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August/September 2015

Leicester

Advanced Motorists

Registered Charity No 1055744

President: ACC Phil Kay



Officers and Committee 2015

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PLEASE TRY NOT TO RING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS AFTER 8.00 PM, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE GROUP OR THE IAM

CALLING ALL ASSOCIATES AND OBSERVERS!

Save the date - Saturday 15th August , 9.30 am, Police Headquarters, Enderby

A training session is to be held on Saturday 15 August 2015 for all new Associates, aimed primarily at those who have yet to be allocated an observer or those who have had three or less sessions with their observer. The session will take the form of a brief administrative introduction to the Group, followed by some key points regarding Advanced Driving. After a short break, Observers will conduct some short assessment drives.

For Observers, this session replaced the routine, planned training at Asfordby Hill – please make an effort to attend to reduce ratios of Associate:Observer in the practical sessions.

Details:

Location:	Main Conference Room, Police HQ - please contact your observer (or Melvyn or Tony) regarding access procedures
Date:	Saturday 15 August 2015
Time:	09:15 for 09:30 start – should finish by 12:30
Attendance:	New Associates / Existing Observers
Contact:	Melvyn Smith or Tony Moore

**** The next observer training session has been arranged for Saturday 10th October 2015, 9.30 am **.**



If you would like further information on these qualifications, please contact [Melvyn Smith](#), the Observer Co-ordinator or your team leader. Watch this space for further details!

Melvyn can be contacted on **07531 234106** or email melvynsmith21@gmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATES!

Welcome to the following new associates who joined in June/July:-

Mike Smith of Leicester

Ryan Kilby of Glenfield

Lucy Jackson from Markfield

Alice Tollemache of Grantham

Katrina Plimmer of Melton Mowbray

Kenneth Martin of Coalville

Nicky Huskinson of Lutterworth

Mark Huskinson of Lutterworth

Stephen Hassell of Fleckney

Ruth Derry of Fleckney

Ross Wilson of Loughborough

Paul Baizley of Market Harborough

Zixin Luo of Sutton Bonington

**If your name has not appeared here, please let us know!
We look forward to meeting you all shortly, and to seeing
your successful test pass mentioned in a forthcoming
newsletter.**

Ha ha!

A rich snail goes into a car shop, picks out a super fast car, and says "I want a big 'S' painted on the right hand side, the left side, the front, the back, I want big Ss everywhere." And the car painter asks, "why?" And the snail says "because when I pass people on the road, I want them to point at me and say 'wow! Look at that escargot!'"

(Ed's note – think about it!)

TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS!

Congratulations to the following new members who have passed their test since the last newsletter.

John Pritchard, assisted by David Hage

Umarmia Tava assisted by Khalid Gill

John wrote to David and said "Managed a pass on Saturday, well chuffed. Thank you all for the time and effort you have put in, hope to see you soon".



**Mark Whitmore receiving
his certificate from
Examiner Peter Phillips**



**Peter and Alan
inspecting the
Spitfire Engine**

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



You know, it never ceases to amaze me how ridiculously stupid some of our UK drivers are - especially in and around this area, unfortunately!

It's only a couple of weeks ago that I heard a news item on BBC Radio Leicester on the subject of red light running, and just how prevalent it had become. The figure mentioned was some 8,014 tickets issued since 2012 in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Road Safety Partnership area – with SIXTY FOUR PERCENT of them resulting from the TWO cameras located at Fosse Park! If you want the maths – that's

5,129 people running the lights there in three years or around 5 a day, which isn't something to be proud of, unlike eating your fruit and veg!. You only have to drive around there to see how often the traffic light poles have been demolished by folk running into them – or being rammed into them by someone as a result of being hit by a red-light runner. Because it's also a sad fact that quite a lot of red-light offences result in injuries of some sort.

Whether these offences are caused by some form of distraction wasn't mentioned in the report – but it's certainly a possibility. Major junctions like Fosse Park exist in lots of places, of course; and the Highways Engineers are always reviewing their designs, and making changes to the layouts, signs and road markings in an effort to help things flow as smoothly and painlessly as possible – I think the present design at Fosse Park is about the fourth attempt they've made; but I'll be expecting more changes tied in with the current round of roadworks taking place beside the Leicester M1 service area. So, somehow, we have to try and persuade drivers to think about their actions lots more than at present – especially when they're trying to negotiate such complex road layouts.

This isn't going to be easy. When they were presenting their news item, Radio Leicester also included half-a-dozen comments from drivers about running the lights. Several claimed it was as a result of losing their bearings, others admitted to taking a gamble quite often by going through on amber. But one guy openly admitted to having gone through at least three red's that morning – you could almost sense the shrugged shoulders, as if it was a fact of motoring life that everyone was now

expected to go through red lights, or we'd all take an unacceptably long time to get around!

Then there's the various sorts of speed cameras you'll see around. Now, nothing was said about these in the news item – but Leicestershire and the city certainly have fewer than many districts, which suggests that maybe we're a bit more law-abiding when it comes to how fast we go about our business. It's just that, once we've got going, we just seem to hate stopping! Maybe we should see lots more sent on Driving 4 Change, Driver Alertness, and Speed Awareness programmes – especially those spotted going through red lights.

David Hage

I thought you might be interested in this email, sent to IAM House by Group Member Steve Barrow -

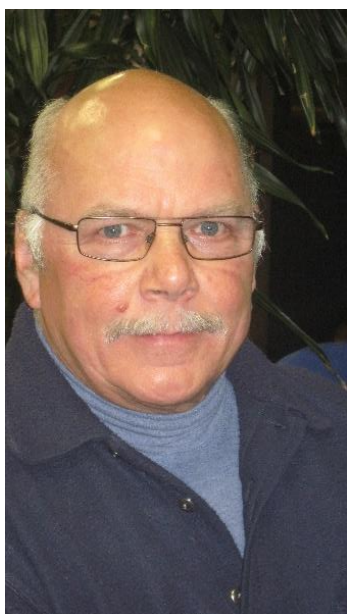
Thank you for your kind letter received today with regard to my 50 years membership of the IAM nationally. Thank you also for the gift and new arrangement for the subscription.

Your dept. wrote to me on the 40th year of my membership and reminded me about the reassessment facility and some time afterwards I took that up and passed with a reasonably high mark. I have since joined the Leicester Group and attend many of their meetings. Last year I won their slow manoeuvring competition

My son has now passed his IAM test at Derby, missing the 1st by one point. My eldest grandchild is now taking driving lessons, having previously been to formal off-road under 17 driving sessions run at Birmingham Airport.

My apologies to Andrew Greenhill who wrote and suggested a possible article. Due to space constraints, this will appear in the next newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER



Some points of interest regarding the accounts and membership aspects of keeping the group running smoothly. Both are now done on spreadsheets, which mean that:

- The accounts are up-to-date and correct and can be viewed by committee at each meeting.
- The members' details are updated as required and can be sorted to provide the necessary information. This is most helpful in processing Group Subscriptions, although full benefits will not be seen until the process has gone through a full year.
- Those members who have requested contact only by post are identified and their wishes will be easier to accommodate.

Thank you to those members who confirmed their contact & membership details, there are still many to be returned. If you have not responded to the request from the last Newsletter, it would be greatly appreciated if you could do so soon. (*For information – the form is again printed at page 16 -Ed*)

Group Subscriptions - For those members who have passed the IAM Advanced Test (Full Members), the renewal process is quite simple – each year on the anniversary of joining the Group. For Associate Members it is slightly different: the Group receives a payment from IAM HQ that covers their 1st year's Group Subscriptions - after the 1st year, it is up to the individual. We hope that, after the assistance they should have received, they will be willing to continue their membership of the group – possibly even taking on other duties, such as observing or serving on the Committee! If you are interested in serving either as an Observer or on the Committee, please speak to / contact a member of the Committee.

Whilst Group Subscriptions have been £7.50 per year for many a year, the methods of payment have changed, with the following means now available:

- Standing Order – details available from Treasurer
- Bank Transfer – details available from Treasurer
- Cheque – payable to **Leicester Group of Advanced Motorists**

- Cash – to any member of the Committee

Due to the type of bank account we must use (as a club/charity), internet banking is not available and thus we depend on monthly paper statements to view bank transactions. Your payments may, therefore, not be available to me for processing for almost a month. I will aim to process cheques within 3 working days of receipt.

Annual General Meeting – although this is not a formal notification of the 2016 AGM, it provides advance notice that the Committee has changed the month it is held from January to March, so the AGM will be on 16th March 2016. By then, although still on GMT, the evenings are lighter and, hopefully the weather better, so more people may wish to attend. The financial year for the group will remain the calendar year, so the accounts will fully reflect the period in question and have been audited by the date of the AGM.

TONY MOORE

MANOEUVRES ON TEST

Associates often ask what manoeuvres they are expected to undertaken on test. Examiner Peter Philips says “**Of course, this is always at the Examiner’s discretion**, but I usually expect a reverse parallel park”. Peter also enclosed the following extract –

Extract from 2014 Examiner’s Manual

6.4 MANOEUVRES

Car Examiners should select a suitable location where the candidate can demonstrate simple manoeuvres safely and unobtrusively. Provided the candidate can demonstrate they can reverse and park the vehicle safely and competently, the number of manoeuvres asked for is left entirely to the Examiner’s discretion. In most cases a reverse parallel park into a suitable space on the left will be sufficient to satisfy the Examiner the candidate’s reversing skills are satisfactory or above. If the candidate’s vehicle manoeuvring ability is suspect in any way, the Examiner may require the candidate to demonstrate further every day practical manoeuvres so any weaknesses can be properly assessed.



DIARY DATES 2015



NOTES ON OUR VENUE

Saturday 15th August 9.30 am Police HQ, Enderby	Associate and Observer Training. See page 3 for details
Cancelled: Sunday 24th August	Due to problems beyond our control, the "President's Cup" has been cancelled this year ☹
Wednesday 16th September Note not at Police HQ	Our biennial trip to Countesthorpe Garden Centre for good food and a gardening talk – see accompanying email
Saturday 10th October 9.30 am – venue tba	Observer Training
Wednesday 21st October Police HQ	We are hoping that Ian Firth, the IAM Regional Manager will be available to talk to us.
Wednesday 18th November	We are hoping to have a talk from a representative of Walkers Tyres (hopefully with free samples!)

Club Nights are usually held in the Olympic Room, or the Conference Room, Leicestershire Police HQ, Enderby, LE19 2BX, commencing at 8.00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise indicated). Please contact a group member if you are unsure of where to go!

The venue (and the Group) welcomes less-able visitors. Club nights are open to members of the public, group members, friends and associates. Coffee and attendance is free – however raffle prizes are always welcome!

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

One of our committee members – Laurence Faragher - is awaiting surgery at the Walton Centre in Liverpool in September. We hope your recovery is a quick one Laurence, and look forward to seeing you at committee and group nights shortly.

At the BBQ, one of our members arrived in an amazing car called “Bertie”. I therefore asked him to tell you about “Bertie”.

“BERTIE”

The car is a Burlington Arrow **“Bertie”** built by John Parker of Coventry.



The Burlington is not a kit car - there was never a kit but it was built from plans supplied by the Burlington Motor Company of Leamington Spa who could also supply some of the parts.

Bertie was built using a 1964 Triumph Spitfire as the donor car. The chassis however was constructed by John Parker in two weeks the rest of the car was constructed over two years and completed in 1985. The donor Spitfire 1296cc engine was replaced by the original Spitfire owner with a test bed engine that he acquired from his employer Triumph, so basically nobody really knows how many miles Bertie's engine has done!

John Parker took two years to build the car and being an engineer working for Triumph, Jaguar and Rover at various times he was able to use many of the resources at his disposal plus you will also see parts from a number of those marques on the car. The engine, although standard in all other ways, has thirsty twin Weber carburetors returning about 23 mpg!

I acquired the car from my friend John Parker in June 2014 and am in the process of restoring various aspects of the car that need a little TLC. Bertie has been hardly used over the last 30 years!

The unusual radiator ornament and gear knob logo is a combination of John Richard Parkers' initials - JRP.

Mark Whitmore

Ed's note - My car is called Princess Fiona from Shrek; because she is large and green. My neighbour calls her “Kermit”.

PAST EVENTS

VISIT BY MEMBERS TO STURGESS LEICESTER - 17TH JUNE 2015

After an approach by David Hage to Sturgess Jaguar the group received an invitation from Mr Chris Sturgess to hold the Branch Meeting on the 17th June in their showroom at their Narborough Road Branch.



At the opening of the meeting 28 members were able to spend some time looking round the cars on display. We all looked at the cars and then our bank accounts to see if we could reach the required amount. The most expensive was around £90,000. Before the talk refreshments were taken and enjoyed by all.



Chris Sturgess opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction to Jaguar Cars. A visit to the Workshop followed which was very clean and had 11 hoists for servicing, and a yellow E Type which had recently been renovated, a very expensive bit of kit!

The Garage on Narborough Road was opened in 2002 for Jaguar and Land Rover Showroom and Services facilities.

Great effort is made to make the purchase of a new car an experience not to forget. It supplies around 1600 new and 1000 used cars per year. Sixteen sales staff work to add that Value Added Service.

Peter Leake of Jaguar Cars then spoke of the history of the company. A film of two F types travelling at speed down a spiral road was shown with sound to match - a very exhilarating sight!

The Jaguar company was founded in 1922 with a loan of £1000 by William Walmsley and William Lyon. The Swallow Sidecar Co. (SS) They made sidecars for Motorcycles. In those days the motorcycle combination was the preferred form of travel for working class people. The bodywork of these sidecars was made of Aluminium. The first time

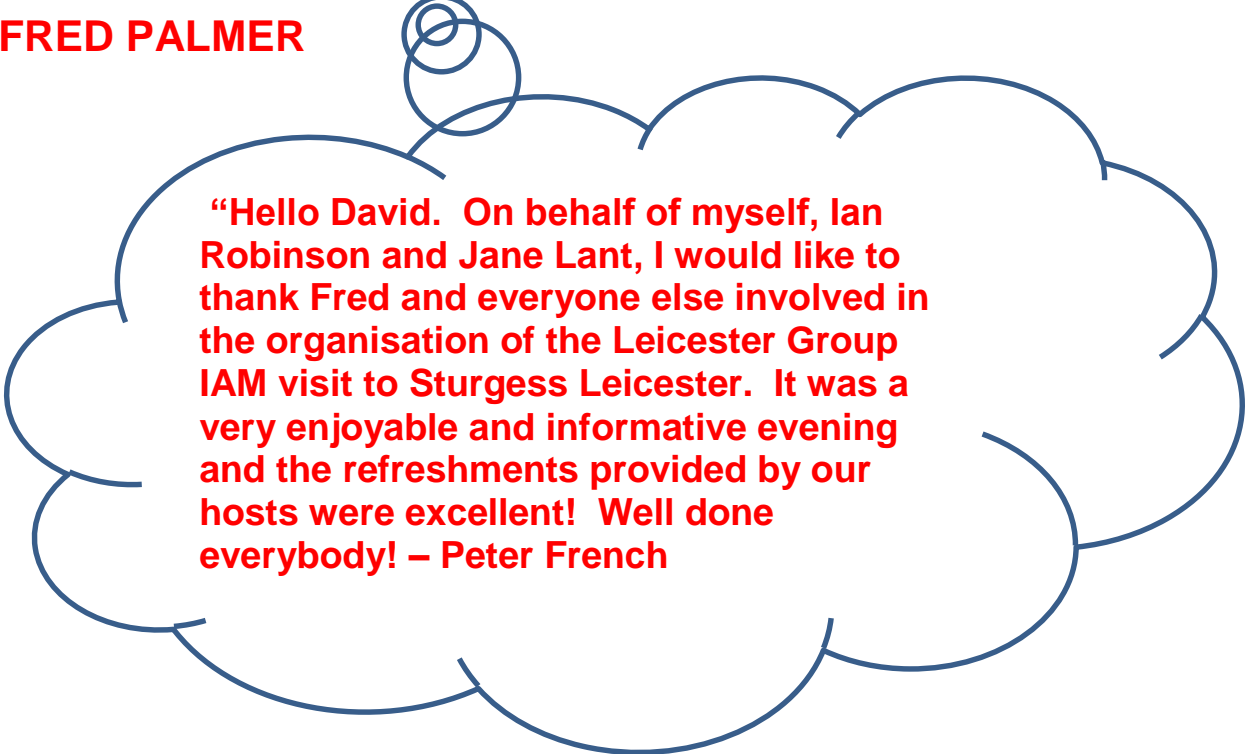
Aluminium was used for this type of work. The company changed its name to Jaguar in 1945. SS was not a name to be associated with after the second world war. 1966 they merged with the British Motor Corporation and in 1968 with British Leyland. They demerged in 1984 and taken over by Fords in 1989, Ford sold Jaguar to Tata Motors in 2008.

Headquarters are at Whitley, Coventry and the Engineering centre and the cars are manufactured at Castle Bromwich.

Jaguar was the first cars to be fitted with Disc Brakes and never used names for their cars eg XK 120, XK 140, XK 150. 2.3 XF and 2.4 XJ. The F type the new XE. And the R models producing approx. 322 Brake Horse Power. Not forgetting the E Type which we all remember.

Our sincere thanks go Mr Chris Sturgess. Mr Peter Leake and Nichola Moore for an informative and educative evening.

FRED PALMER



“Hello David. On behalf of myself, Ian Robinson and Jane Lant, I would like to thank Fred and everyone else involved in the organisation of the Leicester Group IAM visit to Sturgess Leicester. It was a very enjoyable and informative evening and the refreshments provided by our hosts were excellent! Well done everybody! – Peter French

GROUP BBQ – WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

Our BBQ took place on Wednesday 15th July, cooked by chef-Dave. Although the numbers were small, we all had a pleasant evening – despite half the men disappearing to drool over “Bertie” as mentioned above ! We also presented Mark with his certificate in front of his car, which is shown on page 5.

“Thank you very much for the lovely evening! It was great fun, good crowd, delicious food as usual. Nice to see everybody and hope to see you all before long.” – Jane Lant.

Mark also emailed to say “Many thanks for the invitation to the BBQ last week - it was a very enjoyable evening”



Sue, Peter, Andrew
and Alan

Nadia, Mark, Rod and
Jane



Rachel and David – think
we gave him indigestion!

OBSERVERS

You may find that the observer allocated is not necessarily the person closest to you. The boundaries are for observer training and record-keeping only. However, our observers are very important people – the aim of the IAM is to promote road safety by offering training leading to the Advanced Test. Without our teams of observers we would not be able to do this.

North / East Leicestershire team: Loughborough, Rearsby, Melton Mowbray etc

- Team Leader, Tony Moore, Observer & Committee Member
- Roger Ewens, Observer
- Derek Brutnell, Observer
- Mike Bogwandas, Observer
- Hugh Rees, Observer

West Leicestershire team: Narborough, Hinckley, Lutterworth etc

- Team Leader David Hage, IMI National Observer/Committee Member
- Darryl Hart, Observer
- Bill Holland, Observer

South Leicestershire team: Wigston, Oadby, Market Harborough, Blaby etc

- Team Leader - Fred Palmer, IMI National Observer/Committee Member
- Peter Radcliffe, Observer
- Khalid Gill, Observer & Committee Member

If you have a query regarding observing or your observer, please contact Melvyn Smith, the Observer Co-ordinator, on 07531 234106 or melvynsmith21@gmail.com

The newsletter is distributed on a two-monthly basis. Each month we also distribute an e-newsletter to keep our news up to date. If you wish to receive the e-newsletter, please email the editor. Similarly, you can withdraw from the e-newsletter circulation at any time by emailing and requesting this. The next newsletter will be due out at the beginning of **October 2015.**

LEICESTER GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS – MEMBERSHIP UPDATE REQUEST 2015

As mentioned on page 8– here is the form we request you complete so that we can update our records. If something is not applicable, please put N/A as appropriate.

Name						
Address						
Post Code						
Telephone	Landline (with code)		Mobile			
Email address						
Contact Preference	Electronic (ie email and web)		Post			
IAM Details	IAM Number			Year obtained		
Grade	Master*	1st*	Member		Associate	
Category	Car	Motorbike	PCV	Minibus	Towing	
* Since 2013						
Group	Number			Month of Renewal		
Observer qualification		N/A	National Observer	Local	Qualified	Trainee
Data Protection	I agree/do not agree (please delete as appropriate) to my email address being used by the Group to publicise events/distribute the newsletter, and keep me informed of group matters.					
Gift Aid	Yes	No	Not known		Please send me details	

Please return this form to either Tony Moore by email at (anthonyj.moore@btinternet.com) or by post to Julie Hage, 32 Broom Way, Narborough, Leicester LE19 3RY.