revealed almost 70% of people would like to see the legal drink drive limit reduced across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to the same level implemented by Scotland (reduced from 80 to 50 milligrams of alcohol in 100ml of blood in December 2014). Police Scotland confirmed they saw a 19% reduction in drivers being prosecuted for drink driving through winter compared with the previous 2 festive periods.

The IAM's CEO, Sarah Sillars said: "the IAM supports campaigns which makes the non-drinker the hero on a night out, so that everyone stays safe."

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## WINTER DRIVING EVENING

### *Gary Hill's report on our November Driver Development Evening...*

Thirty-four members attended the evening, and joined in with some very good feedback; some of which was very amusing.

Ashley Behan, Group Secretary and recently qualified IMI Observer, started the session by showing slides relating to adverse weather conditions that can be encountered at this time of the year. He spoke about foggy conditions, flooded sections of roads, snow and high winds. Most of those who attended knew what to do if their vehicle was covered in snow and were aware that it was an offence to use it without taking adequate remedial action.

Ashley also spoke about commercial vehicles and the restrictions that apply to them. High-sided lorries are particularly vulnerable in high winds, etc. He said that it was necessary to prepare your vehicle for the months ahead and not get caught out. Most important is the state of the tyres (considering tread depth). If you have to travel in adverse conditions you need to ensure you have enough fuel, mobile phone, warm clothes, a warm drink and a shovel in the vehicle.

Our Chief Observer, Roger Hicks, then spoke about driver development. He asked members how long it had been since they had taken their test. He suggested that those members who had passed the IAM test were far more capable on the road than those people who had not.

IPSGA (information, position, speed, gear and acceleration) was discussed; most important was planning and ensuring you could make safe progress. Eco driving was also spoken about – being in the right gear and at the right speed at all times.

Julia Vause, Treasurer of the Lincoln Group, provided the buffet and everyone enjoyed the fantastic spread. Tony Lofts organised the raffle, which was very entertaining. The next part of the evening provided an opportunity to show our members a photo-shoot of the newly appointed IAM observers who had recently taken the advanced level training test with the Head Office Chief Examiners. They had brought along the new certificates that they had received.

## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Our Christmas Social Evening and Quiz was the last event in our 2015 social calendar. Several members enjoyed the evening and shared information and memorabilia about the groups history. Special thanks to Glenys Allerton for bringing along several photos, other items and sharing her memories with the group. The quiz was won by Tony Nutkins. Julia Vause provided the buffet and Tony Lofts organised the raffle, with many present winning prizes.



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## POTHOLE PROMISE

### *Chancellor announces 'permanent' pothole fund...*

The condition of local roads has been named as drivers top motoring concern, according to a report carried out by the RAC. With decreasing government grants for local authorities set for the foreseeable future, the challenge of effective maintenance for local roads has never been more real.

£15 billion will be invested in upgrading the Strategic Road Network (motorways and trunk roads), but this will not benefit local roads which make up 98% of the highway

network.

The government has estimated the cost of bringing local roads in England alone back to a state that is fit for purpose to be up to £8.6bn, whilst the industry estimate £12.16bn. The Chancellor has recently announced £6bn will be allocated for local road maintenance over the next six years; on top of this a £250 million investment will be made in a 'permanent' pothole fund. In the future highway authorities will be funded based on efficient performance,

industry best practice and adopting asset management plans (RAC, RSTA & *Highways Magazine*).

*With this in mind, it seems likely that the condition of our local roads will continue to deteriorate over the next few years and this is something we have to accept and adapt to. As advanced motorists, we must give further attention to the changing condition of the road surface and the potential affect it will have on the vehicle.*

**Ashley Behan**

### *Claims and funding facts...*

- *Lincolnshire County Council maintains the fourth largest road network in England. In the 2012/13 financial year they paid out the most for pothole damage compensation claims (LV).*
- *In the 2014/15 financial year local highway authorities received one pothole claim every 18 minutes (RAC).*
- *Of the £5 billion collected in vehicle excise duty in 2014/15, local authorities received £976 million for road maintenance (RSTA).*



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## FORDIE'S WORLD

### *Winter words from Graham Ford...*

As is my wont (or wo'nt) I shall congratulate those of you who have survived the "Festivities" without committing atrocities upon the spouse, cat, granny, kids, TV and sundry furniture. Have any of you suffered heart palpitations at the abuse of your credit card or considered filing for divorce? I also suspect the sale of "Rennies" increases dramatically about now – pie, chips and mushy peas are a much safer diet!

At this time of year my sympathies are entirely with Ebenezer Scrooge "CHRISTMAS! BAH HUMBUG!!" I say this from the point of view of an old cynic and curmudgeon who lives the life of a well ordered routine. For example – Tuesday breakfast must always be two boiled eggs after the daily clementine (for vitamin D) which, I am assured, my body needs and my bowl of cereal. Anything that disturbs this comfortable routine is anathema!

Now on a more serious note, November's meeting was interesting, first, with Ash reminding us all of winter driving and preparation techniques, although as Advanced Drivers we should have this implanted in our memories but it never hurts to be reminded. As a retired HGV driver may I reiterate a point I made: that in ice, snow or fog, give lorries, of whatever size, a wide berth. Being hit by a skidding or jack-knifing lorry is like a ball being hit by a cricket bat, cars definitely come "second".

I must confess, that during this presentation, new technology in the form of automatic headlights, wipers, etc was mentioned, I was not particularly aware of this progress, which, whilst admirable in its concept, just makes me wonder if the "skill" of driving is being reduced? Is the driver of a modern car so cocooned and surrounded by "gadgets

and gizmos" lulled into thinking no harm can befall them! Have drivers lost the art of "reading the road"? Being able to discern "contaminated" road surfaces such as patches of sodden leaves, compacted snow or the worst one, black ice. Of these last two, driving skill is paramount, all the traction control, anti-lock brakes, four-wheel drive and good tyres won't help "NO GRIP = NO CONTROL"!! In these conditions sight and sound are good pointers to the road surface, is there spray coming from the wheels of the vehicle in front, can you hear the "swish" of your wheels as you can on a wet surface? If not, chances are you "AIN'T GOT MUCH GRIP"! How to deal with it? Take your foot off the accelerator and let the vehicle slow down naturally, avoid the footbrake if possible, just to reiterate, accelerate and brake gently, low revs, high gear. Fog: try, as far as possible, to keep a consistent speed and don't be "on and off" the brakes or you're likely to be shunted from the vehicle behind and if you really can't cope pull off the road at a safe point, have a breather and let the rest get on with it.

I also appreciated Roger's presentation, outlining the changes to training for all aspects of the IAM. Hopefully now prospective members will all be trained to the same high standard nationwide – no bad thing.

I spend the greater part of my driving time in and around the City and I can't help but notice the glaring discrepancies in driving skill. For example, road junctions the number of drivers who tend to "lean" a car around a junction as if they were riding a bike, don't they know what a steering wheel is for? Traffic lights are another bone of contention, some drivers seem to "nod-off"

and are surprised when the lights turn green, often creating big gaps between vehicles instead of flowing through in an orderly and controlled manner. Another moan is that the traffic lights in Lincoln do not appear to work in a logical sequence, often causing traffic build-ups and, consequently, grid-lock and NO, I wouldn't like to try and reorganise it either!

Finally, to end this missive, I would like to offer my thanks to the Committee for an interesting years' worth of socials, as Chairman of another, small, group of volunteers in Lincoln I appreciate the amount of effort that goes into our local group. Also I must thank Julia most sincerely for the scrumptious buffets she puts on for the big occasions and the refreshments at other times. Plus, there is one more, unsung, heroine – Alison, who disappears into the depths and emerges a short while later bearing trays of steaming tea and coffee, then, when we have all had our fill, dutifully goes round and collects the empties and takes them away for disposal. Good on you Alison, we'd be the poorer without you.

In this early part of the year, drive carefully, other, lesser, mortals don't cope so well with winter conditions.

*Fordie*





[www.lincolniam.org.uk](http://www.lincolniam.org.uk)

Registered Charity: 1049400

## KNOW YOUR STUFF

### Leave your engine running?



Leaving your car with the engine running whilst unattended isn't a good idea - but did you know that doing so on a public highway is an offence under the 1991 Road Traffic Act?

"Quitting", as its known, is an offence under Section 42 of the act, insofar the vehicle fails to comply with further regulations under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) legislation

which requires the stopping of the engine when the vehicle is stationary, for the prevention of noise. Emergency vehicles are exempt— provided they are responding to an emergency!

The police can offer words of advice or issue the offender with a fixed penalty notice of £30.

As well as the noise issue, if you fail to lock your car with the spare set of keys it could make easy picking for thieves and invalidate your insurance.

The IAM's director of standards, Mark Lewis advises:

"thinking ahead is key to winter preparation, leaving earlier to allow more time for ice on both the road and your car means

you won't be rushing in adverse conditions and you will have more time to enjoy the drive. Always carry a

winter driving kit, including an ice scraper, de-icer, blanket, torch, shovel and a fully charged mobile phone."

(IAM, Road Traffic Act 1991)

NOISE OFFENCES	
RC86065	Use vehicle with no silencer fitted
RC86066	Use vehicle with exhaust gasses escaping without passing th
RC86067	Use vehicle with insufficient exhaust system / altered system
RC86068	Use vehicle with altered exhaust system / silencer
RC86092	Use vehicle to cause unnecessary noise
RC86093	Not stopping engine when stationary
RC86094	Sounding of horn when stationary
RC86095	Sounding of horn at night
RC86270	Prohibited silencer on motorcycle



The Highway Code @HighwayCodeGB · Nov 23

**You MUST NOT leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running.**





## Events Calendar

Reports of our events can be found on our website.

## 2016 Events

### January 2016—NO MEETING

9th February 2016—*Sgt Mark Carlin: IAM Examiner & Star of 'Police Interceptors'*

8th March 2016—Michael Pace, Solicitor: Motoring Offences & Defence

12th April 2016—Driver Development Evening: New Vehicle Technology (Free Buffet)

10th May 2016—AGM & update from Regional Operations Manager, Ian Firth (Free Buffet)

14th June 2016—Sarah Sillars OBE, IAM Chief Executive Officer (Free Buffet)

12th July 2016—\*External Event\* Lincs Fire & Rescue Waddington Training Facility. 7pm prompt start at: A15 Sleaford Road, Bracebridge Heath, LN5 9FG

### August 2016—NO MEETING

13th September 2016—Driver Development Evening: 'Mind Driving' (Free Buffet)

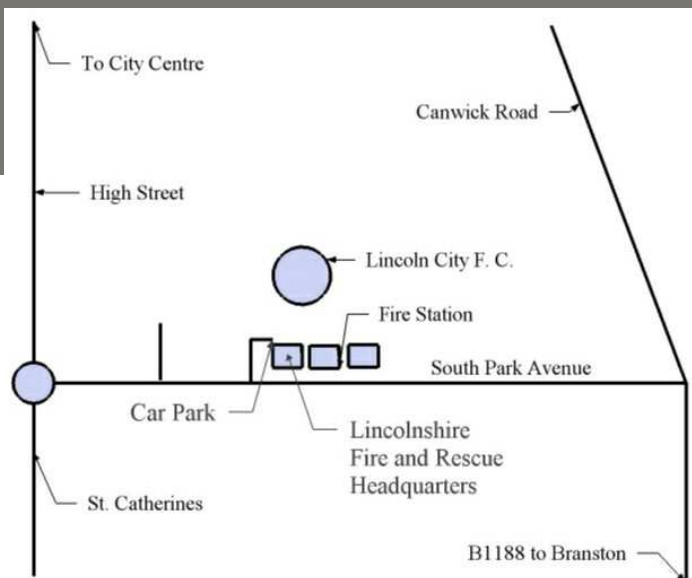
11th October 2016—Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance

8th November 2016—Winter Driver Development Evening (Free Buffet)

13th December 2016—Christmas Social & Quiz (Free Buffet)

## 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!



## NEXT EDITION: *SPRING 2016!*



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