

THE LATEST FROM IAM LINCOLNSHIRE

Notes from the editor

I put together my first 'Lincoln Advanced Motorists' newsletter in 2014, bringing it back after a 12 month absence. Having joined as Secretary, I never considered I'd still be here 10 years later. And be completing my 37th newsletter!



My IAM journey began with my observer Tony Lofts, who helped me pass my first Advanced Driver Test and then welcomed me to the committee. I was pleased to present Tony with a certificate of achievement for his long service to the IAM last year, pictured above.

In my introductory column, I spoke about 'bringing down the average age' of group members, and I'm proud to have been part of much more than that, over the years.

Putting together the newsletter has been something I've very much enjoyed, as each edition brings the opportunity to share success stories, achievements and a variety of safer driving tips. It's satisfying to be able to summarise and share these best bits.

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed many excellent articles over the years - you can look back on some of these on our website. My special thanks go to Graham Ford - Fordie - whose ever present column has been an informative, fun and topical contribution throughout my time as editor.

For a while now, I've felt that people's means of finding information has evolved, meaning that the newsletter no longer represents the best way to communicate. Reviewing the 'click stats' on our website and social media, shows the reality that very few people interact with this content.

Therefore, going forward, IAM Lincolnshire plans to share more communications via its website and social media and will move away from a formal newsletter, with this being our final edition.

This change fits nicely with my decision to step down from the committee and I think it is the right thing to do, looking at how people interact now and will do so in the future.

So, I hope you enjoy our final edition (it's been one of my favourites to put together), in which you can read a summary of the last decade of the group, find out more about IAM's Safer Roads for All manifesto, the risk for young drivers in Lincolnshire and much more.

We'll also update you on our Advanced Driver Courses as we once again aim for 50 test passes in 2024 - we're already halfway there!

Finally, you can read about our new-look committee, led by Geoff Coughlin. I hope you will all join me in welcoming them and give them the same support you have shown Roger and I over the last 10 years.

It's been a pleasure and I look forward to continuing to help make better drivers through observing.

Thanks for your continued support.

Ashley Behan

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Contact us... something you'd like to share in the newsletter?

By phone:
0300 365 0152

By email:
iamlincolnshire@hotmail.com

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THANK YOU IAM LINCOLNSHIRE

A message from Roger Hicks

Dear IAM Lincolnshire Members

When I finally retired from a busy career in industry I wondered what I was going to do with my time in order to stay focussed and motivated. Unfortunately my DIY skills are limited to say the least so other than the garden there was nothing I could do around the house such as putting up shelves etc. In fact my wife has been known to tell visiting trades people that she cringes if I even pick up a hammer!

I have always been a keen motorist having driven an estimated 1.5 million miles throughout numerous countries from North America in the west to Japan in the east. Therefore, when the family wanted to give me a retirement present I suggested I would like an IAM Advanced Driving Course. When I subsequently passed the course, I decided I would like to be an observer as this would be worthwhile use of my spare time.

After a short time as an observer there were some abrupt departures from the committee and because of my previous managerial experience I was asked to take over first as Chief Observer and then later as Chair. These changes coincided with recruitment to the committee of an incredible young man by the name of Ashley Behan. It soon became clear that by working together we could take the group forward and make it far more successful. Ashley and I then set out to run the group like a small business and built a strong well trained observer team to support our ambition of delivering 50 courses a year.

The rest, as they say, is history. IAM Lincolnshire is now one of, possibly the, most successful group in the country.

Both Ashley and I believe the time is now right to step down and hand over to Geoff Coughlin and his new committee who we are confident will take the group forward with continued success in the future. Hopefully I will be able to contribute to the group's ongoing success by remaining as an Observer and Masters Mentor.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone in the IAM Lincolnshire group, committee, observers and most importantly members for electing me Chairman for the past 10 years. This has allowed me to manage my post-retirement time by using it to make people better and safer drivers, I can't think of a more worthwhile cause.

I have enjoyed my time as Chairman and Chief Observer of Lincolnshire group and really appreciated your support and friendship, thank you.

Very best wishes to you and yours.

Roger

ROGER HICKS



LOOKING BACK ON THE LAST 10 YEARS

Roger and Ashley take a ride through the last decade as they step down from the committee

14th May 2024

Having led IAM Lincolnshire for a decade as Chair and Secretary, Roger Hicks and Ashley Behan made the decision they would stand down at the May 2024 AGM, at the beginning of the year.

At the AGM, the pair delivered a lighthearted presentation which talked through the key objectives they set the group, including running it like a small business, treating associates like customers and making a 'positive' about observers being volunteers.

A number of photos were shared, along with key successes which included several awards, leading the Lincoln group to become IAM Lincolnshire, being described as 'probably the best group in the country' by the IAM and the partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Marc Jones, which saw 150 young drivers take an Advanced Driver Course.

Geoff Coughlin read a letter received from IAM RoadSmart Chair, Stuart Donald QPM. Stuart welcomed Geoff, Sarah and the new committee to their roles and wished them success.

Stuart said: "on behalf of IAM RoadSmart, I would like to thank Ashley and Roger for being essential volunteers who have led the team and made IAM Lincolnshire one of the most impactful charities in the country. I have known them for years and admire their energy and enthusiasm for IAM RoadSmart and what we stand for. They complement each other's strengths and inspire other volunteers to strengthen the team and take pride in making Lincolnshire's roads safer."

10 years in numbers

- 480 Advanced Driver Courses sold
- 420 test passes - including 50 test passes in one year three times
- Over 30 test passes in each of the covid-19 years
- 50 safer driving presentations delivered
- 50 test passes each for Roger and Ashley
- 500 free taster drivers
- 20 observers coached through their National Observer qualification



Richard Gladman, Chief Examiner at IAM RoadSmart, attended the AGM and delivered a short thanks to the pair who he described as a 'formidable team'.

Roger and Ashley said: "We'd like to thank everyone for their support over the last 10 years. We set out to grow the charity and widen its reach across Lincolnshire, spreading the road safety message and we're delighted to have been part of achieving that."

"We'd like to thank everyone who has played a part and our members for their support. We couldn't have

done it without working closely together as a pair and we've enjoyed what we do - there has hardly been a week over the last 10 years when we haven't spoken at least once over the phone! We'll miss working together but now is the right time for fresh ideas and we know the future is in good hands."

INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOOK COMMITTEE

Who's who

Chair & Chief Observer

- Geoff Coughlin



Geoff took on the roles of Chair and Chief Observer in June 2024 having worked with the group as an Observer and Training Officer. He feels passionately about what IAM Roadsmart Lincs is looking to achieve: helping to reduce road deaths and improve driving standards across the Lincolnshire's roads. Geoff is also one of the group Master mentors and is able to support not only Associates on their Advanced Driving Course (ADC) but also Masters Driving Course candidates. Geoff now manages a

growing team of around 20 Observers as you can see on this page and is keen to develop the team to be diverse and inclusive, delivering an exciting, challenging and rewarding experience for all Associates undertaking their ADC. Geoff is married to Sara and has a daughter, Emily. Although he gives a lot of time to IAM activities, he also runs two businesses: a business skills training consultancy and online hobby magazine devoted to all things scale modelling as well as writing books.

Secretary

- Sarah Watkins



Originally from Yorkshire, before settling in Lincolnshire, Sarah had her first driving lesson on her 17th birthday, passing her driving test first time in March 1990. Having passed her test, Sarah always wanted to complete her Advanced Driver Course but put this on the back burner due to moving around the country with her husband Pete in the RAF. Sarah loves driving, absolutely anything and has driven tractors, minibus, cars and bikes - even having a go at driving an articulated lorry and a tank! Finally passing her advanced test in July 2018, Sarah has a keen interest in young drivers and their safety on the roads, wanting to

encourage them to gain important skills and knowledge as they start their driving journeys. Outside of IAM life Sarah works as an administrator in a large nursing home in Lincoln which she loves, along with spending time with her family and friends, walking, socialising and attending country shows.

Treasurer

- Simon Clayton



Simon spent his career working for Network Rail and joined the IAM in 2014. He swiftly became a National Observer and, since then, has achieved three F1RST passes during Fellow re-tests. Following his retirement Simon enjoys beekeeping alongside observing and is embracing his role on the committee so far. Simon's Dad is also an IAM member, having been part of Sheffield Advanced Motorcyclists for 35 years, representing them as Secretary for 19 years.

Fundraising Officer

- Tony Lofts



Tony joined the IAM in 2008, following 38 years in the RAF. Since then Tony has undertaken a variety of driving jobs, including taxi driving. He is IAM Lincolnshire's longest serving observer and committee member and is the familiar friendly face of the raffle at our meetings. Tony says that it is really gratifying to see one of 'your' associates passing the advanced test and to see them enjoying driving much more whilst being safer makes the time and effort spent volunteering well worth it.

Young Driver Ambassador

- Stephen Johnson

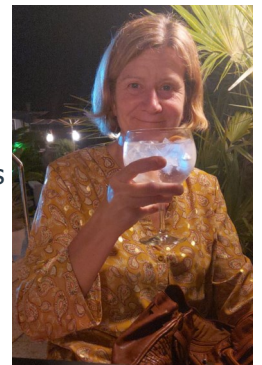


Stephen joined the IAM aged 22, kicking off on two wheels, which he found very rewarding. Stephen embraces the mantra 'doing everything I do better than yesterday' and says learning, developing and pushing himself to the limits are key. Stephen passed his advanced rider test and quickly followed the car test, passing with a F1RST. More recently, he achieved his Masters in the car with a Distinction, becoming one of the youngest people to hold the qualification. Outside of IAM life, Stephen enjoys kayaking and mentoring others to learn/improve.

Committee Member

- Dawn Zalas

Dawn took her advanced driving test after joining the Traffic Department in Notts Police in 1989. Having encouraged her daughter to take part in the Young Advanced Drivers scheme with IAM Lincs and the PCC, she thought about a re-test, passing with flying colours. Dawn was then encouraged to become an Observer and in February 2024 she gained her National Observers certification. Dawn really enjoys driving and is keen to pass her enthusiasm on.



Committee Member

- Louise Cummings



Louise has always enjoyed driving and passed her test first time in 1990, prior to joining the RAF as the first female military musician for 17 years. She then pursued other roles as a civilian, including owning her own B&B in the Highlands! Louise joined IAM in July 2023, having been bought an Advanced Course as a Christmas present by her husband. Louise passed her Advanced Test achieving a F1RST in February 2024 and became a committee member. She is now keen to explore the achieving her Masters & becoming a National Observer.

A NOTE FROM GEOFF COUGHLIN

Our new Chairman and Chief Observer

Hello everyone!

It was so good to have the opportunity to talk to many of you at our recent AGM and, of course to join in with a huge thank you to both Roger, our outgoing Chair and Ashley, leaving as Secretary after a decade of unbroken service - what a debt of gratitude we owe them - thanks both and so glad that you will both be carrying on in your Observer roles, plus Ash has agreed to help maintain and update our website for the time being.

I have to say that I am so proud to be taking on the Chair and Chief Observer (C&CO) roles, also welcoming Sarah Watkins as our new Secretary and of course, Simon Clayton is staying on as Treasurer for a new term - thanks both for all you are doing and no doubt will do going forward!

It's my hope that I can bring some fresh ideas and energy to the C&CO roles and to that end I wanted to share some thoughts and actions so far...

We are a successful group!

As if we didn't know this from all Roger's great updates in the past! This is no accident, it has come about through a huge commitment of time, energy and experience from our Observer Team. And, of course the Committee members plus the support you all give as members of IAM RoadSmart and our Lincolnshire group - that support through your annual memberships is crucial to our ongoing success and I want to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and commitment.

We currently have around 50 Associates in training at any one time - amazing! We should all be very proud of this and remember... success breeds success! And... 17 qualified National Observers (NOs) on the team.

Lincs Observer Team

Initiatives such as the PCC Young Driver programme and positive experiences all Associates have during their Advanced Driving Course with us means that we continue to attract strong numbers of new Associates and this has created a situation where several of our Observer team (including me!) have 4, even 5 Associates on the go at any one time taking them through their courses. This isn't ideal at any level - we are all volunteers and my aim is that no Observer in the group will have more than 2 Associates in training at any one time, except in exceptional circumstances. This will take time to achieve and to make a start we will be running a new National Observer (NO) training programme in the group starting imminently and involving 3 new NO candidates - thanks so much for agreeing to get involved and I can't wait to start you off. It'll take a few months for this initial new group to become qualified but it's a start. Later in the year we will be running another NO training course, hopefully including 4 more candidates, all with the aim of achieving a team of 25 fully qualified NOs in our group. We all have busy lives with many things to juggle in our work and family lives and so I want all our Observers to really enjoy their role, feeling supported and part of a highly successful team delivering an outstanding service for all our Associates - our customers.

A full meeting of all the Lincs Observer Team is set for Tuesday 16 July and I'll provide an update on this later.

Our Lincs membership group

As you know we have all enjoyed some great events and presentations in the past and these will continue and I am pleased to say that Jonathan Herrick (remember Jonathan's great presentation on first at the scene of an accident / his Firefighting career recently?) has agreed to head a new Events Group within IAM Lincs - much more to follow on this for what to look forward to in 2025 - our programme is set for the rest of 2024. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS! As I have already said above, your support by renewing your memberships of IAM is crucial, so what would you like the group to provide in terms of activities and events going forward? Any ideas that you have, please email them to me at the address above and I'll pass them on to Jonathan and his group.

Committee structure going forward

I have to say that having now fully taken on the Chair and Chief Observer roles and with Sarah getting to grips with the Secretary role the full extent of what Roger and Ash have been doing is staggering. Given that all this is done on a voluntary basis, we need to re-structure all the roles being undertaken in the group and widen the scope of who does what to ease the burden on any one individual, involve more members of the group and, frankly spread the load. I'm excited to say that we've had a very positive response and several members of the group have stepped forward to help by giving some of their time and experience in a whole range of areas to ensure that we continue to be the most successful group in the country. So what you may notice is that we'll develop task/sub-groups for different areas of our operation. I must thank Simon C for his fantastic support in taking on more tasks linked to his Treasurer role and of course Stephen J (see below) by agreeing to start gathering ideas and a group together to assist with the new Young Driver Group (YDG). Jonathan H (Events) and more to come.

Lincs Young Driver Group (YDG)

Stephen Johnson has agreed to take this on and lead a new initiative to attract past, existing and future young drivers to IAM Lincs - I'm just working with Stephen to clarify his new role. This is a challenge and I believe that if we are able to offer something different, exciting and valued to young drivers who we work with, we should be able to build a sub-group dedicated to their needs. More information on this as the initiative develops.

That's it for now and I am really looking forward to getting to know more of you in the months ahead and hope that you all have a great Summer - take care everyone and thank you again for all you do.

Very best wishes and safe driving!

Geoff C
Chair and Chief Observer

ADVANCED DRIVER COURSE UPDATE

The latest advanced drivers in Lincolnshire

Congratulations to the 26 new advanced drivers in Lincolnshire so far in 2024

Associate	Pass Date	Observer	Check Drive Observer
Thomas Fryer	01/07/2024	Ray Whitaker	Roger Hicks
Robin Smith	04/06/2024 F1RST	Roger Hicks	Geoff Coughlin
Daniel Lilley	04/06/2024	David Jones	Ashley Behan
Noah Blevins	30/05/2024	Ray Whitaker	Roger Hicks
Joshua Mowbray	29/05/2024	Paul Russell	Roger Hicks
George Mouncer	15/04/2024 F1RST	Geoff Coughlin	Tony Larvin
Nahla O'Rourke	14/05/2024	Geoff Coughlin	Tony Larvin
Amber Allen	11/05/2024	Tony Lofts	Tony Larvin
Bruce Robinson	10/05/2024	Simon Clayton	Tony Lofts
Samesh Kumar	05/05/2024	Geoff Coughlin	Tony Lofts
Isobelle Edwards	27/04/2024	Ray Whitaker	Tony Larvin
William Salter	18/04/2024	Malcolm Crosher	Roger Hicks
Callum Hill	15/04/2024	Tony Larvin	Ray Whitaker
Jordan Hughes	09/04/2024	Ray Whitaker	Steve Waltham
Zak Baldwin	06/04/2024	Tony Larvin	Tony Lofts
Oscar Wrisdale	27/03/2024	Paul Russell	Roger Hicks
Bradley Leggett	17/03/2024	Malcolm Crosher	Roger Hicks
Ed Richardson	14/03/2024	Steve Waltham	Roger Hicks
Lucille Stones	09/03/2024	Tom Burton	Ashley Behan
Marjorie Stein	29/02/2024	Ray Whitaker	Steve Waltham
Robert Magill	24/02/2024 F1RST	David Hosegood	David Jones
Morgan Jones	14/02/2024	Simon Clayton	Ashley Behan
Louise Cummings	10/02/2024 F1RST	Dawn Zalas	Roger Hicks
Cory Hickinbottom	06/02/2024	Simon Clayton	Ashley Behan
Keira Brown	14/01/2024	Ashley Behan	Tony Lofts
Grace Hogan	06/01/2024	Ashley Behan	Tony Lofts

KEN PANKHURST AWARD LAUNCHED

Looking back to our 50th anniversary celebrations, we were delighted to be joined by Ida Pankhurst and her daughter Diane. Ida's husband Ken was one of the founding members of Lincoln Advanced Motorists.

To commemorate Ken's achievements with the group over a number of years, a joint award has been launched in partnership with Ida and her family.

'The Ken Pankhurst Award' was announced at our recent AGM in May 2024 and will be awarded on an annual basis, by the committee, for best observer contribution over the previous 12 months - the exact criteria for the award will be announced soon.

Roger Hicks is pictured with Ken's son Simon Pankhurst, who joined us at our AGM in May along with his son to launch the award.



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SOARING PREMIUMS FUEL SPIKE IN UNINSURED YOUNGER DRIVERS

IAM RoadSmart launches new campaign to bring down costs

The number of young motorists aged 17-20 punished for driving without insurance has increased by more than a quarter (28%) between 2022 and 2023 and by almost 200% since 2021 according to new statistics analysed by the UK's leading road safety charity IAM RoadSmart.

Data gathered through a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the DVLA reveals that in 2021, there were 2,902 IN10 endorsements added to licence holders of this age grouping. This increased to 5,486 in 2022 and reached 6,316 for 2023 (+118% vs 2021). For those aged 21-24, the picture is more mixed. While IN10 endorsements rose from 12,309 in 2021 to 13,138 in 2022 (29% increase), they fell to 11,103 in 2023 (a decrease of 8% compared to 2021).

An IN10 endorsement – the code used by the police for 'using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks on a licence' - will typically be added to a driver's licence following an investigation by police forces, either after a camera detects an uninsured vehicle on the road or a driver is stopped by a police officer and reported. IN10s must stay on a driving record for four years from the date of offence. This research relates to the number of new IN10 endorsements added to driver records by age and calendar year.

These hugely concerning endorsement figures coincide with a period of rapidly rising annual car insurance premiums with drivers of all ages feeling the pinch. Average annual premiums increased by a quarter (25%) between 2022 and 2023**. Thankfully, more recent indicators suggest motor insurance costs for 2024 appear to be topping out** from the eye-watering increases of the past 18 months.

Additional research conducted by IAM RoadSmart of 2,437 members in February 2024 reveals that almost half (49%) say their most recent car insurance renewal price is 'significantly more expensive' compared to the previous year. More than two-thirds (69%) of members now identify the cost of insurance as the biggest challenge for young drivers. A pragmatic 60% of members believe a young driver advanced qualification should be recognised by insurers as a method to reduce costs while improving driving standards.

Given these findings, IAM RoadSmart is today warning of an uninsured driver epidemic which threatens to spiral out of control unless action is taken by the UK Government. Today we launch three calls to action as part of our campaign to help young drivers:

1. The Treasury should **halve the current standard 12% rate of insurance premium tax (IPT)** on motoring policies of those aged under 25 to 6%.

2. The Treasury should **zero-rate IPT on policies where licence holders under the age of 25 have completed an 'approved driving or riding course'** which would encourage take-up of a skills-based assessment.

3. **Update the current UK Government road safety strategy** with a focus on skills development and training (including a form of graduated driver licensing) and create a Young Drivers Taskforce within the Department for Transport which focuses on issues specifically impacting younger drivers.

Driving a vehicle without insurance will result in a £300 fixed penalty and six points on a licence. However, should the case go to court, punishments could be more severe including an unlimited fine. Even if the vehicle itself is insured, drivers can still be punished without the correct insurance policy to drive it and police may even invoke section 165 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act**** giving them powers to seize an uninsured vehicle. Rising numbers of uninsured drivers often leads to an increase in everyone's premiums because those involved in a collision with an uninsured driver will need to claim from the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) which levies any company that underwrites motor insurance premiums.

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said:

"It is legal requirement to have the correct insurance to drive, so it is deeply concerning to see a surge in young drivers breaking the law in this way. Unless there is intervention, we risk an epidemic of uninsured younger motorists taking to the roads.

"Sadly, this is likely a consequence of the soaring costs of insurance premiums over the last 18 months. For young drivers who have recently passed their test, the cost of learning to drive, getting a vehicle, taxing it and then insuring it is becoming an extremely costly process. While the insurance sector believes we may now be over the worst of price increases, falling premiums will feel like a lifetime away for newly qualified drivers. Perversely, young drivers are also disproportionately paying more tax when insuring their vehicle because insurance premium tax is levied at a standard 12% rate on already costlier premiums, meaning something of a windfall for the Treasury.

"This is why we are launching a three-point action plan for Government to give young motorists some respite. Moreover, it's time the Government, the road safety sector and the insurance industry got around the table to thrash out some longer-term solutions which should include a form of graduated driver licensing. Making sure we upskill young drivers of today will ensure we have better drivers for tomorrow."

BECOME A ROAD CHAMPION

IAM RoadSmart launches 'Road Champion' for younger road users

IAM RoadSmart are looking to help young road users become confident and skilful on the roads, no matter whether you drive or ride.

We've been shaking things up for over 60 years with our epic coaching and education, being on a mission to make the roads better and safer for everyone, and guess what?

Younger drivers can join us today and get 12 months of FREE access to turbocharge your driving or riding skills.

Here's what you'll get:

- Expert insights and guidance designed to enhance every aspect of your journey
- Opportunity to boost your knowledge - from mastering fuel-saving techniques to deepening the understanding of your vehicle
- Newsletters full of driving and riding tips
- Offers on our **Advanced Driver** and **Rider** course
- Access to enter exclusive competitions



By joining us, you're part of a movement working towards safer roads for everyone. Your involvement means a lot, and together, we're shaping a future where the roads are safer and more enjoyable for us all. So, why not be a part of something bigger?

You don't even need a licence to join the party! We're here to help you hit the road with confidence. Signing up is a total no-brainer – it's free, zero commitments, and packed with awesome resources to supercharge your driving or riding experience.

Sign up and find out more at:- <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/membership/road-champion>

SAFER ROADS FOR ALL

IAM RoadSmart manifesto calls on political parties to prioritise roads

"Safer Roads for All" calls on all political parties to bring forward plans to reduce the numbers of killed and seriously injured (KSIs) on our roads following last week's announcement that a general election will be held on the 4th July.

More than 16,000 lives have been lost on Britain's roads since 2013, far more than from the rail or aviation sectors during the same period. In 2022 alone, there were 1,766 fatalities in the UK (1,711 in Great Britain and 55 in Northern Ireland), the equivalent of around three Airbus A380 super jumbo jet incidents resulting in total loss of life.

As detailed in the manifesto, around



35,000 hospital admissions in 2019 resulted from a collision on the road while the total economic cost of collisions in 2022 was estimated to be around £43bn. This underlines not only the moral obligation to improve safety

on our roads but also the economic case to tackle dangers on the network.

"Safer roads for all" outlines key policy changes which IAM RoadSmart believes will reduce KSIs on the road network and focuses on changing behaviour and improving infrastructure.

The manifesto also calls on policymakers to support the take-up of zero-tailpipe emission vehicles and driving assistance aids by putting a greater emphasis on improving consumer knowledge of technological advances in the sector to support a safe systems approach.

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FORDIE'S WORLD

The thoughts of IAM Lincolnshire member, Graham Ford

I have to start this Fordie's World with thanks to Roger and Ash, who are stepping down after ten years at the helm of Lincoln and lately IAM Lincolnshire group.

In that time I feel that they, with the help of a strong and enthusiastic committee and willing observers, have lifted this group to one of the leading groups in the country plus the fact that Richard Gladman, as Chief Examiner for considers IAM Lincolnshire as a flagship group is high praise indeed!

In welcoming Geoff Coughlin and Sarah Watkins as new Chairman and Secretary, it is to be hoped that they along with the team around them, can carry on and enhance the work done by Roger and Ash. It will be a hard act to follow, Roger said, at one point, that he had tried to run the group as a small business, which to my mind seems an excellent way to work. Geoff also has business experience, and although his ideas will be fresh, maybe, as a group we can continue in a similar vein.

At the AGM, we were lucky enough to be joined by Sarah Watkins at our table and in the course of conversation it transpired that Sarah has a lot of secretarial experience, that, plus the enthusiasm from the new Chair and Secretary bodes good for the group.

Another highlight of the evening was a presentation, made by Simon Pankhurst, son of the group founder, Ken Pankhurst, of a trophy on behalf of Ken's widow Ida and the Pankhurst Family. How, and to whom it will be presented has not, at the time of writing, been finalised but I understand it will be stay within the group, an award, no doubt, to be strived for.

The evening concluded with an excellent buffet prepared by the kitchen staff of the Bentley Hotel, on a personal note, I gave it a good workout - should have asked for a "doggy-bag"!

Now, I note the suggestion of re-tests for 70 year olds has re-surfaced, I get the impression that there are not enough government testers to cope with those wishing to take their initial test, so where are all of us oldies going to fit in? Both Jan and I think the annual assessment drive, run by our group, with one of our observers, should be sufficient to



determine our current capabilities. If each group in the country did this for their more "mature" members, it should satisfy those who call for 70-plus years to be tested and might just relieve pressure on the government examiners. I might just add that this idea is to include advanced motorcyclists as well, there must be a good number of bikers who are 70 plus.

In mid-May Jan I had a week in Norfolk and whilst there we met up with my stepdaughter and her husband in Sheringham to take a steam train ride to Holt, about ten miles away. There were a variety of carriages on the train, we found one where we could sit four to a table, there being a central aisle through the coach, another option was a corridor type in which you could go into a compartment secured with a sliding door. It was a pleasant experience, a very smooth ride at about 20mph. At Holt one could go into town a good walk away, or stay on the train for the return trip to Sheringham, which we elected to do.

Now, for the railway buffs amongst us, the Loco was an 0-6-0 Saddle tank heavy shunting loco built for use in a steel works. Built by the Hunslet Engineering Company at Leeds who are/were well known for these types of locomotives, although in more recent times producing diesel powered locos. A morning well spent and we would certainly do it again.

Finally, on late Bank Holiday Monday we went to the Carrington Steam Rally (seeing that Lincoln is not holding one this year), more realistically it should have been called the 'Carrington Mud Rally'! The ground was absolutely sodden, thick, cloying MUD up to your ankles and beyond. It was a real workout pushing my rollator, the MUD jamming the wheels but, I did get to look round my beloved diesel lorries plus a few more exhibits. In the afternoon we sat by the showing and watched displays from a variety of small horticultural machines, gun dogs under training and all sorts of farm tractors from early ones to the latest. Once back home, it took us an hour and a half to de-MUD the rollator and our wellies. If we go another year, I shall take very careful note of the weather for the month previous!

Stay safe, they're still out there!

For die



YOUNGER DRIVERS IN LINCOLNSHIRE AT RISK

Comments from Simon Outen-Coe, from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Young drivers in Lincolnshire are at greater risk of being involved in a crash on the county's roads compared to any other age range, figures show.

Simon Outen-Coe, from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, said: "It's not necessarily about them being at fault all the time, but they are over-represented in our figures.

Forty-eight people died on Lincolnshire's roads in 2023, and there were 378 serious injuries.

Mr Outen-Coe said the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, wanted to encourage the use of black boxes to help reduce the number of collisions involving under 25s.



There have been several recent fatal crashes involving young people on the county's roads, including a 17-year-old who died after an "intoxicated" driver lost control of his car.

In October last year, four men, who had been racing each other, were found guilty of causing the death by dangerous driving of a 20-year-old woman in a collision.

According to the road safety partnership, there were 10,881 recorded collisions on Lincolnshire's roads between

2019 and 2023 which resulted in either fatal, serious or slight injuries.

Mr Outen-Coe said over the period approximately 30% of the crashes involved a person aged 25 or under.

"When you then break it down a bit further, 24% of those involved in injury collisions were drivers aged 25 and under," he said.

"I think some of this is down to the fact they are still developing, and younger people don't necessarily have that hazard perception, and the ability to assess risk in quite the same way as you do as you get older.

"There are some [young drivers] who are very responsible, but there are others who aren't," he added.

Mr Outen-Coe said the freedom that comes with driving also comes with "a lot of responsibility".

"What we are trying to do is encourage a conversation [about this]."

He said: "One of the things we could encourage is the adoption of black boxes in your first two years after passing your test."

This would help to curb some of the "more excessive behaviours", while encouraging responsible road use, he said.

It would also recognise if someone's driving habits presented a risk to others, he added.

"It wouldn't stop everything, but it would certainly give us more of an insight into what's happening prior to an accident so, while not supervised as you are as a learner, you've still got some degree of supervision."

Elsewhere, some have suggested the introduction of a graduated driving licence including restrictions on passenger numbers and driving at night.

Nationally, government figures from 2022 suggested a fifth of all fatal or serious injury crashes involved a young driver.

Drivers aged 17 to 24 were also four times as likely to be killed or seriously injured as those over 25.

Re-produced from BBC News article [Lincolnshire young drivers at greater risk for crashes](#) - BBC News

KNOW YOUR STUFF

Top tips to combat rising fuel prices

The cost of fuel is rising again. According to the latest data from the [RAC](#), the average price of a litre of petrol has reached 150p per litre on the forecourt for the first time since last year, and motorists are feeling the pinch.

IAM RoadSmart has put together some top tips for driving and riding in an eco-friendly manner, which in turn can help cut the amount of fuel you use. After all, every little bit helps.

- Try to keep your driving smooth with gentle acceleration, and using the highest safe gear will use less fuel. Ease off the accelerator early for traffic lights if they are red; why hurry up to wait? If you can time your arrival for the light going green, you will use less fuel from the rolling start.
- At roundabouts, anticipate other vehicle movements; sometimes, if it is safe to do so, you might not need to stop at all if you time your arrival at the roundabout to coincide with a gap in roundabout traffic.
- Try to avoid driving during rush hour. Stopping and starting in traffic needs the use of the first gear, and a lot of fuel is dispensed to get the vehicle moving again.
- Keep your tyres well maintained at the correct pressures. When they are due for replacement, there are brands that are designed for extra economy, which may be worth considering. Underinflated tyres tend to increase fuel consumption.



- Get rid of unnecessary weight. Cars work just like the human body; your body needs more energy to move around more weight, and so does your car. Take heavy items out of the car if you don't need to carry them. A roof rack or roof box will increase drag, and you will use more fuel to overcome this. Remove it if it is not being used.
- Consider making one round trip rather than several short



- trips. Once the engine is warm, it will operate at its most efficient, while several cold starts will increase fuel consumption, even though the total mileage could be the same.
- Turn off the air conditioning if it's working overtime because it uses extra fuel. When the rear window is cleared, turn off the rear screen heater. The more electricity your car has to produce, the more fuel it will use.
- Keep your speed low. It sounds obvious, but driving at faster speeds on motorways and dual carriageways uses more fuel. You can reduce fuel consumption by up to 25 percent if you travel slower than the 70-mph limit. Try pressing more lightly on the accelerator; often, you can maintain the same speed with less pressure on the pedal.
- Shop around. Thanks to the Competition and Markets Authority's review of fuel pricing, most fuel retailers publish their prices. This means there are multiple apps, such as MyRAC, among others, that can give you the cheapest local price. Do not assume that supermarkets are automatically the lowest-priced.
- If you drive a plug-in vehicle, make sure you maximise the potential by charging the battery. The increased weight of the vehicle will mean that, in the long run, the actual mpg will be far short of the claims. But over short journeys and by using electric where possible, your running costs will reduce.

IAM RoadSmart Policy and Standards Director Nick Lyes says:

"Fuel is expensive, but a few small changes in the way we prepare our vehicles and plan our journeys can make a big difference in our fuel consumption. Remember that safety, reducing emissions, and fuel saving can be complementary if we drive effectively."

[Fuel saving tips to combat rising petrol prices. | IAM RoadSmart Media Centre](#)

OUR VENUE

WHERE TO FIND US?

The Bentley Hotel
for a **7pm start** Newark Road,
South Hykeham, LINCOLN,
LN6 9NH (just off Pennell's
Roundabout on the A46).

Our events are subject to
change; please visit the Events
section of our website prior to
attending and for further
details about specific events.



2024 EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 13 February 2024 | <i>Jonathan Herrick, Blue Light Driving</i> |
| Tuesday 9 April 2024 | <i>Graham Feest, UK Road Safety Consultant</i> |
| Tuesday 11 June 2024 | <i>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</i> |
| Tuesday 13 August 2024 | <i>Advanced Driver Course Refresher</i> |
| Tuesday 8 October 2024 | <i>Steve Batchelor, Senior Manager, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership</i> |
| Wednesday 11 December 2024 | <i>Christmas Social Evening</i> |