

Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of our newsletter!

And please do remember this is 'our' newsletter, so do feel free to email or post any articles for us to use. We are always very grateful!

As advanced drivers we are taught how to use speed to ensure a 'progressive' drive whilst keeping within the speed limits and at all times keeping ourselves, and everyone else, safe. With this point in mind it is interesting to read the latest statistics which show Police forces averaging some 56,000 offences – up some 20% from 2013. With the top five speeders exceeding 140mph. Clearly this must be all young people? Older people (more mature) drivers surely know the speed limits? Well, perhaps not with the oldest being some 103 years young – who was clocked at 36mph in a 30mph speed limit by the Welsh Police.

One of the things I notice, as an observer, is that whilst people may be aware of speed limits and aware of their own speed; they still speed in 30's. Often this comes from peer pressure, that driver behind, that passenger who knows best or perhaps a need to get somewhere quick? Well, as I often retort, is that driver who is pressuring you to go faster? Going to take your points for you? Or if the worse happens you injure or kill someone – who is going to jail? That driver behind? I think not. And whilst you are sat discussing this with the police officer I bet you do not think it was such a good idea after all...

As one candidate did recently, whilst being tail gated, pull over and let them past. Let them add to the 20% increase in speeding offences – not you. Your better than that – aren't you?

Drive safe and remember the group is always here if you would like a free refresher – it's free and we will only offer constructive, helpful advice – and did I mention it's FREE! So what are you waiting for?

Nigel Hobson

Editor

www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

Facebook: IAM Scunthorpe

Twitter: @IAMScunthorpe



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Social meetings held on:

June 22nd

August 24th

October 26th (Quiz Night)

All social meetings are held at the Redbourn Club,
Cemetery Road, Scunthorpe.

Meeting at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

We got Mail!

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

Email: nghobson@btinternet.com

Twitter: [@IAMScunthorpe](https://twitter.com/IAMScunthorpe)

Letters:
N Hobson
Phoenix Cottage
Old Lane
Reedness
DN14 8HE



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.

IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

SKILL FOR LIFE

SPECIAL OFFER FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

The Scunthorpe Advanced Motorists, together with the North Lincs Road Safety Partnership are pleased to announce that 17 to 24 year old drivers can now receive a full refund when successfully completing the 'Skill For Life' package.

SPECIAL OFFER

- * Improve your driving
- * Help to avoid crashes
- * Greater awareness of other road users
- * Improve your driving confidence
- * One year's IAM Roadblock and Recovery breakdown cover
- * Your chance to become a better driver than your friends (and your dad) by taking advanced driving

For more details go to www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

Apply now: IAM Scunthorpe IAM Scunthorpe advanced motorists. P:01652 655601

Scunthorpe Advanced Motorists and North Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

SCUNTHORPE GROUP
Established 1977
Incorporating the 'Roads' and 'Safety' groups

ROADS LINCOLNSHIRE
Safely

*Proof required, full terms and conditions will be published shortly on the groups website.
See www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk for more details,
or Tel: 01652 655601 for details.

Become an advanced driver!

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

**PLEASE NOTE THIS OFFER IS FOR A
LIMITED TIME ONLY**

To receive an application form please send your name and contact details along with 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 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 on:

www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

THE GROUP SHOP

**FOR ALL YOUR ADVANCED MOTORING
NEEDS. [Ring IAN WALPOLE 01724-337547]**

Anyone wishing to purchase a Scunthorpe Group polo shirt or fleece please contact Paul Johnson on:

01724 721156 or 07902 010420.

**Polo Shirt red/black with logo a
£15**

**Anyone wishing to advertise in
the newsletters should contact
Geoff Tew.**

**The cost of advertising is: Full
Page £40.00 1/2 Page £20.00
per annum (four quarterly
issues).**



JOB VACANCY- PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- Commencement date - to start ASAP
- Salary, there isn't one - incurred expenses paid.
- Job satisfaction – Great!
- Hours - negotiable, but mainly to suit yourself.
- No experience necessary - just a willing worker

Job description, the successful applicant will be expected to and be required to promote the group and its functions in every way, through all the relevant mediums. He/she must be computer literate and be prepared to use their own PC. The candidate will need to be dynamic in the approach to helping to select and secure guest speakers and thanking speakers by letter or email. The group needs someone skilled in the ability to sell our product, i.e. "the skill for life" For more details, why not contact group chairman; Terry Heath on 01652 655601
email terryheath7080@btinternet.com

HUGO'S FOOT CARE

Hugo Golden-Betts SAC DIP RFHP

Foot Health Practitioner

For Your Foot Health Requirements

Visiting Your Home

01724 629838



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Produced by Nigel Hobson

Printed by Geoff Tew

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

Thanks Martin Dale for this interesting visual on parking styles!



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TESTING TIMES FOR DRUG DRIVERS

March 2016 - Drug Drive Campaign

Humberside and South Yorkshire Police have been drug testing all drivers involved in collisions, this testing will provide a bench mark for just how many people are driving with drugs in their systems and been involved in a crash.

Casualty Reduction Officer Barry Gardner, 'Until we secured this grant for road-side drug test kits we have not been able to get an idea of how many people might be driving under the influence of drugs and how many of those are then involved in a collision. This grant has not only provided testing kits to allow us to do more testing but it has enabled us to promote the widespread use of road-side drugs tests. Through radio, football stadium, pubs, clubs and social media we have been making sure we do our bit to spread the word about the testing kits with the key messages that "Drugs Affect Your Driving" and "Don't Take Drugs and Drive" '

The campaign has been running now since the beginning of March. Up until 14 March, 22 tests drugs tests had been recorded when officers had a suspicion of drugs at a roadside stop check, five of these drivers tested positive for cocaine or cannabis, two drivers failed to provide a sample and were arrested.

So far only one driver tested after a Road traffic collision has shown to have taken drugs.

PC Barry Gardner 'A lot of the drivers involved in collisions will not have the stereotypical drug user, profile, but if we are testing everyone then the word will spread and people will be much more aware of measures we now have.

'It's been almost 50 years since the breathalyser test came into use in Britain, the road-side drug test kit has now ensured we are keeping up with the increase of recreational drug use and therefore the increase in drivers being impaired through taking drugs.

'We are not naive to think that people will stop taking recreational drugs, or stop drinking. What we don't want is for them to then get behind the wheel of a car.'

The history of drink driving:

Did you know that in 1872 it became an offence to be drunk while in charge of carriages, horses, cattle and steam engines!! The penalty for which was a fine not exceeding 40 shillings OR at the discretion of the court, imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding one month!



HOW DRUGS INFLUENCE DRIVERS

Driving under the influence of drugs is extremely dangerous and can affect driving skills in a number of ways.

Cannabis users often think they are safer when they are under the influence because they drive more slowly. However, cannabis slows reaction and decision times. It can also distort perception of time and distance, and result in poorer concentration and control of the vehicle.

Cocaine leads to a sense of over-confidence and this is reflected in user's driving style. Users typically perform higher risk, more aggressive manoeuvres at greater speeds.

Ecstasy (MDMA) is extremely dangerous to drive on because it results in distorted vision, heightened perception of sounds, altered perception and judgment of risks and an over-confident driving attitude.

During the phase whilst the effects of any illegal drugs are wearing off the user may feel fatigued, affecting concentration levels.

Driving in any of these conditions is a bad idea – not just for the driver but for their passengers and other road users.



CHECK YOUR MEDICATION!

In the dawn of new drug drive legislation, THINK! is encouraging people who take medicines and aren't sure if they are safe to drive to check with their pharmacist or doctor. The new law comes into force from the 2nd March and is designed to catch people who risk other people's lives by getting behind the wheel after taking drugs, and not those taking legitimate medicines that don't impair their ability to drive.

The new law sets limits at very low levels for 8 drugs commonly associated with illegal use such as cannabis and cocaine. There are also 8 prescription drugs that are included within the new law. These are:

- clonazepam
- diazepam
- flunitrazepam
- lorazepam
- oxazepam
- temazepam
- methadone
- morphine

If you are taking your medicine as directed and your driving is not impaired, then you are not breaking the law and there is no need to worry.

We advise anyone who is unsure about the effects of their medication or how the new legislation may affect them, to seek the advice of their doctor or pharmacist.

Don't stop taking your medicines, prescribed or otherwise, if you are worried about this new law. Instead, talk to your doctor or pharmacist for information about how your medicines might affect your ability to drive. They'll be happy to give you the advice you need to stay safe.

TEST PASSES



Congratulations

Congratulations to observer John Wigmore, who recently gained a pass, with a First category

WELL DONE!

Congratulations

Michael Morgan on passing your IAM test, Michaels (Mick) observer was Nigel Hobson.

WELL DONE!

Where's the toughest UK driving test?

It is 80 years since driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain. But does it really matter where you take the dreaded exam?

Sweaty palms, a pounding heart? It is a seminal point in a person's life when they take their driving test. Pass and you are rewarded with freedom, career prospects and new friends who need lifts. Get it wrong and you are left with the stigma of failure, a reliance on public transport and an overwhelming feeling of disappointment. The Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) says instructors are regularly assessed to ensure tests are consistent across the country. But does that mean the test location is irrelevant?

Advanced Driving Instructor Sandra Macdonald-Ames, who was the driving expert in the BBC documentary *So You Think You Can Drive*, said test centres with higher pass rates tend to be in rural areas.

"[Learners in rural areas] are effectively learning test routes in a fairly predictable environment," she said.

"If you practise for 20 to 30 hours you will inevitably cover all the local roads at one time or another. There are no nasty surprises."

She said there is a "constantly changing situation with multiple hazards" in major cities.

"As it is more unpredictable, candidates are more likely to get it wrong as decision-making needs to be much sharper," she said.

"If you hesitate in London at a junction you make the traffic reports on Radio 2 for congestion. If you hesitate in a rural area, no one really notices as three cars are a queue."

Figures from DVSA for 2013 to 2014 show that while the average pass rate was 47.1%, you were almost 15 percentage points more likely to fail if you took your test in Belvedere in the London borough of Bexley. The centre is surrounded by residential roads with narrow lanes as well as higher speed A roads such as the A220 and A206.



The test centre with the highest pass rate last year was on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland, but there were only 10 candidates

But Mark Hewitt, who stopped taking pupils to the Belvedere test centre a year ago because of its reputation, said it was not the busy roads that make it tough.

"I don't think it's the test centre, it's the examiners," he said.

"A few of them are all right, the rest just don't chat. They are so dead quiet. Pupils need to see that the examiners are human as well."

Of the top 10 centres with the lowest pass rate last year, five were in London, three were in the Birmingham area, one was in Leeds and one was in Luton. At the other end of the scale, candidates who took their test on islands off the coast of Scotland were more likely to succeed.

TEST CENTRES WITH HIGHEST PASS RATES (2013/14)		%
Isle of Mull		80
Barra		77.8
Brodick		73.1
Isle of Skye (Portree)		72.2
Ballachulish		71.4
Kendal		70.8
Ballater		69.8
Barrow in Furness		68.3
Mallaig		68.2
Llandrindod Wells		68.1
TEST CENTRES WITH LOWEST PASS RATES (2013/14)		%
Belvedere (London)		32.2
South Yardley (Birmingham)		32.4
Barking (London)		33.3
Wednesbury		33.4
Wanstead (London)		33.5
Wood Green (London)		34.2
Kingstanding (Birmingham)		35.1
Leeds		36.3
Enfield (London)		36.4
Luton		37

Eight out of the 10 candidates who took their test at the Isle of Mull passed, seven out of nine at Barra and 38 out of 52 in Brodick. Gordon Rae, who lives near the Isle of Mull test centre, has been an instructor for 12 years. He said the DVSA told him a few years ago tests on the islands were likely to be discontinued because they were not challenging enough. He said there are no traffic lights, roundabouts or dual carriageways.

"When you work in this business you are aware of it," he said.

"I have requests from people who live on the mainland but want to go over to Mull because the pass rate is so much better. But I refuse to do it because I believe in the ethos that when a candidate has a test, they should be ready for it.

"They might pass in Mull but when they go into one of the big cities, they would be like a fish out of a pond. It's an accident waiting to happen."

In England, the Kendal test centre in the Lake District yielded the highest number of passes with a 70.8% success rate.

Jan Walker, who runs Jan's Driving School in Cumbria, said many people asked if they could take their test at Kendal because they believe it is easier.

"Kendal has a lot of visitors so you get quite a few hold-ups," she said.

"It has a one-way system and you get stuck in traffic quite a bit.

"When you are queuing in traffic you do not have to think that much. The cars in front of you are slowing down.

"When you are on a fast road you have to think that bit more quickly."

A DVSA spokesperson said pass rates could be influenced by various factors but refused to say if it was easier to pass at some test centres than others.

"Some people take more lessons and are better prepared for the test," a spokeswoman said.

"Statistical factors can also play a part as the number of tests conducted at different test centres varies significantly.

"We train examiners to a high standard and closely monitor their work to ensure that all tests are assessed consistently across the country."



TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-2016

The detailed accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 were presented at the Annual General Meeting and are shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our main source of income is always subscriptions so a big thank you to you for continuing to support us. Gift Aid also provides a useful contribution and it is derived from subscriptions. The social evening raffles and other donations are the other source of income. Expenditure is categorised on the accounts sheet and remains steady. The cost of a new projector resulted in a significant increase in 'other expenses'.

Our current account balance at the year-end is still about £3,000 which is sufficient to keep subscriptions at £10/year. I should point out that that figure includes the £750 from the North Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and is ring-fenced to fund under-25 year old drivers taking the Skill for Life course.

Finally, I would also like to thank our team of newsletter distributors, several of whom have been doing the job for many years.

Malcolm Gothard

<u>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</u>							
14/15			15/16	14/15			15/16
1212.00	Subscriptions		1298.00	159.50	Stationery etc		73.23
131.01	Donations		136.23	162.68	Other expenses		613.37
0.00	Gift Aid		116.00	456.73	Newsletters		525.44
750.00	N.Lincs Council		0.00	358.97	MDU maintenance		352.45
				224.00	Test Fees		144.00
				90.00	Insurance		110.00
	<u>Group Shop</u>						
	Sales	0.00			<u>Depreciation on Assets</u>		
	Closing Stock	211.06					
				1000.00	MDU		1000.00
				70.00	PA system		70.00
	Purchases	0.00					
	Stock b/f	211.06					
5.31	To Profit & Loss a/c		0.00	-423.56	Profit for the year		-1338.30
2098.32			1550.23	2098.32			1550.23
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>							
14/15			15/16	14/15			15/16
5879.36	Balance b/f from 12/13		5455.80	211.06	Group Shop Stock		211.06
-423.56	From Profit & Loss a/c		-1338.30		<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
	Pre-paid subscriptions		40.00				
					MDU	2000.00	
				2000.00	Less depreciation	1000.00	1000.00
					PA system	70.00	
				70.00	Less depreciation	70.00	0.00
					<u>Cash in Bank</u>		
				3174.74	Current account		2946.44
5455.80			4157.50	5455.80			4157.50

Chairman's Chatter

Chairman's chatter

There is a new test standard roll out on June 8th, and a number of us will be attending the meeting at Lincoln where the powers that be will be telling us all about the things that will be changing. There are, I believe, a number of changes to be introduced, but they tell us not to worry, because a lot of what we do now won't be changed that much. I can't tell you anymore at this stage, because, I don't know either! Rest assured as soon as we know, we will then cascade the training down to the observers at the first instant. We do believe that the observer qualification process will start soon after this event.

Retirement

Our long standing examiner has recently retired. Roy Hindmarsh has been our much respected examiner for getting on for 30 years by my reckoning. Roy has been and still is a good friend and a friendship that I will always value and treasure. I'm so very disappointed that he's decided to stand down from examining, as are the rest of the people that know, but we must respect that decision. I would like to offer a very warm welcome to him at any of our events, should he wish to pop and see us. I sincerely hope he will.

On another note, our current editor is under extreme pressure and needs to pass on the editorship of the newsletter. Nigel works full time, has a young family, and once we got our claws in him, I'm afraid we over-burdened him somewhat! He's an observer, Oh yes he does two wheels as well as four, he manages the group website, he runs face book for the group and he set up the Twitter account, which he handed over to me. Alas, when I break it, I have to go back to Nigel to mend it for me.

So as you can imagine, the whole lot together is rather time consuming. So, we're asking, is there anyone out there that thinks they might have the ability to edit and collate the magazine. This job does not include the printing, that's done elsewhere. The magazine is produced four times a year and on its own isn't such a big deal. We just need to be able to relieve Nigel of this job to save him the added stress of juggling everything to try to please everyone. Please get in touch if you think you can help. It's been done before by a husband and wife team, so that's something to consider....

Kind regards

Terry Heath

Nomination Form

To: **Secretary, Scunthorpe Group of Advanced Motorists**

With regard to the forthcoming election of Officers and Committee Members for the year commencing **1st April 2016**,
I would like to propose that:

Mr/Mrs/Miss:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Mobile:

Stands for election as **Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee Member** (delete as appropriate).

Signed:

Seconded:

This is to certify that I am in agreement to my name being put forward for election to the above post and that, if elected, I am willing to act in that capacity.

Signed:

Date:

Note All signatories on this form **must** be group full members.