



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

Issue 4

Welcome to the final edition of the year of this newsletter. In this issue we have articles from **Paul Casswell, Pete Batty** and **Terry Heath**. As ever, thank you to those who have contributed over the year, your input is very much in need!

Following the previous questionnaire we have the results to publish.

Around 10% of our readers have taken the time out to return their questionnaires – so a big thank you to them. Turn to Page ?? for the results!

Following your requests we have more articles than ever on driving. This month we discuss 'Speed Camera's', 'Winter Driving' and 'Driving through tunnels'.

As more and more vehicles are fitted with cameras we are seeing more and more video's published showing people's bad driving. Is this a good thing (publicise the dangers and expose these people for the terrible drivers they are) or a bad thing (infringement of our privacy). One thing is for sure, they are here to stay and if you are videoed driving badly then that video may well end up on social media sites and be visible for a great number of years.

As employers start to use social media when recruiting – the time has never been better to encourage your relations to drive better, more considerately and who knows maybe it is time for them to try a free taster session with your local IAM Club ?!

Nigel Hobson



www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

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IAM

DRIVING ROAD SAFETY

In this issue...

**Special articles on
Winter Driving**



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Social meetings held on:

November 25th Driving Route 66

No meeting in December

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



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.

The poster features the IAM logo at the top with the tagline 'DRIVING ROAD SAFETY'. A yellow banner in the top right corner reads '17-24 YEARS OLDS FULL REFUND AVAILABLE'. A central image shows a woman driving. Below this, the text 'SPECIAL OFFER FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY' is prominently displayed. A red circular graphic contains the 'Skill For Life' logo. The main text of the offer states: '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.' Below this, a list of benefits is provided: 'Improve your driving', 'Help to avoid crashes', 'Greater awareness of other road users', 'Improve your driving confidence', 'One year's RAC Roadside and Recovery breakdown cover', and 'Your chance to become a better driver than your friends (and your dad) by taking advanced driving'. The poster also includes the IAM Scunthorpe logo, the Scunthorpe Group logo (established 1977), and the North Lincolnshire Council logo. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Apply now: IAM Scunthorpe' and 'IAM Scunthorpe advanced motorists: 01652 655601'. A red banner at the very bottom contains the disclaimer: '*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.

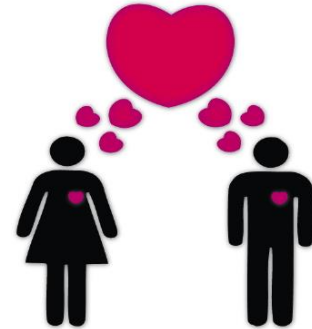
Any applications made through head office in London will pay the usual rate of £149.00.

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

www.scunthorpeadvancedmotorists.co.uk

Driving Assessment

Forget flowers and chocolates, new research has revealed that improving your driving skills is the surest way to woo a potential love interest!



Dawdling way below the speed limit, taking ages to park and road rage are major three-point turn offs for any potential suitors. In fact, driving is so important in the love stakes that more than one in ten of us say good driving skills will get our motors running on a first date.

To help ensure you are not left alone at the wheel, we're giving you the chance to check your driving skills are up to scratch by offering a free IAM driving assessment, usually worth £39.

Discover if your driving could cause an (emergency) stop at the first date by signing up to a free driving assessment. The informal, 60-minute session will be carried out by a qualified assessor from the IAM and will take place in your own car.

There are no special insurance requirements and you'll be driving the vehicle at all times. Please contact us to arrange your free driving assessment at a time and location convenient to you.

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

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Careless Driving



The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) can reveal that more than 17,000 people have been convicted of careless driving offences since police were given the power to issue fixed penalty notices for it two years ago.

The figures come from a Freedom of Information request by the IAM, Britain's biggest independent road safety charity, to every police force in England and Wales.

The statistics cover the two years from August 2013 to August 2015. A total of 17,468 people were convicted of this charge in this time period.

Some 33 out of 43 police forces responded to the IAM's request. The force area with the highest number of people convicted was Essex (3,630), followed by Humberside (1,998), Nottinghamshire (1,139), Derbyshire (949) and Hampshire (929).

On 16 August 2013 police were given the power to give on-the-spot penalties for drivers who put other road users' lives at risk for offences such as tailgating and poor lane discipline (reference 1).

The rest of the top 12 overall numbers of people convicted according to police force area were:

6. Thames Valley: 924
7. Surrey: 830
8. West Yorkshire: 804
9. Cheshire 720
10. Greater Manchester 607
11. Lancashire 578
12. Dyfed-Powys 440

Sarah Sillars, IAM chief executive officer, said: "While these offences fall under the lower end of the scale for motoring transgressions, such driving behaviour could easily have caused a serious accident.

"Tailgating is an aggressive action designed to intimidate another driver, while unpredictable lane-changing is both thoughtless and dangerous.

"We hope these on-the-spot fines and remedial courses have helped concentrate the drivers' minds and make them think twice about these potentially hazardous manoeuvres in the future."

In the case of Essex with the highest number of people convicted 2,958 of them undertook a course, 484 went to court and 188 took a conditional offer. In Humberside, the second highest area 1,469 attended and completed a retraining course and 364 have been put forward for consideration for court prosecution.

Nottinghamshire's 1,139 were issued with fixed-penalty notices and a summons to court issued to 72 of those. A more detailed breakdown of actions deemed to qualify for the offence of careless driving was provided Merseyside Police; which showed 32 drove on the wrong side of the road, or the wrong way down a road (driving without due care and attention), 13 for bad driving at a roundabout (same category), 12 for tailgating and two for intimidating or obstructing a cyclist.



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



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

Fleece black with logo - £25

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).

Winter driving tips

Given the onset of cold weather more and more of us are experiencing misty car windows. The IAM's chief examiner, Peter Rodger recommends drivers better prepare their cars before they travel.

Your windows will steam up when the air inside your car is warmer and is carrying more humidity. This air inside is cooled near the glass allowing the humidity to condense and form mist. Here are Peter's top tips for coping better with misty windows:

1 .Mist will often form quicker on dirty windows so it's important you keep your windows clean throughout the winter. Both the outside and inside of your windows should be kept equally clean – free from dust, tar, tree sap and grime.

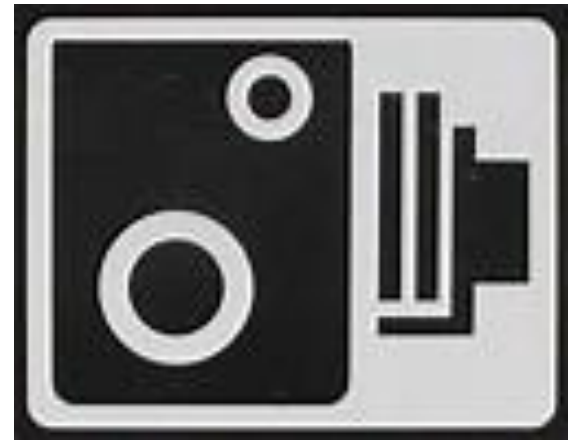
2. Newspaper can be used to polish glass once you've cleaned it. Wash the windows with some washing up liquid and water, then dry with a cloth ensuring you lift the windscreen wipers and clean the section of your windscreen beneath them. If you prefer the traditional method of using crumpled up newspaper, this works well too.

3. Don't leave any damp clothing in your car overnight as this can also cause the windows to steam up.

4. Use the air conditioner to help lift any condensation from the inside of your car windows. You can adjust it accordingly to lower the setting once the moisture clears. And if your car has a button that sets the demister at the optimum for clearing the screen then use that.

Rodger said: "Your windows are your eyes when you get behind the wheel. It is foolhardy and downright dangerous to drive one inch if you can't see clearly from your windows. Be five minutes late rather than venture down the road in this way".

Speed Cameras



A national survey by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) has shown that although most drivers support speed cameras there are big variations across the country – and Londoners and people in the north-east appear to show higher levels of resistance than most.

The survey polled 1,000 drivers of all age groups across Britain and asked “It is now common for the authorities to use speed cameras at the side of the road to identify vehicles involved in speeding offences. How acceptable do you think this is?” The national average is 79% but only 69% of Londoners said it was acceptable, down from 85% in 2011.

The north-east also has seen a decrease in acceptance in the past year, down from 84% to 70%. The north-west, Yorkshire and Humber and Scotland have also all seen acceptability decrease over the four year period.

When asked if they agree with the statement “Speed cameras are only sited at places where accidents are happening” again there was a sharp decrease in people in the north-east and London agreeing with it. Only 37% of those polled in the north-east agreed with this, down from 69% between 2013 and 2014.

In London the numbers agreeing fell from 46% to 28%. The north-east has seen the biggest fall in drivers agreeing with the statement (from a peak of 69 per cent in 2013 to 37% in 2014).

We asked if they agree with the statement: “Raising money from fines is not the motive for speed cameras” there is a sharp fall in those in the north-east and London agreeing compared to 12 months ago, and a gradual fall over the past four years. In 2011 48% of people agreed with this statement in London, which has dropped to 29% last year. In the north-east those agreeing with the statement dropped from 58% in 2013 to 30% last year.

The West Midlands and London are the only regions where the overall trend since 2011 indicates that more drivers believe raising money from speed cameras is the motive (from 37% in 2011 to 56% in 2014 for London, and from 51 per cent in 2011 to 58 per cent in 2014 for the West Midlands).

With deaths on UK roads having fallen from around 3,600 in the mid-nineties (when speed camera use became widespread) to 1,713 in 2014, respondents were asked: “To what extent do you believe speed cameras have helped in this decline?”

While there is a very high agreement across the country for this statement, the north-west is the only region to see a consistent year-on-year decrease in those who believe speed cameras have contributed to the decline in road fatalities.

And there was a sharp fall in those in the north-east in the past year who agree with the statement that speed cameras have helped in this respect, from 91% to 57%.

Speed cameras cont'd

In its manifesto, the IAM supports the use of safety camera systems at collision hot spots, on roads with a bad crash record and at areas of proven risk, such as motorway road works.

However, the IAM states that it is vital for their credibility and road safety policy that their use is concentrated on these areas, directly linked to speed related crashes and casualties. It also suggests that cameras should be seen as a temporary solution until long term engineering improvements can be implemented to solve the problem permanently.

Sarah Sillars, IAM chief executive officer, said: "It is clear that most drivers accept that speed cameras are effective in reducing the numbers of people who are killed and seriously injured, but for many there is still an unfortunate link to revenue raising and a perception they are not always in the right places.

"Public support is very important when it comes to effective speed camera operation. They will respect them if they can see their effectiveness and worthiness, and these regional variations highlight where extra work is needed to convince drivers of the benefits and to counter media perceptions and urban myths around cameras."

Thank you member Pete Batty for passing on this...

If my body were a car

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a new model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull,
...but that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was.

I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed.

My fuel rate burns inefficiently

But here's the worst of it..

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or splutter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!



Exhibitions and events

**Come and see us
in the precinct in
Scunthorpe
town centre. We
will have
information and
can give advice.
Come along for a
chat and support
your local IAM
group.**

Dates are;

November 14th



WINTER DRIVING

As British Summer Time comes to an end, this week's tips from the IAM's head of driving standards, Peter Rodger, are looking at what you can do to ensure your journey is as safe as possible in the dark. Here are our latest tips to see you through.

1. With fog expected during mornings and evenings, it's important that you keep your windows clear of ice and frost throughout. Use a good quality windscreen washer fluid to keep them clean, and keep the reservoir topped up.
2. As you will be using your dipped headlights more often it's important you make sure they are working properly. The same applies for all other car lights, indicators and tires too – make sure you check the tread depth regularly. If any of these need replacing, do so as soon as possible. A spare set of light bulbs is a very worthwhile investment for your car.
3. Automatic headlamp systems do not always put dipped headlamps on in foggy weather conditions, so you may need to switch them from an auto to manual setting. Remember, you don't need to wait until it's completely dark before you switch on your dipped headlights – you may need to use them in reduced daylight conditions too.
4. Where there are no street lights or you are driving on an empty stretch of road in seriously reduced visibility, switch on your full beam to help you see further ahead. However, you mustn't use your full beam during the day even in poor visibility as you risk dazzling other road users.
5. Look out for vulnerable road users in the dark including motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. Take particular care when driving near schools in the late afternoon when children are travelling home – see and be seen at all times.
6. Pedestrians are not easily spotted when they wear dark clothing. Keep your eyes peeled and avoid speeding when your vision is reduced in both dark and bad weather conditions.
7. Keep an eye out for reflective road signs and motorway studs that help you drive in poor light. Use these to guide you with your journey.
8. Judging the speed of vehicles is difficult in the dark – increase the distance between you and the car in front of you. If you cannot see ahead, you must slow down to give yourself more time to react to a potential hazard.

Peter said: "It might sound obvious, but you cannot drive the same way in the dark as you would in daylight – but that's what a lot of people do. Make allowances for your own abilities in darkness; your eyes take time to get used to the dark. And be aware others might not be as careful as you, and might not be wearing reflective or bright clothing as they should do. Take on the responsibility of looking out for others, and your journey will give you a warm glow inside – even if it's chilly outside."

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I have just returned from a holiday in Rhodes, where drivers NEVER jump red lights.

Study the attached picture and you will see that there are **three metal bollards that twizzle up out of the ground when the lights change, and they look strong enough to stop a tank.**

John Wigmore



MEET THE OBSERVER...

It takes thousands of bolts to hold together a motor car,
but it only takes one nut to spread them all over the road!

Oh hello there! Let me introduce myself, my name is Paul Cassell, I am an observer with the Scunthorpe group of advanced motorists.

I passed my advanced test in November 1992 with the group, taking up the role of observer a few years later.

Whilst it is most enjoyable and satisfying to help new associates as they come along I've decided that the next move is to begin training as a check tester.

I have also made moves towards the National Observer Qualification.

Ultimately though, I am looking forward to taking the I A M Masters test.

Being the car nut that I am, I'm always reading some car mag or other, I like to keep up with what's new. Having said that I get a good feeling remembering some of the classic 60s & 70s motors when I see them.

As a family, my wife Denise, daughter 'Tricia and I enjoy watching the British Touring Car Championship on t v. Most years we will attend one or two circuits to watch the racing live.

My job as an estimator for a carpet retailer in Hull means I encounter plenty of in town traffic driving as well as country roads towards the East coast.

Denise is also a member of the group, having passed her IAM test a few years after myself.

Hopefully, in time 'Tricia will too. She passed her driving test three years ago and is enjoying driving her Toyota Aygo which she calls Tim. Together they do my newsletter round.

Just to keep it in the family, my Mum & Dad also passed their advanced tests with Scunthorpe group. Both in their late 80s now, Mum doesn't drive any more but Dad will drive them to the shops now and then.

I have made some good friends within my successful associates, one recently taking an active role in manning our MDU, another now a successful observer. Good luck to you all, this is the spirit we need to keep the group going.

I truly enjoy my membership of the IAM and particularly our group, believing that you get back as much as you put in.

Thank you for reading my page and I wish you all well for the future.

Now then, where was I.....



Paul Cassell

Quiz night

On Wednesday 14th Oct, we had our annual quiz night at Scunthorpe Advanced Motorist where the Barrie Heath trophy was competed for by three teams. Grimsby & Louth, Lincoln group and The Lincolnshire Advanced motorcyclists. As Scunthorpe won the event last year the rules preclude us from competing this year so we played host for the evening.

The evening started with a successful test applicant receiving his certificate



Pictured are (Left to right) Observer Paul Cassell, Bob Epton, and Chairman Terry Heath.



After some time it was decided to create a trophy and the groups would compete for this trophy on an annual basis, as Barrie was also a member of Grimsby & Louth and Lincoln too. A few years down the line and Lincs bikers were born and they soon asked to be included in the quiz.

The important part is that through Barrie's vision we have kept his memory alive and also cemented an excellent relationship with the other groups concerned.

This year saw a really good balance of questions all prepared and presented by the Scunthorpe president Mick Harris. Our very grateful thanks to Mick for a brilliant set of questions, superbly delivered. The quiz went down really well with everyone, as did the free buffet at the interval.



THE WINNERS! Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists pictured with the trophy

DRIVING THROUGH TUNNELS

This week's tips from the IAM's head of driving standards, Peter Rodger are about how motorists can drive through a tunnel in the safest way. Whatever the length of the tunnel, you need to be aware that road conditions can be very different – here's what you can do to stay safe.

- Always pre-plan your journey, know which route you will be taking and fill up the car with fuel beforehand – you don't want to face the risk of running out of fuel in a tunnel.
- If you know there are roadworks, try and avoid them by taking a longer route if you can. Keep up-to-date with the latest traffic news so you avoid getting stuck in a tunnel.
- Take off your sunglasses when you're travelling through a tunnel – they hinder your eyesight in dim lighting conditions.
- Use dipped headlights to help improve your vision, but never use the full beam as this will dazzle other motorists.

- Never speed through a tunnel as you cannot predict where there will be a sudden bend. Keep to the given speed limit and slow down if you can't see clearly.



- Avoid tailgating – leaving plenty of room between yourself and the car in front of you at all times.
- 6. Do not change lanes unless instructed to do so – keep an eye out for traffic signs that tell you which lane you need to get into and stay in that lane. If you're travelling through a two-way tunnel, keep to the nearside kerb.
- 7. If stationary in a tunnel for any length of time, turn off your engine. The ventilation system usually relies on traffic movement to vent toxic fumes from the tunnel. Keep windows closed during this time if possible.
- 8. If you breakdown in a tunnel, switch on your hazard lights immediately and try to coast to a breakdown lay-by or the nearside kerb. Make sure you evacuate the vehicle and wait on the pedestrian walkway. By this point you should be wearing a high-visibility jacket and will have called your breakdown recovery provider.
- 9. If you are advised to vacate your vehicle and the tunnel, follow signs along the tunnel wall which show you the way you should walk to the nearest exit, provided your safety is not at any risk.
- 10. When using an emergency exit inside a tunnel be careful how you exit through the doors. Some emergency exits open onto the active carriageway of the opposite tunnel bore which may mean you walk out into the path of fast-moving traffic.

Peter said: "Drivers and passengers must be aware that road conditions can be very different in a tunnel. They can be more slippery, and bends harder to judge. Drivers must allow for this, and if they do there is nothing to fear."

TEST PASSES



Congratulations

Vivian M'itwamwari for passing her IAM test. Pictured here with Terry Heath and her observer Nigel Hobson



Congratulations

Pictured are, Left Roy Hindmarsh area examiner, Centre Kal Singh observer and right, successful candidate Tim Lancaster receiving his certificate

WELL DONE!

Questionnaire Results

Where the result are from 1 – 10, the number will be shown to 2 decimal places with No %.

Where text was given, this is shown.

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | How do you rate the new style newsletter ? | 6.63 |
| 2 | Do you usually.... | |
| | Skim entire issue | |
| | Read Entire Issue | 100.00% |
| | Don't know | |
| 3 | How many others do you share your magazine with? | 71.43% |
| | Share with one person, rest do not share | |
| 4 | What articles would you like us to cover? | |
| | Drivers' experiences good or bad | |
| | Advice on night time driving on all types of road | |
| | Interviews with traffic police etc. | |
| | Articles about safe driving. | |
| | Discussion / Highlights from Highway Code | |
| | Write Ups about meetings / details about future meetings | |
| | Legal motoring changes | |
| 5 | Do you think the magazine is a worthwhile investment for us to keep producing? | |
| | Yes | 85.71% |
| | No | 14.29% |
| 6 | Should the newsletter be send by; | |
| | Email only | 45.45% |
| | Royal Mail | 18.18% |
| | Volunteer | 36.36% |
| 7 | Do you use the website? | |
| | Yes | 14.29% |
| | No | 85.71% |
| 8 | How do you rate the website? | |
| | 7 | Very few responses |
| 9 | Do you find the website easy to access? | |
| | Yes | 100.00% |
| | No | |

10 What would you like to see different on the webpage?

It seems to cover all I look for

11 How do you rate the social meeting? 7.6

12 Do you attend the monthly social meeting?

Yes 42.86%

No 57.14%

Why not?

I am just too busy 28.57%

Nothing of interest going on 14.29%

Not sure what is going on or when 14.29%

The people are not very welcoming 28.57%

I do not like the venue 14.29%

13 What could we do to make it more interesting for you?

Different events 70.00%

Could there be more publicity about meetings / activities 30.00%

14 Do you promote Advanced Driving?

Tell people how better it improves your driving

Through asking family members to consider their driving. I also send them all publications.

Talking to friends

Always mention it whenever I have passengers in my car

Word of mouth

15 Would you like to be more involved in the running of this charity?

Yes 0.00%

No 100.00%

16 How do you think we should promote the group?

Carry on doing the great work you are doing to promote advanced driving

Colleges and places of employment

Eye catching posters especially in venues where young people meet

Adv driving must be a cool thing to do!

Newspaper articles

Local Radio

Flyers up at transport museums (Sandtoft etc.)

17 Do you think the group is promoting a worthwhile cause?

Yes 100.00%

No 0.00%

Other comments

Most people are old!

This group needs promoting by dynamic young people to young people, to enthuse them

We do appreciate all the work put in by the volunteers

The group seems to run quite well at present, but main cause to getting new members could be finding what would encourage younger drivers to join

Prefer booklet newsletter

It seems a while since we had a manoeuvrability course competition

People do not have enough money

BEWARE IDIOTS ABOUT!

IDIOT SIGHTING No.1

My daughter and I went to the McDonald's checkout to pay our bill and I gave the clerk a £5 note.

Our total bill was £4.20, so I also handed her a 20 pence piece.

She said, 'You gave me too much money.'

I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me £1 back.'

She sighed and went to get the Manager who asked me to repeat my request.

I did so, and he handed me back the 20 pence and said 'We're sorry but we do not do that kind of thing.'

The clerk then proceeded to give me back 80 pence in change.

Do not confuse the clerks at MacDonald's in St Albans , Hertfordshire.!!

IDIOT SIGHTING No2

We had to have the garage door repaired. The GARADOR repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

We haven't used Garador repair since.

Happened in Moor Park , near Watford .

IDIOT SIGHTING No3

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the Highways Department to request the removal of the 'DEER CROSSING' sign from our road.

The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars on this stretch of road!

I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing, any-more.'

Story from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

IDIOT SIGHTING No 4

My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried Chicken and ordered a Taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had Iceberg Lettuce.

From South Oxhey Hertfordshire.

IDIOT SIGHTING No 5

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?'

To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?'

He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

Happened at Luton Airport.

IDIOT SIGHTING No 6

The traffic light on the corner buzzes when the lights turn red and it is safe to cross the road. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged friend of mine.

She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

She is a Local County Council employee in St Albans , Hertfordshire. (And she's NOT blonde).

IDIOT SIGHTING No7

When my husband and I arrived at our local Ford dealer to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the Service Department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the Driver's door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door-handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the Fitter/Mechanic, 'it's open!'

His reply: 'I know. I already did that side.'

This was at the Ford dealership in St Albans , Hertfordshire.

STAY ALERT!

They walk among us.

AND THEY BREED!



Chairmans's Chatter!

Hi folks, with the season of good will almost upon us, I'm going to be asking for a lot of commitment from some people.

Our first subject is about the resurrection of the pyramid structure that we used some years ago.

We are missing vital information from observers and associates, which creates delays and this should be the way to combat the problem. Senior observer Sue Harris has agreed to be a coordinator and will contact the associates on a monthly basis to establish if they are currently in training or if there's a problem, and then report back to either myself or the associate coordinator so that we can minimise delays and utilise our observers to the best of their abilities.

We will also be doing more taster sessions with the public. So instead of just standing with the mobile display unit we will be going out for drives from the M.D.U. with members of the public, giving them a "taster session" and in so doing, giving them more of an insight into advanced driving. Hopefully we will be gaining more members, which is exactly what we need to survive.

Volunteers will be needed, so please feel free to ask to be included if you want to help !

We would hope to site the M D U at a supermarket on the outskirts of town somewhere, venues to be confirmed.

On another note, Brian and Lesley Viney have been keen valued and helpful members for some years now, but as with everything there comes a time when we all need to slow down and say " it's time we steadied down a bit" .

I'm delighted to say Brian is still staying as an observer for us, but as one of Lesley's jobs was totally organising the raffles for the social meetings and she's giving that up. At this point I would like to say to both Brian and Lesley a massive thank you for all their help. Every single minute of time people like them give are greatly valued by us all.

We now find ourselves asking for help with this ! We would like someone (or even a couple) to take on buying prizes for the raffles. Also selling the tickets on the night etc etc. Please contact me if you think you can help us !

There is also plenty of seats vacant on the committee should you feel you can donate a bit more time to a very worthy cause.

A little bit more news on the driving scene is that long standing observer Paul Cassell is going to become a check tester, (don't anyone tell him he's doing it for free, or else he'll clear off). I'm sure Paul will be excellent at the job as he is without doubt a people person.

So all the that remains for me to say is thank you to everyone for all their continued help and support and to wish each and every one of you a very happy and safe Christmas, and I wish you all everything you wish for yourselves for the coming year.

Regards Terry Heath, Chairman