

SCUNTHORPE GROUP CELEBRATES



YEARS OF ADVANCED DRIVING

Come along and join us at our June social meeting (28th) to help us celebrate our anniversary.

And keep a look out for other events throughout the year.

www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

Facebook: IAM Scunthorpe

Twitter: @IAMScunthorpe



Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue.



Hi folks, this is the first attempt from a new editing team of the mag. The previous magazine editor has had to step down from everything to help further his career prospects. Before we go any further, I would like to thank Nigel Hobson very much for all the many hours of hard and excellent work he's put in as newsletter editor, committee member and also as a very valued observer.

I would also like to wish Nigel and his charming wife Emma all the very best as Nigel embarks on his work to secure a good future for them both and all the family. Good luck to them all.

For this edition the mag will be edited by a joint effort from Carol and myself. We are looking for someone else to take over the editing of the mag, so if you think you might be inclined to have a go, please get in touch as soon as you can. This job isn't too pressured as it's "a once every three months" job !

Although when previous editors have been surfing the web, they see something and save it and make it ready for the next edition..

If anyone has any contributions for the mag, they can be sent to me at terryheath@sky.com and even if someone else takes over the editor job, I can simply forward any items on by email.

Thank you Terry.

My track day experience at Tockwith near York.

I was recently handed a gift voucher for a driving experience, which could have been at Donnington Pk or Tockwith. So off we trotted to Tockwith and had a great day out. We got there well before my start time, had a coffee and then went track side to see what was happening. My slot was for 11.45 so we were at the appointed place, at the appointed time, and I was called into a briefing session, in the passenger seat of a V W Passat. The instructor explained what we had to do, and told us that the more we impressed them the faster we could go. So I was a good boy and paid heed to all that he said. He then took myself and two other guys on a single lap of the circuit, showing us braking points, looking for the apex on bends and drifting wide on the exits etc etc. We then went in and 15 minutes later, they shouted me and off I went to meet my new instructor and this beautiful Aston Martin DB9 Coupe. Although it was quite dirty due to the damp conditions, it was still a thing of beauty. I'd been listening to it growl as it went past, and loved every minute of it. It was like a cacophony of engineering music at its best ! The car has a 6.0 Ltr, V12 engine that was capable of much higher speeds than it could do on that track. The track was good, but even the instructors didn't reach high speeds on their demo laps. As we left the pits, we were confronted with a tight right hander, and then soon after a purpose built chicane, followed by a short straight, then another right hander. Then another chicane, then the last right, with a chicane that separated the pit lane from the track lane. So really the fastest I got was only about 60, but the experience was good. On completion of my laps, we went to the little van that offered us a video of the run, which we purchased well it was good for a laugh if nothing else. A very enjoyable day all things considered. Blyton Park Raceway, look out, you could be next !!!!!!! I've got the bug!!

Terry



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Social Meetings Held On;

26th April 2017 (AGM)

28th June 2017 (40th Anniversary)

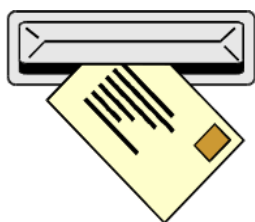
23rd Aug 2017

25th Oct 2017

We got Mail!

You can email, tweet or post a letter to the following addresses.

Terry Heath
48 Vicarage Ave;
Wrawby, Brigg
Nth; Lincs. DN20 8RY



Email: terryheath@sky.com

Twitter: @IAMScunthorpe

SPECIAL OFFER

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

IAM Scunthorpe are delighted to introduce a brand new promotion for people living in the North Lincs Area. The project will allow 18-24 year old's to receive a full refund once they have completed the 'Skills for Life' course. A big thank you to Richard Hall (who is the manager of the 'Roads Safety Team' working for the North Lincolnshire Council) for helping to fund this project. T&C's apply, please see our website for more details.

Become an Advanced Driver

The price for the Skill For Life package is £149.00,
but you can join our group for a one off
payment of only £125.00.

**Please note this offer is for a limited
time only**

To receive your application form please
send your name and contact details along
with your payment to:

Mr M. Gothard
7 West Green
Messingham
North Lincs
DN17 3QT

**Cheques should be made payable to
"The Institute of Advanced Motorists".**

Applications made through the Scunthorpe
Group of Advanced Motorists will qualify for
the discounted rate.

The discount is a local agreement only.

Any applications made through the head office
in London will pay the usual rate of £149.00.

For more information contact Terry Heath on
01652 655601 or visit our website

www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

The Group Shop

For all your Advanced Motoring needs
please contact Ian Walpole on:
01724 337547



Advertising in our Newsletter

If anyone would like to
advertise in our newsletters please
contact Terry Heath:
01652 655601 or email;
terryheath@sky.com

The cost of advertising is

Full page £40.00

Half page £20.00

Costs are per annum and will be
four quarterly issues.



20% Discount on Advanced Driver & Rider courses with: Lincoln IAM, Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists & Scunthorpe Advanced Motorists.

As a current member of any of the above groups, you will receive a 20% discount when you sign up to a Advanced Driver or Rider Course in Lincolnshire.

HOW TO CLAIM

Contact us on the details below, quoting the group name of your choice and we'll sign you up.

A.D. Course with Lincoln IAM Tel:0300 365 0152
or lincolniam@gmx.com

A.R. Course with Lincolnshire Advanced motorcyclists Tel : 01427 616864 or
lincs-am-sec@pobroadband.co.uk

A.D. Course with Scunthorpe Advanced Motorists Tel : 01652 655601 or
terryheath@sky.com

Attention all

The Lincs Advanced Motorcyclists have teamed up with the Lincoln Car Group to offer existing members a 20% discount on taking a 2nd Category advanced course.

The cost of that course is now £114 ,so with a 20% discount you will be refunded £22.80 from the car group making the cost £91.20.

If you are interested the best way to apply is online through the IAM website and the car group will refund you the 20%.

The Scunthorpe Advanced Motorists have also teamed up with the above two groups and are offering the same package to any member wishing to take a 2nd category course.

Contact any of the above groups for more details.

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Printed by Jan Burditt

**The views and opinions expressed in this news-
letter are those of the individual writers and
not necessarily of the IAM, nor the Scunthorpe
Group .**

TEST PASSES & NEW MEMBERS



Available now for just £1, our new Group Badge. It is designed to stick inside your car windscreen, and makes a great replacement for your old tax disc.

Contact Terry Heath on 01652 655601 to purchase, or see him at a social event.

**AGENDA FOR THE 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SCUNTHORPE ADVANCED MOTORISTS
WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2016.**

- 1/40 Apologies for Absence.**
- 2/40 Minutes of the previous A.G.M. (see page 9)**
- 3/40 Matters Arising**
- 4/40 Chairman's Report**
- 5/40 Treasurer's Report**
- 6/40 Secretary's Report**
- 7/40 Driving Report**
- 8/40 Formal Resignation of All Officers and Committee**
- 9/40 Election Of Officers and Committee**
- 10/40 Members Suggestions**
- 11/40 Any other Business.**

HUGO'S FOOT CARE
Hugo Golden-Betts SAC DIP RFHP
Foot Health Practitioner
For Your Foot Health Requirements

Visiting Your Home

01724 629838



**Minutes for the 39th Annual General Meeting
Of the Scunthorpe Group of Advanced Motorists
Held on Wednesday 27th April 2016
At Redbourne Club Scunthorpe**

- 1/39 Apologies for absence: Ian Walpole, Brian Viney, Lesley Viney, and Bob Lucas**
- 2/39 Minutes of previous meeting: Gordon Leech proposed these as a true record**
- 3/39 Matters arising: None**
- 4/39 Chairman's report: Terry Heath had circulated his report in the group's newsletter. He reiterated his thanks to everybody that had attended, fellow observers, committee members and all the people who work tirelessly 'behind the scenes' to keep the group going.**
- 5/39 Treasurers report: Malcolm Gothard shared the treasurer's report and stated that we are much in the same financial position as last year. The group funds include £750.00 which has been given by North Lincolnshire Council towards the young driver's scheme. He advised that the 'other expenses' included the purchase of a new projector and the costs involved in hosting the quiz. In 2015 he stated that we had 117 members in total which included 12 associates. In 2016 the group has 123 members in total which includes 20 associates.**
- 6/39 Secretary's report: Kim Ward thanked all members for attended. She stated that we are still continuing as a group to recruit young members through the funding given by North Lincolnshire Council. As a group we continue to take the MDU to a number of venues and will be attending at the classic car event in Church Square Scunthorpe with the Morris Minor Owners Club on Saturday 30th April 2016. She reported that a number of varied talks had been given on the social evenings. She advised the group that all committee members would be grateful for any suggestions regarding topics for future meetings and for help manning the mobile display unit (MDU). Paul Johnson additionally thanked all of those volunteers who have been able to help out with manning the MDU.**
- 7/39 Driving report: Terry Heath reported that we have had eight test passes this year, four of which were 'first's'. He congratulated all of those members who had received a F1rst.**
- 8/39 Formal resignation of officers and committee**
- 9/39 Election of officers and committee:**
Sue Harris elected as a committee member by Paul Johnson, seconded by Malcolm Gothard
Malcolm Gothard elected as treasurer by Paul Johnson, seconded by Malcolm Gothard
Paul Johnson elected as a committee member by Malcolm Gothard, seconded by Terry Heath
Terry Heath elected as chairman by Malcolm Gothard, seconded by Paul Johnson
Kim Ward elected as secretary by Terry Heath, seconded by Malcolm Gothard
Nigel Hobson stands as a committee member; his nomination form is to be received
- 10/39 Members suggestions**
Dawn Kitching suggested that a Christmas dinner dance is held by the club
- 11/39 Printing of newsletters**
Malcolm Gothard thanked Jan for volunteering to print up the newsletter. He additionally thanked the team of newsletter distributors.
- 11/39 Paul Johnson thanked all the volunteers who have manned the MDU during the course of the year. Gordon Leech asked if the group were still considering having a group car sticker. Terry confirmed that the group were interested in producing one and this would be discussed at the next committee meeting.**

Chairman's report.

Well, it's the end of our year once again, and as before we have had a very steady year. The biggest difficulty we've experienced is getting candidates signed up, and to this end we are currently looking at making our group easier to join for those who need it, with the possibility of split payments. It's just one of a number of things we're discussing and considering trying. We are constantly striving to keep the group going and trying to keep it moving forward. The Young Drivers package we've offered has had some success and we will be continuing to promote it this year as well.

We need help with the MDU, manning it and the big problem at the moment is storing it.

If anyone has any ideas, please get in touch to discuss them.

As usual at this time of year, I would like to thank all of my fellow committee members, including officers Kim and Malcolm. I would like to thank everyone for all their help, year after year. Thanks to all the magazine distribution people for making sure that everyone gets their newsletter.

One other point to raise is that our much respected examiner Roy Hindmarsh has recently retired, and I would like to say a very big thank you to Roy for all his help over the years. He has been so accommodating and helpful, throughout his tenure as examiner. He's given help and advice on a constant basis, he's given demonstration drives, he's been a guest speaker for us, more times than I can remember, and as always, everything Roy does, he does it to the highest standard. I regard Roy as a gentleman and a friend!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR EVERYTHING ROY.

All that remains is for me to say at the time of going to print, that we have still maintained a 100% first time pass rate. The total figures will be announced at the AGM.

Safe Motoring Terry Heath

Treasurer's Report

At the time writing (January) it is too early to give a detailed breakdown of the finances for the current financial year; this will be shown in the summer edition of the newsletter.

However, it is clear that subscriptions paid will be lower than last year as membership has reduced. We currently have 107 members compared with 117 last year.

Gift Aid continues to provide a useful contribution.

Most of the usual categories of expenditure have shown improvement except for "Test Fees Paid" which have increased for a good reason i.e. one of our participants in the "Under 25s" scheme passed his test and had his Skill for Life fee reimbursed.

We now have less cash in the current account than last year but enough to allow the Local Group subscription renewal fee to remain at £10.

Malcolm Gothard.

Vice Chairman's Thanks.

I would like to thank all of our members who have helped staff the MDU over the past year.

We all have busy lives, but without your help we could not have attended all the various events that we did. We look forward to your continued support for 2017.

Paul Johnson

Secretary's report 2017

Dear Members and associates

I would like to firstly express my thanks to all of you for your continued help and support as we celebrate our 40th anniversary as a group. I hope that you have had a good year so far and wish you 'safe and happy motoring' over the course of the next twelve months.

As a group we have continued to work hard to promote the benefits of gaining an 'advanced motorists' qualification. Sadly over the course of the last twelve months the number of applicants coming forward has been at a low level.

Certainly none of us can argue that the cost of the membership package is extremely good value when you consider that it includes unlimited tuition and the test pass. However we continue to rely upon our members more than ever to 'spread the word' regarding the benefits of joining the group and gaining a valuable 'skill for life'.

As a committee we would be grateful for new ideas and suggestions as to how we can move forwards as a group. In particular we would welcome feedback in regards to the following:

- .How can we encourage further applicants from all age groups?
- .What articles and news would you like to see within the newsletters?
- .Do you feel that we need to be using alternative venues to promote ourselves (we are currently in the process of contacting supermarkets to see if we can use a more mobile stand)
- .How would you like us to change and develop as a group?
- .Are there any particular 'talks/presentations' that you wish to be given at coming social events?

As a committee we welcome feedback from you all (good or bad). It is only with your help and support that we can continue to develop as a group and celebrate further anniversaries.

All the very best to you all.

Kim Ward

Social Meeting.

Our first meeting for 2017 was held on Wednesday 22nd Feb. Our guest speaker was Ian Bint, who gave us a very informative and interesting talk about his role in speed awareness courses and a host of other courses including mobile phones and driving etc. I believe there are 93 different ones!

Following a short interval Ian then went on to discuss "Smart motorways", how they work and how you should use them. The link below is the official government link about driving on smart motorways, and is worth a look.

Thanks Ian for a very informative night and for sending the link.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-drive-on-a-smart-motorway>

How the IAM Test with the Scunthorpe Advanced Motorists Really Helped me.

It was late December, dusk and lashing down with rain, I was sat in my car on the side of the road, having just pulled off wondering how I was going to get home. This was the point I knew I needed to ask for help with my driving confidence. I hadn't been on a motorway in over 18 months due to panic attacks and now it was spreading to normal roads. The attacks just started for no apparent reason, so I thought they would maybe disappear as quickly as they had started but 18m on I realised it wasn't going to happen!

I wasn't even aware the IAM existed, I was flicking through general driving websites when I first saw them as I thought maybe a refresher course would help. So I had a quick read and sent off an enquiry email explaining my situation. The response I got was very positive and we arranged a meet so I could see what it was all about and if it was for me or not. During the meet we went out in my car which I drove and then in Terry's so he could demonstrate what the IAM was all about. To be fair I didn't really understand it all at first but I knew it would be something I learnt as I went along as I was so determined to get back my confidence, I signed up as soon as I got home. It was just a case of filling in a form if I remember rightly. A couple of weeks later a lady instructor called me from Goxhill. She was really friendly and suggested for me if the distance to Goxhill was too far then we could arrange for someone more local. I decided this was best and was soon introduced to Paul who lives close by in Wrawby, we agreed a mutual weekday and time which we could both stick to on a weekly basis.

So from then on I went out every Sunday for an hour at first, building up to one and a half hours. Each lesson was a two way approach which I liked. We discussed what we'd be doing each lesson and how it fitted in with IAM, I expressed how I felt about doing it and we came up with a plan to help resolve anything I wasn't overly sure about. Because my issues were mainly confidence this part was as important to me as the practical. Over the course of the weeks I found the practical things I was learning really interesting, nothing of it was hard just a different approach to doing things and making them a habit was key. I always practised outside of my lessons which helped me focus and distract me from my confidence issues. As I was following a method I knew I was doing things correctly and was able to separate my confidence issues affecting my ability as they were two separate planes. So eventually I was ready to take my test, but more importantly I felt ready to take my test. I was driving back on motorways without panicking and reaching 70mph, it started to feel more natural not to put the methods in place and I soon noticed when I hadn't. The motorway work had been hard for me and I still have bad days, yet even on the lesson days when I wasn't looking forward to going, I always came back feeling good and felt it had been worthwhile and beneficial going out. Paul was always good at letting me go at my own pace, yet gently progressing me with the things I struggled with as mentioned earlier like going at speed and being on the motorway. He always put thought into the practical advice he gave me in such a way it would help how I actually thought about it, which I think I've been lucky to have a tutor who would and could do that!

Ten months on (which may seem like a long time, but I'd not been out every week due to holidays or other occasions, this was flexible which was another good point) I took my mock test with Terry and then my actual test with Tim, both times I was really nervous at having to do this with someone new. I can thankfully say both times I was put at ease straight away and the time really passed quickly and was enjoyable enough considering test circumstances! And yes I passed.

All in all the experience for me has been life changing, to have dispelled a very large portion of the worry I used to carry around with me when I knew I had a drive coming up (which even included the daily commute to work) I thought was impossible. When I think of how I felt sat on the side of the road the previous December (heading to a job interview which I didn't make btw) to where I am now I am so much a lighter person. I've been able to change jobs this year and not feel any anxiousness if I have to nip down the A15 to see family. Aside to this the driving techniques learnt are also enjoyable and have given me focus which I can take with me on every future journey I make. They've given me a skill for life.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to say a big Thank you to Paul who I am truly grateful to and he has made a massive difference, I could not have done this without his brilliant effort, coaching and patience.

Louise Cobb

Many thanks Louise for your article.

If anyone has anything they would like publishing in the next edition then please forward it to terryheath@sky.com

What is the best fuel for cars??

To be honest that is a daft question, we are all subject to the sound bites from politicians and 'experts' (definition:- Ex – a has been, spurt – a drip under pressure). So first leaded petrol was a killer and had RED stickers on the pumps, then unleaded (green sticker) was bad, now diesel is being classed as a carcinogenic!

Maybe we should go back to the 1950's when most people walked and only the privileged few could afford a car, but a comment published said that if you walk 5 miles to the supermarket the energy you consumed in food was more than that of a car? So maybe we should go back to the horse and cart, but what about all the disease from the horse muck on the road and the flies (I vaguely remember horse drawn milk and bread vans, Terry being older remembers them vividly).

So it seems we are damned if we do or don't use a car. All this environment stuff seems to have really got started in earnest with the California Clean Air Act of 1970. Carburettors gave way to basic fuel injection then computers took over and we now have modern Electronic fuel injection for petrol and diesel engines with catalytic converters on petrol and particulate filters for diesels. That is a very condensed 50 years of a massive learning curve in technology and the resultant living standards but more important of EXPECTATIONS.

We all expect the white goods, cooker, fridge, dishwasher, TV, mobile phone, car and aircraft for our holidays. All pollute in their production and operation, an 'intelligent' relative once said I don't have a polluting car so I can fly back and forth to our home in Spain. So her share of the fuel to lift off and fly 50+ tons of aircraft is not polluting?

The USA and then the EU set out progressively stricter vehicle emission laws using computer systems to deliver them, but technology also improved the measurement of these emissions. We are up to Euro6 (2014) and from my research all this has radically improved petrol engines by over 90% but nowhere near as much for diesel engines, ignoring the VW (and no doubt others to come) scandal.

The consensus of 'opinion' seems to be that diesels are slightly more efficient than catalytic petrol engines, small turbocharged petrol engines will improve this, but turbos are an expensive consumable particularly if not allowed to idle to cool down after a journey!

Both petrol and diesel engine exhausts emit similar amounts of Nitrogen, water vapour and Carbon Dioxide (although a bit more from petrol). The trace elements are what the environmental noise is about, as these are carcinogenic, they are inhaled and disrupt various body functions and can result in cancers.

Diesels produce more Nitrogen Oxides and Particulates, but less Carbon Monoxide and Hydrocarbons. None of them are good, far from it but you pay your money and take your chance!

The recent noise has been on how close you live to busy roads and where the schools are, what about little Johnny walking through the haze of exhaust fumes from all the waiting cars outside the school?

In the present world the choice of vehicle is down to fashion, 'I fancied something different so I bought this'. The practical choice is about use, size and mileage, manufacturers are struggling to make the diesel particulate filter work on short journeys, but are great for a high mileage motorway car. Petrol cars are better for short journeys as the catalytic converter warms up quickly. A recent article said that weight of the car is more important than the engine size on emissions, most medium sized cars are often about 1.5 tons compared to old 'classics' at 1 ton!

As a retired marine engineer and petrol head I spent 26 years working on and with turbocharged and intercooled LARGE diesel engines. I have known of the particulate problem for 40 years but our engine ran at 800 revs and 1800 revs, the faster the engine runs the smaller the particulate and the less chance the lungs have of removing it! I moved from steam turbine ships to diesel ships as they were more efficient and so taking over in ships.

Diesels are great commercial engines and probably for long distance cars, but I'll stick with petrol as none of our cars cover any great distance, our 1961 Jaguar 3.8 MkII seems to be very dirty by comparison even when run on LPG, even more than a modern diesel.

Just as an aside I belong to two car forums and am dismayed by how naive we have become. Most people have been convinced that we can't look after our own cars and that garages work magic on them. No one can do an oil change now without seizing the engine or gearbox, or think they can do a complex job without a hand book. Distributor ignition is now a 'black art' as computers have taken over.

We seem to have lost the skills that our fathers had.

Roll on the new electric cars.....eh but doesn't the recharge electricity come from inefficient steam turbines?

The old fart. (A.K.A. Brian Viney.)

Many thanks Brian for your article, keep them coming.

Travelling to China & My first impressions by Richard Creaser. Part 1.

Nihao, wo de pengyou. In Mandarin Pin Yin that means 'Hello, my friends'. Well that's not strictly true because the Chinese don't have a word for hello. Nihao means 'you good'. The more usual greeting between Chinese people is 'have you eaten yet?' but I won't go into that because it gets complicated! Pin Yin is an intermediate step between English and full blown Chinese.

I have a pen pal who lives in Nanning, which is the capital city of Guangxi province in the sub tropical, South of China, about 200 kilometres from Vietnam and a similar distance from the Beibu Gulf in the South China Sea. Her name is Xinfeng which is pronounced Shinfong, I will refer to her as Shinfong from now on because Xinfeng sounds awkward in English. She has been teaching me the Mandarin language which was keeping my mind sharp and as one can imagine, is not as easy as learning a European language, although easier than learning English but has been a fun education. She invited me to visit her in her home city and made it sound like it could be a good holiday. I looked on the net for some cheap return flights preferably starting from Humberside airport. Going from Manchester may have been cheaper but a return train fare from Barnetby railway station evens out the cost and KLM serve Humberside very well. I chose a package from Humberside to Schiphol (Amsterdam) with KLM and from Schiphol to Beijing with China Southern Air and Beijing to Nanning with China Southern Air. There was a two hour wait between connecting flight in Schiphol and five hours forty minute wait in Beijing. A total of twenty five hours flying and waiting time, and about twenty eight hours on return. Chinese officialdom says that all flights to and from Mainland China must go through Beijing or Shanghai, This effectively took me 1,288 miles out of my way in each direction.

Humberside to Schiphol was easy peasy and the flight to Beijing was ok too. Beijing may be the biggest airport in the world with the most up to date baggage handling

system BUT it proved to be an exasperating experience both going and returning. Instead of the airline transferring luggage automatically, they made everyone collect their luggage and then book it all back in again to the connecting flight. My case was missing!! After a lot of asking questions without an answer, people looking at me as if I was an alien, I did eventually find it, book it in and then go through the security procedures all over again. They sure know how to make life an uphill struggle but it gave me something to do during my five hour forty minute wait.

Chinese officialdom is enough to make you want to eat your own young!

The last flight took me to Nanning Airport which was smaller and more 'civilised'. I got a taxi to the Wanxing Hotel (stop sniggering at the back, it is pronounced Wansing). The fare was reasonable and I gave him ten Yuan as a tip (£0.92) this caused the driver to smile a great deal and he insisted on carrying my case all the way into the hotel reception. It was comical watching the little Chinese guy struggling with a case marked 'HEAVY'. I booked in and went to my room. When I booked in, the hotel phoned the police to inform them of my whereabouts, they like to keep an eye on you.

The phone in my room rang and I thought 'this will be interesting' it was my friend Shinfong "Nihao Li Cha de, wo shi Shinfong, wo xiwang ni haohao de?", I replied "Hello Shinfong, I am Richard and I am well thank you". A few minutes later she arrived at my room with an interpreter - her English was not as good as I expected, in her letters it was perfect. It's amazing what you can do with a pocket translation machine. She had been using a Chinese version of Google to translate my letters. She said that she was not happy with my room. Now hang on a moment, it is my room and all I need it for is to wash and sleep in. They refused to listen and when we got back to the hotel, they had me transferred to a bigger room that was really nice. I was worried that it was going to cost much more but the price was the same and breakfast was included, thank you ladies.

Public toilets in China are a porcelain hole in the ground, thankfully hotels have water closet's that we in the West are used to. I will dwell no longer on this subject!

They took me out and showed me some of Nanning and later I took them both for dinner. They gave me a crash course in using chopsticks and I managed to eat my dinner with them except for the soup, so I waited and watched. Ok you eat the soup by picking up the bowl and drinking it as if the bowl is a cup without a handle. The only part that I was unable to do was slurp it loudly and eat with my mouth open; I guess this is a custom, cultural thing. I would have to re-learn my manners during my stay! The first thing that you do is wash your crockery and chopsticks, spoon etc with your first cup of tea. Tea is very weak and drunk without milk, unlike us barbarians from the West! A bowl is placed on the table for waste and this is where you dispose of the tea used for washing your utensils. I don't really know what the food was. It came in a big steaming bowl placed in the centre of the table, rice and other bit's and bobs came in individual bowls. Linda (the interpreter) was serving us from the big steaming bowl and lifted out something that looked like a deformed chicken's wing; I said yes please and she gave me a surprised look as she put it on top of my rice. It took all of a milli second for me to realise that it was a frog and she

quickly took it back again. Then she explained, "ask what the food is during your stay Lichard. Frog, snake, lizard, dog, rat and even monkey are commonly eaten in South West China"! I guess with such a high population that anything edible is eaten. I would heed her advice! She also told me that our main dish was chicken and it wasn't uncommon to slip a frog or two in with it because it looks like chicken. All meat dishes in China are cooked and served complete with bones. I was to see fish bones that you could have used to knit a jumper! When you have paid your bill at the table, they will usually put a plastic flower on your table to show that you have paid.

A quick word about supermarkets, China has a nationwide supermarket chain called 'ren ren le', pronounced 'len len re':)) It is a real experience to go shopping there. They sell just about everything, and it is not just on the ground floor, they can be several stories high.

They are clean, in fact spotless describes them better. The Chinese are very keen on food being fresh. Tanks with different types of live fish in them grab a net and catch a fish of your choice. They will kill it and prepare it ready for cooking for you. Live eels prawns, all sorts of things. They seem to like chicken's feet! I prefer breast myself. All sorts of hot cooked foods so you can choose some cooked meat, vegetables etc and you have a meal ready to eat. More herbs, spices, rice and noodles than you can shake a stick at. If you ever go there be warned about the bread, it is sweet and more like cake than bread. Thankfully they don't have live cattle, pig, sheep etc but sides of meat come in and their butchery department prepares it ready for sale. It's all cheap too, a six pack of coke for a tad under 50p. 5 Litres of 56% proof moonshine for under £5, I'm told that it tastes like turps but has a kick like a mule. There are the more upmarket places too; in Nanning Wallmart is very popular and is very much like Tesco's.

The next morning I went for breakfast. I was dumbfounded at what was offered for breakfast, obviously they catered for Chinese and not for European & definitely not English. I settled for cucumber, tomato and something that looked like slices of croissants, I got a glass of juice to drink. No knives and forks just chopsticks so I chose a table where no one could see my efforts with chopsticks. Just as well picking up cherry tomatoes with chopsticks is no mean feat and sticking a chopstick into food is frowned upon because for some reason it reminds them of death. The juice was a shock too, it is served hot! They had other food but I had no idea what it was and I was no wiser by the time I came home. I recognised the eggs still in their shells but were they boiled or raw? They were stacked in a basket next to some pots that had steam coming from them but what was steaming inside was anyone's guess. Did you boil your own or ??? The staff didn't speak English and my Chinese was limited to what you would write in a letter. I could say:- Dear Shinfong, thank you for your letter. I hope you are well etc etc. But nothing like are the eggs cooked or not and I certainly wasn't going to risk cracking open a raw egg onto my plate!

Many thanks to Richard for this article, the second instalment will follow in the next newsletter as there are too many pages to fit into one magazine.

SCUNTHORPE GROUP CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF ADVANCED DRIVING.



We would like to invite all members to come along
To our social meeting on Wednesday 28th June, 7.30pm at Redbourne
Club, Scunthorpe, to help us celebrate our “Ruby Anniversary”.

The event is FREE and open to members and non-members alike.

There will be a guest speaker , along with a raffle and also some
Memorabilia. More importantly we hope to see a good number of
Members old and new to help us celebrate this achievement.

We are also providing a buffet supper and cake.

Could you please R.S.V.P by Saturday 17th
June so we can establish numbers for catering.

Contact : carolblades6@icloud.com or
Tel: 01652 655601 and leave a message.



Look forward to seeing you there.