



<http://www.leicesteradvancedmotorist.net/>



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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

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS



Lots of “snippets” for you this month. Firstly an update on George Damant, one of our long-standing members. Margaret has written and said “ George was only asking about you a couple of weeks back - he is so proud of all the IAM seeks to achieve and of course your own and David's sterling work for the Branch.

George would always enjoy a visit if you have a moment or two!” – so would like to drop in, I will happily give you the contact details.

Next, you will see a letter from Peter Radcliffe, who has decided not to continue observing. We are sorry to see you go, Peter, and hope you will continue to attend group meetings.

This led us onto a discussion about our members. Yvonne Ginns and Peter Radcliffe have been members of the IAM and/or group for over 50 years; George for over 40 years. Peter Philips admitted to something over 35 (*I think he was talking about his age*); and others of us are not admitting anything! Well done to you all – it gives us something to aim for!

Tony Moore has asked that the Gift Aid form be recirculated. I am including it as an attachment to the newsletter, for you to print off and return to him as requested. Gift Aid is important to us as it increases our income – please remember that the Gift Aid form you completed for the IAM nationally is totally separate to the Group – similarly, you will need to renew your membership of the Group yearly, and Tony will remind you of this as it becomes due.

At an observer/associate training day on 10th October, we heard that Melvyn Smith, Tony Moore and Mike Bogwandas are now National Observers. We also have a new member of the observing team – Kevin Hill. So, I have removed the observers' list from the cover of the newsletter whilst it is updated. Melvyn's details can still be found on the front cover.

Andrew Greenhill said “Why are the 10 Commandments of Motoring not included in the current edition of “Roadcraft?” I couldn't find the 10 commandments Andrew was talking about, but included one at page 10 which is aimed at all drivers generally. Hope you don't mind, Andrew!

Finally, last but not least, I have included an article on the new laws relating to smoking in cars which Graham Compton sent.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



Figures obtained by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) have found that, over the last decade, speeding is still the biggest motoring-related offence where the defendant is found guilty in court; and the numbers of those found guilty have risen sharply in the past 12 months – from 115,935 to 148,426, an increase of 28% which is the highest number

since 2005. The 2014 figures were 2% greater than 2004.

Now, this really shouldn't be a big surprise when you see the sort of things I do every day both in the city and round the county. Lots of examples of drivers speeding are, certainly, down to impatience and just allowing insufficient time for a journey – but I also believe that road engineering has a considerable bearing on the problem. There are plenty of examples of Leicester roads which are restricted to 30mph, when very similar carriageways in other towns and cities like Derby, Nottingham, Corby, Kettering and Peterborough are designated 40 or even 50mph. Some of our roads just aren't logical – just thinking of parts of the ring-road, where we have two-way sections rated at 40mph, and dual-carriageway with a 30mph limit. For goodness' sake, why???

Only this week, I was contacted by BBC Radio Leicester for some comments about this, and whether the Speed Awareness and similar training initiatives such as Driver Alertness Courses, Safer Driving with Age refreshers, and Driving For Change programmes were helpful – or if drivers should just be subject to harsher penalties than at present. Others taking part were the AA and various individual callers – and I think it's fair to say that the majority opinion seemed to lean towards re-education.

I can vouch for this being necessary. One day, I was co-hosting a Speed Workshop with Lyn Rowe, Leicester City's Road Safety Officer; and as usual, we put up a slide of the national speed limit sign, and then went round the group of attendees and asked them to give the speed they understood this to be for a normal car being driven on a single-carriageway road. I kid you not – we were offered every figure from 20mph to 80mph! Lyn and I looked at each other, then round the group, and said to them "This is scary – you just don't have a clue about what your speed limit actually is!".

Going back to the engineering issue – surely it's better both from a safety point of view, as well as from an environmental one, to try and keep everyone moving

as much as possible. How often do we come to traffic lights and find the road widens out to three or even more lanes on the approach – then goes back to two or even one on the other side of the junction, creating an almighty bottleneck with masses of stop-start traffic and lots of frustrated drivers. Naturally, everyone then tries to compensate for the delay, and speed up as soon as they can to try and recover some lost time. Better, I'd suggest, to make the whole road two or three lanes each way, giving a steadier and more regular flow of vehicles – which would help reduce emissions, cut down on vehicle wear and tear, as well as easing everyone's tempers!

Perhaps we should get together with Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police, and try to persuade Nick Rushton and Peter Soulsby that the County and City should try to come up with a more uniform policy, and follow the example and lead given by some of our neighbours. I'm sure we'd all benefit, not just as drivers but also as cyclists and pedestrians.

DAVID HAGE

DIARY DATES 2015

<i>Wednesday 21st October Police HQ</i>	<i>Ian Firth, the IAM Regional Manager will be available to talk to us.</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th November</i>	<i>Watch this space for further details!</i>
<i>Wednesday 16th December</i>	<i>Our Christmas event, more details to follow!</i>

NOTES ON OUR VENUE

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!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATES!

**Welcome to the following new associates who joined
in August/September:-**

**Sacha Sarva of Loughborough
John Cranwell-Ward of Oakham
Philip Knott from Leicester
Tim Dutton of Leicester**

**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.**

AND CONGRATULATIONS!

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

Martyn Taylor (F1RST), assisted by Tony Moore

Matt Veasey

Michelle Humberstone

Glenn Harrison (F1RST)

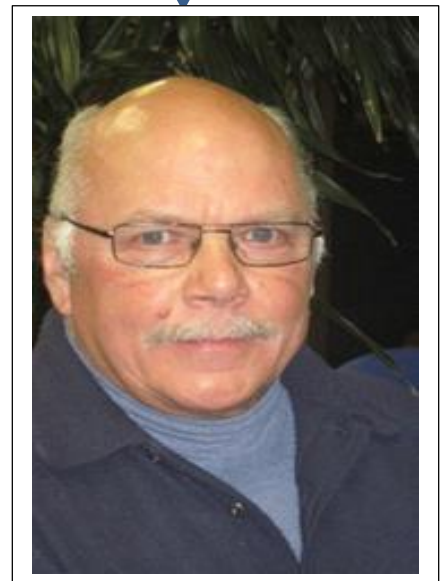
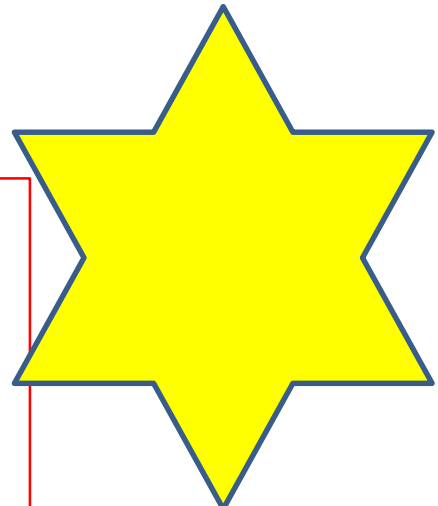
AND OBSERVING NEWS!

From Tony Moore –

“Just a quick note to advise that I was successful on my NO Assessment with Andy Giddings - almost enjoyable - scored 26 on the drive, dropped just 1 point on commentary - must do better!! Seems to have been a very long time in the coming and hasn't really sunk in yet.

Please also include include Mike Bogwandas in the congratulations, who beat me to it by several months, he passed his NO assessment on 28 March this year, again with Andy Giddings.

The 1st you mentioned was one of my Associates, Martin Taylor of Asfordby on 16th September.”



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

AND A “GOODBYE” (BUT NOT FAREWELL) FROM PETER RADCLIFFE

After very lengthy pondering I have decided to retire from IAM observing. There are several reasons, which I will come to.

So why? Firstly, the merger of IAM and IMI makes no sense whatsoever to me, and the changes to Observing are not acceptable to me. If it ain't broke etc!

Secondly, the new test required of existing observers, and the abandonment of the tag Qualified Observer, are not appealing.

Thirdly, the move away from paper check forms to online does not suit me. I have enough paper forms to see me out, I think.

Fourthly, I feel that my ability to do the job as well as I would like is beginning to wane. (Could be an age thing.)

Finally, IAM's admin remains dire, and I find it too trying. Example: One associate never did receive his replacement book pack despite phone calls (plural) from him and from me, and he being told it was in hand.

I want to thank Tony and Fred for the training runs we had together, very useful and very enjoyable. If either would like my input I should be only too happy to have runs.

I have been Observing since 24th June 1999, and have thoroughly enjoyed it all.

I do hope we shall keep in touch, and of course I shall see you at IAM Group meetings.

Very kind regards

PETER RADCLIFFE

Both Alan and Yvonne Ginns sent me a new type of advanced driving which might interest you. I want to try parking it!

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/D4uSWtazRCM?rel=0>

PAST EVENTS

Due to summer holidays (and now it is nearly time for Christmas!); we have only one event to report on; which was our biennial trip to Countesthorpe Garden Centre (even sounds like a plant!)

A small band of us went to Glebe Garden Centre, had a lovely meal prepared by Fred and Jean's daughter Jane; a talk by the owner Bernard Hanraads, and the chance to wander around after hours! I found a great write-up about the garden centre at <http://www.glebegardencentre.co.uk/about-us>



Top left – enjoying a chat

Top right – Fred, deep in thought

Bottom left and right – Bernard Hanaads talking to members



10 SUGGESTIONS FOR SAFER DRIVING

Here is an interesting suggestion from The Vatican, the smallest country in the world.

“Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road”, drawn up by Cardinal Renato Martino, chief of the Vatican’s Office for Migrants and Itinerant People says:

- You shall not kill.
- The road shall be for you a means of communion between people and not of mortal harm.
- Courtesy, uprightness and prudence will help you deal with unforeseen events.
- Be charitable and help your neighbour in need, especially victims of accidents.
- Cars shall not be for you an expression of power and domination and an occasion of sin.
- Charitably convince the young and not-so-young not to drive when they are not in a fitting condition to do so.
- Support the families of accident victims.
- Bring guilty motorists and their victims together, at the appropriate time, so they can undergo the liberating experience of forgiveness.
- On the road, protect the more vulnerable party.
- Feel responsible towards others.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

We need such guidelines amid reports of the carnage that takes place on the nation’s highways.

If you have taken the time to read this, you are fully capable of being part of the solution to the carnage on our roads.

Examine your driving habits, and strive to obey all laws. One of the simplest ways is to just slow down.

That means either not worrying about being a minute or two late or leaving a minute or two earlier. Be strong enough to drive the speed limit, regardless of how fast everyone around you is going.

The carnage on the roads continues every day, every month and every year.

We are killing ourselves at a much higher rate than anyone is killing us.

We, as a society, have to accept that if every driver followed the traffic laws, there would be very few crashes if any. -The Star

<http://www.iol.co.za/motoring/special-features/10-commandments-for-drivers-vatican-1.1836167#.Vhun5k3lv5o>

(Ed's note – I apologise that this is not quite what Andrew asked for, but thought this would make an excellent talking point – anyone like to comment?)

AUTUMN DRIVING – TIMELY TIPS FROM THE AA

1. Wiper blades will last two years at the most. New blades clear the screen more effectively and so help reduce dazzle from the sun. Now is a good time to renew worn blades
2. Windscreen washer fluid needs topping up and treating with a good quality, purpose-made additive to reduce the chance of freezing. Don't use ordinary engine anti-freeze but do check the handbook carefully to make sure you fill the right reservoir.
3. If there's any sign of the battery struggling now, the likelihood is that it'll let you down at some time during the winter, particularly if it's more than five years old. It makes sense to renew the battery now to avoid the hassle and inconvenience of an unplanned failure later.
4. Check all bulbs regularly (at least once a week) not forgetting brake lights and number plate lights. The handbook will show you how to change bulbs, though some headlight bulbs may require a visit to the garage (Halfords are good for quick replacements). Carry some spare bulbs.
5. Tyres need checking regularly for condition, pressure and tread depth. At least 3 mm of tread is recommended for winter motoring, so if the treads are getting low think about buying new tyres now before the colder weather sets in.
6. Antifreeze. Not just for winter, antifreeze is important all year round as it contains additives to prevent corrosion and improve summer cooling too. It should be checked as part of the regular service schedule.

A frozen engine is very expensive to repair so if there's any doubt now is a good time to check the concentration. The handbook will give details of the correct antifreeze to use for your car – there are different types and mixing them could cause engine damage. If in doubt, get a garage to check for you – many offer cheap or even free winter checks at this time of year.

Update on new law on smoking in cars and other vehicles with someone under 18.



It is illegal to smoke in a car (or other vehicle) with anyone under 18. The law changed on 1 October 2015, to protect children and young people from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Both the driver and the smoker could be fined £50. The law applies to every driver in England and Wales, including those aged 17 and those with a provisional driving licence.

The law applies:

- to any private vehicle that is enclosed wholly or partly by a roof
- when people have the windows or sunroof open, or the air conditioning on
- when someone sits smoking in the open doorway of a vehicle

The law does not apply to:

- e-cigarettes (vaping)
- a driver who is 17 years old if they are on their own in the car
- a convertible car with the roof completely down

Every time a child breathes in secondhand smoke, they breathe in thousands of chemicals. This puts them at risk of serious conditions including meningitis, cancer, bronchitis and pneumonia. It can also make asthma worse.

(Ed's note – thanks to Graham Compton for sending this in. I asked how the Police aim to enforce this. His answer was that "It won't be easy Julie. I think we will have to be very proactive with the other agencies rather than rely on enforcement").