



LEICESTER GROUP

Official Provider

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Leicester IAM Road Smart Team

SEPTEMBER 2016

Editor Kevin Hill

Editors column

Hello and welcome to the September newsletter. I hope you have all had a good summer and managed to enjoy the good weather we have had. Apologies for the lack of a newsletter in August. Due to holidays and lack of content I have combined the newsletter into September.

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.

Finally we have the sad news that George Damant has passed away. Julie Hage, who knew him well has written a piece attached to this newsletter. Our condolences go out to the family at this sad time.

Congratulations

I am sure all of you will join in congratulating the following people for passing their Skills For Life.

Miss Lorna Maydwell ——— Observer Tony Moore

Phillip Knott ——— Observer Fred Palmer

A Warm Welcome

The Committee would like to offer a warm welcome to the following people who have enrolled in the Skills For Life course in the last 2 months.

Mr Glenn Higginbotham

Mr Oliver Johnson

Mrs Sylvia Hitchin

Mr Reg Whiffin

Mr Johnathon Larsson

Mr Gary Newton

Mr John Jordon

Mr Christopher Holland

We hope you enjoy the training. And 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

This month the group night is back after the summer break and will be held on Wednesday 21st September at 8 pm. The group nights are held at Enderby 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

This month we have Dr John Sutton coming to talk to us about the Battle of the Somme.

I am sure this will be a very interesting and informative evening.

We will also be holding a prize raffle along with awarding certificates for those who have passed their skills for life assessments.

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 it's free. Even the tea and coffee is free.

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

Membership

Some members have been in touch regarding Group Subs that may be due and Membership cards not being received. Unfortunately Deborah Brooksbank (who has been issuing the letters and members cards), has been unable to devote the attention she would like to members issues due to family issues. Deborah hopes to resume these duties as soon as possible. In the meantime, if any issues arise could you please redirect them temporarily to Tony Moore. Tony's email contact is anthonyj.moore@btinternet.com

Please be aware that if you have recently passed your skills for life you may not be aware that you will have to renew your local membership after the first year. This is in addition to the IAM members yearly subs. If in doubt please contact Tony Moore on the above address.

Observer News

To all observers and trainees. This is a reminder to all observers that the standards are changing. There will be a meeting Tuesday September 27th in Kegworth for all National Observers also we can fill spaces with Local Observers which I will have a few limited spaces for. This is to roll out the new standards. We will be holding an observer training day on the 8th October to roll out the new standards to all Observers. This will be a compulsory meeting as any observer not having the new standard will not be able to take any new associates after this. I will be e-mailing you all regarding this in the next couple of weeks.

Calling all members! Are you considering becoming an Observer? We are always looking for new observers especially you ladies! There seems 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. This can be very rewarding and doesn't have to take all of your spare time.

George Damant

George passed his test in 1977, and has always been keen to promote advanced driving. I first came into contact with him in the 1990s when he came to my husband for an assessment in 1998. Again he had his driving checked to make sure he was up to standard in 2003, bringing the dog with him on a blanket in the back of the car

George was always appreciative of the work done by the committee and observers. He insisted that his grandchildren learnt to drive with a driving instructor interested in the IAM and indeed Emma and Andrew passed their basic test at the first attempt.

Despite giving up driving, George has continued to support the group – being ably helped by his wife or his son Robert.

George attended many meetings, right up to early 2014. However, he had a nasty fall and went into Leicester Royal first, then to Sutton in the Elms Care Home, where he died.

His wife Margaret was also a member of Leicester Group along with other members of the family also took their advanced test on George's insistence.

George and Margaret spent a few years in Plymouth in the '1980's, but both came back to our meetings afterwards. In 2013 George was awarded the Vincent Brooksbank Award for observing.

A dearly loved husband, father and grandfather passed away peacefully on September 1st 2016 aged 92 years. A guiding light to us and generous to all. He will be sadly missed. Funeral service at Countesthorpe Crematorium, Foston Road, Countesthorpe on Friday September 9th at 3.00pm. Family flowers only but donations payable to L.O.R.O.S. may be sent to A.C. James & Son Independent Funeral Directors 9 Biddulph Street Leicester LE2 1BH Telephone 2542900.

Written by Julie Hage