

## Editors column

Hello and welcome to the February newsletter.

We have had some quite mild weather for the time of year. I think we are still due a good snow storm before the winters out. All the more reason to keep a check on your car especially your screenwash.

This month see's the first Associate introduction day on the 11th February at Police HQ.

It's not to late if you are thinking of becoming an Observer. If you contact me I could add you onto the list for this event with a thought to becoming an observer. Please contact me to discuss this.

Also in this months newsletter is a change to the local group subs system which will be explained under membership column.

If you have any comment or anything you can add to the next newsletter please feel free to E-Mail myself (kevinhill213@outlook.com).

I will gladly reply to any e-mail sent.

Also if you have anything to put to the committee please feel free to E-Mail me and I will reply after the following committee meeting.

## Committee News

Next month is the Annual General Meeting which will take place on the 15th March 2017 at 8.00pm This is at Police HQ Enderby. We would like to invite anyone who would like to consider joining the Committee to put there names forward before this date. You can send your details to myself or to Melvyn Smith (melvynsmith21@gmail.com).

Next Committee meeting is Wednesday March 1st.

## A Warm Welcome

The Committee would like to offer a warm welcome to the following people who has enrolled in the Skills For Life course in the last month.

- Mr Alan Head
- Miss Maarya Master
- Mr Joshua Pancholi-Andrews
- Mr Brian Stephens
- Mr Ben Dadswell
- Miss Felicity Bone

We hope you enjoy the training. Remember you are all welcome at the group nights which are on the third Wednesday of every month. I will be in touch with you all in the coming weeks to explain the next steps and getting you paired with an observer.

## Group Night

Group night this month is on the 15th February at 8.00pm.

The speaker this month is Mr Brian Johnson. His talk - "Valencia a Surprising City." Valencia is the third largest city in Spain. **The Las Fallas Festival** is an internationally known festival bursting with humour, satire, music and tradition. So please come along and feel a little sun in the middle of February.

This is being held at the Police Headquarters. This is situated at Narborough rd. (B4114) near Fosse Park.

Full postal address is

Leicestershire police Headquarters

St Johns

Narborough Rd

Enderby

LE19 6BX

We will also be holding a prize raffle. All members are welcome to the group nights so come along and meet other members for a chat and have a good evening out. After all its free. Even the tea and coffee is free.

Any questions or suggestions about group night events you can contact Fred Palmer (vice Chairman/ Events Co-Ordinator) palmerdec@btinternet.com

## Membership

### Change of System for Group Subscriptions

The Committee has unanimously agreed to change the way Group Subscriptions (Subs) are collected, switching from an "Anniversary" system to an "Annual" system.

Anniversary systems are when subs are collected each year in the same month as when a member joined the Group; the Annual system is when subs are due on the same date each year – that date will be 01 April.

The key advantage of the annual system is that members can be notified electronically (website, newsletter or email) that their subs are due and only those for whom we do not hold an e-address will need to be contacted by post. The key disadvantage is the loss of revenue during the changeover, however the Committee has considered this and believes the long-term benefits outweigh the short-term loss.

The new system will be introduced immediately, although it will not be fully in effect until next year – here's how it will work:

Members whose anniversary subscription date is in January, February, March & April will pay as normal in 2017, but not in 2018 until 01 April,

Members whose anniversary subscription date is May – December (inclusive) next subscriptions will not be due until 01 April 2018,

Subs will remain at £7.50 per year,

Some members will need to change their Standing Orders with their banks – everyone except those currently paying in April,

We would like to treat any money collected from members who do not change their anniversary payment as a donation,

From 2018, ALL subs will be called for payment in April.

**No-one loses out**, although those with subs due in April gain nothing, everyone else gains to a varying degree.

A simple sliding scale of membership costs for new full members joining the Group throughout the year has been worked out, as has a system for newly-qualified former Group Associates having passed their test and wishing to continue as a member of the Group.

The Treasurer, Tony Moore, will explain further at the Annual General Meeting on 15 March 2017 and there will be reminders in future newsletters. If you have any suggestions or queries before the AGM, please contact him by email on [anthonyj.moore@btinternet.com](mailto:anthonyj.moore@btinternet.com)

## Observer News

Calling all members!

Are you considering becoming an Observer? We are always looking for new observers, especially you ladies!

There needs to be a lack of Female observers so if you think you have got the skills to become an observer, please contact myself (Kevin Hill) or any member of the committee.

Becoming an observer is not as difficult as you may think. This can be very rewarding and doesn't have to take all of your spare time. If you, like me would like to pass on the skill you have obtained through IAM. There couldn't be another rewarding way to do it.

As we are in the process of retraining our local observers there couldn't be a better time to start. If anyone is interested please come and talk to us on the group evening or contact myself (Kevin Hill) on email kevinhill213@outlook.com

## Associate News

As mentioned at the start of the newsletter we are holding an Associate Training day for the associates not yet starting the assessment runs. I have been in contact with all associates concerned. If you believe I have missed anyone please contact me. Also if you would like to be considered for an Observer role please get in touch.

To all associates out there currently being assessed.

Please be aware that if you have been assessed for a year or more without taking your test, you may have to renew your IAM membership to carry on your assessed runs. If you have not managed to complete your course within the year please contact myself if there are mitigating circumstances. I should be in contact with any associate that has expired there membership, but if you have not been contacted or think your membership has expired please get in touch.

If Anyone would like to have a piece included in this newsletter please contact me.

Kevin Hill (Group Co-ordinator) kevinhill213@outlook.com