



THREE SPIRES

Lichfield Advanced Motorists

(Registered Charity 1027300)



Group Newsletter

Issue 44 Spring 2017

LAM Ladies hosted by Tempest Ford



Lichfield Advanced Motorists and Tempest Ford (Lichfield) jointly ran a Ladies event recently where LAM lady members and their guests had the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the more technical aspects of owning a vehicle. See more pictures inside...



"Taking the advanced driver or rider course turns good drivers into great drivers. Those who have chosen to take their skills to the next level show they have commitment and staying power. They are the real champions."

*Nigel Mansell CBE
IAM RoadSmart President &
1992 F1 Word Champion*

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Chairman's Chat

By LAM Acting Chairman, Nigel Rogers



Well, to be accurate, this is "Acting Chairman's Chat, if such a position exists!

I bring you the sad news that for various reasons, our Chairman, Peter Thomas, resigned his position on Saturday 11th February. His reasons for this are complex and in some parts personal, but Peter thought that resigning was best for him personally and for Lichfield Advanced Motorists.

As Vice Chairman, I have assumed the role of "Acting Chairman" up until our AGM, which is on Wednesday, May 24th, commencing at 19.30H at Fradley Village Hall. Please put that date into your diaries, be they electronic, paper or "grey matter", because it is important that you attend and vote to elect those you want to manage our Group and take it successfully forward for another challenging year.

Many of you know Peter and of course, Peter's wife Hilary, our refreshments manageress and provider of superb cake! I am pleased to say that Peter and Hilary still plan to attend our meet-

ings, for Observed drives and such like, so we have not lost these hard working and much valued members of LAM entirely.

Peter was abruptly thrust into the position of Chairman, following the sad and sudden loss of our long-term Chairman, Neil Atkins and short reign of Mike Webb. Neil and Peter had worked together for years with LAM and so the loss of Neil was extremely painful to Peter and all of us at LAM. However, Peter gallantly pulled a lot of "loose ends together" and restored our Committee and Group into working order and has taken us successfully and diligently to this point. His years of experience have contributed hugely to our Group and we are all very sad that he has resigned, but we hope that this brings him a less stressful life going on and we look forward to seeing him and Hilary soon. Thank you, Peter and thank you Hilary. See you soon!

IAM RoadSmart, up and running!

You will, I hope, be fully aware that the IAM have completely rebranded and with that, they have created new Associate and Observer manuals, replacing those documents that we (LAM) have been successfully using for a considerable time.

Associates who have been with us for a while and are currently using their "LAM documents" will continue to do so up to test and the Examiner will test them according to that system. You might find that an Observer uses one of the "new RoadSmart" run sheets, but the content is the same as far as your drives and things to do are concerned.

We currently have about 5 Associates now who have recently joined and all those people are on the RoadSmart system, as are any further new Associates who join us from now on. Hence, our old LAM documents should fade to zero when the last of our Associates on that system passes their test.

The RoadSmart system does not change the content or required standard of Advanced Driving. The intent is to present all that Associates need in one RoadSmart document, that being their "Associates manual." All Associates in every IAM local Group, from the Highlands of Scotland to Land's End have exactly the same documents, are Observed to the same documents and Examined to those documents too. Hence, we have "uniformity" across all IAM Local groups and that is essential if the Advanced Driving standard is to be uniform in quality.

Behind the scenes, our Observers have had to convert from their old qualifications of Group and Senior Observer, to the new classifications of Local Observer and National Observer. This has not been a matter of just writing new certificates, but a process, driven by our Chief Observer, of assessing, training and qualifying those Observers to the new requirements. I think that Lichfield Group are in an excellent position now, with top-class, enthusiastic Observers and a robust process for ensuring that all Observers (including me!) stay on our toes and so deliver the best quality advice and guidance we can to our Associates.

As said earlier, the basic Advanced Driving requirements and standards have not changed, but RoadSmart changes the emphasis of the programme from "this is how you should do it or else you will fail" to a slightly softer and more welcoming approach. For example, whereas our Observers will certainly advise Associates if they use the steering wheel "as if their hands are glued onto it regardless of what direction they are going", but if the drive is safe and smooth, a moderate lack of "pull-push steering" will not incur scorn nor a test-fail. In essence, the IAM are more interested to see if drivers can control their car smoothly, safely and progressively to achieve the required standard, rather than requiring strict adherence to every word in a book of rules.

All in all, the new RoadSmart system is better in every way and will progressively focus upon attracting young drivers, so expect to see a flurry of new initiatives soon, so keep an eye on <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/>

Apparently, 1 in 5 (that's 20% in other words) of young and/or new drivers "come to grief" in their first year of driving, so the sooner they learn Advanced driving skills, the better for all involved. Driving must be one of the last remaining dangerous occupations you can legally partake in, that requires just one basic competency test for life. There are a lot people out there legally driving modern, high-performance cars, who took their test in cars that were incapable of much more than 30mph! Many have not looked at a Highway Code book since that time either.

Some people drive from A to B thinking about anything other than driving, yet controlling a vehicle weighing upwards of 2 tonnes at whatever the legal speed limit is without actually thinking what they are doing with this "lethal weapon" defies all common sense. That's why the IAM and Local Groups are going to try their best to attract the young generation driver, whilst still welcoming all other age groups as well.

All of us at LAM hope that you and all those who come to us in 2017 will appreciate and enjoy the friendly welcome you will receive from our support team manning the reception desk, who also plan and organise the drives and of course, our invaluable refreshments department (excellent cake!). Our "10am talks" have proven to be incredibly popular and informative, such that we may struggle to find new topics as we go on, so please come forward with ideas or even personal experiences where Advanced Driving has helped. Please contact our Secretary, Grahame Ottewell.

Safe driving and spread the good word where ever you go!

Best regards,

Nigel Rogers
Chairman



Major overhaul in driver and motorcycle training by Government welcomed by IAM RoadSmart

IAM RoadSmart has welcomed Government plans to dramatically improve driver and motorcycling training.

The plans were announced by Andrew Jones, Transport Minister, in December and include learner drivers being allowed on motorways for the first time, novice riders required to complete a theory test as part of their Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) and provisional motorcyclists to be banned after receiving six penalty points.

The Government says the changes will see competent learner drivers able to have lessons on motorways with an approved driving instructor in a dual controlled car. The moves have been greeted by IAM RoadSmart, which has long campaigned for these changes.

Neil Greig, director of policy and research, said: "It makes no sense that new drivers learn by trial and, often fatal, error how to use our fastest and most important roads. Allowing learners on motorways with an approved instructor is a sensible and measured solution that should deliver drivers who are much better able to cope with complex new smart motorways."

On the changes to motorcycle training, he said: "These proposals close two obvious loopholes that IAM RoadSmart has been highlighting with motorcycle industry training partners. A theory test should always be the first step for any motorised road user before they reach the road. The six penalty point approach also finally brings motorcycle users in line with the New Driver's Act for car drivers."

The Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency have jointly launched consultations seeking views, which will run until 17 February 2017. The changes could take effect by 2018.

Obituary - Barry Catton

I have just received a letter from Jan Catton to inform me that her husband Barry passed away on December 5th after a struggle with cancer. Barry joined LAM in 1991 and remained a member after he retired and emigrated with Jan to Cyprus. Those of us who remember Barry and Jan have fond memories. Hilary and I met them in 2007 when we visited Cyprus - it was rather hot so we sat in a pub eating, drinking, and swapping stories while trying to ignore the large television showing recordings of English football. Happy memories,

Peter Thomas



**Ground breaking project by IAM
RoadSmart and partners brings
driving skills into the school day for
under 17's in the Borders**

"IAM RoadSmart has long campaigned for road safety to be a part of the National Curriculum."

*Sarah Sillars
IAM Chief Executive Officer*

*Read the full story on the
IAM RoadSmart news
website*

IAM RoadSmart is part of a group of organisations including Police Scotland and Clelands Volvo which is helping bring driving tuition onto the timetable for under 17's in the Scottish Borders – one of the first times pre-licence training has been offered anywhere in the UK in a properly controlled and structured way.

The Scottish Road Safety Framework's Strategic Partnership Board has provided a £73,000 grant to offer a series of driving courses for people in the Borders – basic driving tuition for 15 to 17-year-olds, advanced driving for 17 to 25-year-olds, and driving review sessions for over 65's.

The programme for 15 to 17-year-olds at five schools in the Borders, which will be called Drivewise, offers ground breaking pre-driving tuition during official lesson time. The other partners are Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Borders Council, Transport Scotland and Volvo. .

The under 17's courses aim to get young drivers familiar with basic knowledge of driving and road rules through simple manoeuvring of a vehicle, and also instil in them good driving attitudes and habits. Each session is completed within a day. Students will start off in the classroom, then be shown by an instructor the basics of manoeuvring a vehicle safely before having a try themselves in the latest Volvo cars.

Sarah Sillars, IAM RoadSmart chief executive officer, said: "IAM RoadSmart has long campaigned for road safety to be a part of the National Curriculum, and through this pioneering scheme in the Scottish Borders, it is starting to happen.

"It is crucial that the 'safe driving is fun' message is brought into the lives of young people at school age and encouraged as part of the school system. We believe that simply leaving young people at 17 to handle this all by themselves increases the risk tremendously to the driver and those around them."

IAM RoadSmart's road safety manifesto points out that road crashes are the biggest killer of young people in the UK. It says road safety education should be part of the National Curriculum and theory and hazard perception training and testing should take place within the education system (reference 1).

Welcome to our events section.

Over the years we have held lots of events which included guest speakers and visits to interesting places. Then a few years ago the interest in events declined but I am happy to say it is now back with a bang. Our members are supporting events once again.

2016 was a busy year for the group. Our monthly drive events included talks on a variety of topics and where possible we even managed a second talk for members and guests who were not doing drives. Unfortunately the second talk has not been possible of late due to not having enough observers at the Sunday drives to take out the associates. Perhaps a victim of our own success. Perhaps there are some of you who are not observers needed for drives who would like to do a second talk and make it a proper club morning meet with a second discussion and tea and coffee morning, whilst the associates and observers are out doing their drives.

We often have some good ideas for events but one of our main problems is finding somewhere to do events such as parking practice or get together. If you know of anyone who has suitable private premises where we could meet up for a parking event or a get together then please let me know. Anyone you know owns a transport business where we could visit and perhaps look at some lorries close up? We do hold public liability insurance for the group for such events. Since the last Newsletter we have done a few events and a couple of events worthy of a mention.

Toyota Factory

On Wednesday 19th October 2016 we had a full house for the visit to Toyota at Burnaston. I think I speak for all when I say that Toyota gave us an excellent tour of their facilities. We had tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival followed by an introductory talk. Then we were given radio headsets and guided to our road train. We travelled in comfort around the huge complex in our road train and we received a full commentary of what was happening via our radio headsets.

We saw robots working alongside humans and everything seemed to be timed to perfection and parts fitted with precision. The tour culminated with a re visit to their theatre for Q&A time.

After the visit, just by coincidence, some of us found a very nice hostelry on the opposite side of the A38 Toyota roundabout where we were served with huge portions of food and of course non-alcoholic drinks for the drivers.

PAST EVENTS

Ladies Technology Event at Tempest Ford

On Sunday 6th November 2016 Tempest Ford in Lichfield hosted our Ladies technology event. Ladies from Lichfield Advanced Motorists and their female guests took part in this event which was the first event we have organised with our new partners Tempest Ford. The ladies were treated to free refreshments courtesy of Tempest Ford partners. They were given the chance to use the new big Ford Edge with automatic parking. The staff gave talks on tyre safety and technology and then there was a wheel changing competition. The winner was Margaret Jackman who won a large health hamper. Well done Margaret! Goody bags for all were also given out at the end of the event. Feedback from the event has been very positive and we may look at doing other events from the Tempest Ford premises.



Amazon

Unfortunately the Amazon tour for 9th February filled up very, very quickly.

Those of us who went enjoyed the coffee on arrival and the one hour tour of the fulfilment centre. No doubt most of you have at some-time driven past this huge building in Rugeley and just wondered what goes on it there.

It was amazing to see parcels flying around on conveyor belts and all arriving at the destinations in the huge complex.

Most of us visited The Colliers for lunch afterwards, which just happened to be near to the Amazon entrance. Perhaps this tour could be looked at again for next year?



Paul Sewell one of our local IAM RoadSmart examiners at our Meet the Examiner event 26 Feb 17



Upcoming Events...

Jaguar Factory Tour - 9am Friday 12th May 2016

I can now confirm a date for the Jaguar factory tour. As stated it will be 9am Friday 12th May 2017 at the Castle Bromwich factory Castle Vale B35 7RA. The cost is £49 per adult and £39 per child aged from 12 years to 16 years. Maximum participants is 20 and I shall require payment for the visit asap as we have to confirm the group booking with payment. As per normal if you are unable to go we can only refund your money if someone else goes in your place and pays. That is due to us having to pay for the visit up front. Tour lasts about 3 hours which includes welcome and refreshments. Free parking on site. Take up so far has been slow, we need some more please.

Morgan Factory Tour

I am still working on the visit for Morgan factory tour at Malvern, I still need some more names before I can approach them for a date. Tour lasts app 2 hours. Please note there is no seating or rest areas so it is 2 hours on your feet. Cost is £20 per adult and £10 per child aged 5 to 11 years plus a 50p booking fee. Own transport to Malvern required.

BBC Birmingham Tour

The visit to BBC Birmingham, located in the Mailbox just off Queensway is also showing interest. Cost is £10 and concessions £9.25. Tour lasts for one and half hours and is on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Saturday might be a favourite for us if we can get in. Maximum of 20 people on this tour. Trains run from Lichfield City direct to New Street at about £9 per person and the studio is app 15 minute walk.

Cars in the Park

Our group will be working hard over the weekend of 1st & 2nd July 2017 at the large Cars in the Park event in Beacon Park, Lichfield. Our partners Tempest Ford will be allowing us use of their area and large exhibition centre to engage with the public. One of our aims is to attract younger drivers. Please come and see us on the stand and meet our new partners Tempest Ford. Ideas on attracting younger drivers are also very welcome.

AGM

Finally a quick reminder of our AGM at Fradley hall which commences at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th May 2017. Please let me know if you are coming. We are inviting our new Area Service Delivery Manager (ASDM) Robbie Downing. There will also be a light buffet and raffle. If you have any raffle prizes to donate then please drop them in at the Fradley hall meetings or hand them to one of our committee members. Proceeds will go to group funds for further events or equipment.

Thank you to those who regularly support the Sunday morning drives and talks. Speakers are always welcome for the Sunday 30 minute talk. Topics are also welcome and we can do research if necessary for them. We are still planning things so watch this space. We also liaise with other local groups and some of us assist in the running of their events and we also take part in Regional events.

Grahame Ottewell
Events Coordinator
grahame@lamm.org.uk

CONGRATULATIONS...

Advanced Passes

Richard	ATWELL
Cynthia	ATWELL OBE
Derek	BOLTON
Russell	BOWEN
Suzanne	WHITE



New Members

Russell	BOWEN
Simon	DAVIES
Brendan	DWYER
Mike	ELLIS
David	GENSBERG
Helen	KENDRICK
Liz	KIRK
Luke	NUTT
Daniel	STADTMULLER
Suzanne	WHITE
Louise	SHENTON
Lynn	WITTENBERG
Alan	ROBERTS
Neil	SCARLETT
Aleksandra	MIAZGA-PRICE
Antony	ALLEN





LAM Online

Twitter:

We have 386 Followers

Retweets and replies from IAM RoadSmart, Lichfield Mercury and other IAM Groups

Latest online campaigns are on increased penalties for using your phone whilst driving and also drink/drug driving

Facebook:

Our most popular posts were our 'Congratulations' photos from end of month meetings, with one of them reaching 341 people, and also our message re End of Month drive which reached 192 people.

We have 78 people following us on Facebook.



Follow LAM on Twitter!
@AdvMotorists



Follow LAM ON Facebook!



Watch the IAM RoadSmart on
[Youtube.com/roadskillsuk](https://www.youtube.com/roadskillsuk)



ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT ROAD TAX IS WRONG!
HURRY! BEAT THE VED (VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY) INCREASE NOW!

From 1st April 2017 even the award winning Ford Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost will now cost £400 for it's first 3 years and a EcoBoost Ford Kuga 1.5T Automatic will cost £1,080 for it's first 3 years.

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“Why this car is automatic, it’s systematic, it’s hydromatic, why its grease lightning”



Driving a car fitted with an automatic gearbox should be straightforward; I mean how hard can it be? The gearbox practically does it all for you, ‘no need to touch it after putting it in drive sir’ said the Ford salesman way back in 1973 to my father as he parted with his hard earned for a Ford Consul L 2.5 litre V6 with an automatic gearbox. The venerable BorgWarner three speed auto was my first introduction to the world of driving with an automatic gearbox.

Automatics, so often sneered at by advanced driving traditionalists years ago, have come a long way. Technology has moved on dramatically in recent years but has the human factor?

I remember people being told you could not pass your advanced test in an automatic, then later ‘only if you drive it in manual mode’ as that is what the examiner wants! What rubbish. Most modern automatic gearboxes are now so clever with their multiple modes you rarely need to touch them, just select the right mode for the job.

The IAM RoadSmart Associate Logbook is very clear where it refers to the use of an auto gearbox.

- Be aware how to correctly select gears using either paddles or gear selector
- Be aware of additional functions and modes

But how will you know what to do? Try something that so many of us just don’t do – read the owner’s manual. I checked the Mercedes manual for the new C Class, there are nine very detailed pages dedicated to the use of the automatic transmission.

If drivers just did that simple thing they would get so much more out of their car. Roadcraft echoes the same advice as in red text it says ‘Always consult the vehicle handbook to understand the features of a particular automatic system.’

However, there are occasions where a manual intervention is desirable, for example when descending a hill. Roadcraft tells us ‘A lower gear also restrains the vehicle’s speed when descending a slope. I remember once being told by someone: “I don’t like automatics as they run away on hills.” I didn’t feel it appropriate at that point to suggest a more likely cause was a driver input error!

Another automatic classic is what to do when stopped in traffic? Constantly moving it to park every time the vehicle is paused in traffic is a common error, Roadcraft, in red again, offers ‘Check the advice in the vehicle manual as systems vary.’ In truth most automatic gearbox systems advise you not to change to ‘park’ unless actually stopping to park.

The system of car control does not change when driving an automatic. Bad habits can creep in like losing speed late, entering bends on the brakes etc. It is still ‘brakes to slow and gears to go’ so get the speed on approach right, this gives the car time to select the gear for the circumstances, then drive. Many modern automatic gearboxes are adaptive, they learn as you drive and get used to your driver inputs. With that in mind don’t fall into another classic trap. As Roadcraft also says ‘don’t fiddle with the gearbox repeatedly. As automatic systems become more sophisticated they need less driver input.’

In closing and returning to Mr Travolta once again, I wondered what hydromatic meant in the song. It just so happens that the hydra-matic was the first mass-produced automatic gearbox manufactured by General Motors in 1939. See the song really was about gearboxes all along. So sing along now, ‘we’ll get some overhead lifters and some four barrel quads, oh yeah, keep talking whoa keep talking...’. Enjoy the drive!

Shaun Cronin,

IAM RoadSmart’s Regional service delivery team manager (Southern)

Notices

Lichfield Advanced Motorists Annual General Meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday 24th May 2017

Fradley Village Hall, nr Lichfield

Election of Officers

Group Update

Social / Refreshments

ALL WELCOME - Full and Associate Members

Please confirm attendance to secretary@lamm.org.uk

**Advertise in
this**

Newsletter

For details

contact

Julie at

julie@lamm.org.uk

Observers Wanted

Those of you who have passed your IAM advanced test are very welcome to enquire about becoming an observer.

Observers leave the area or find that they cannot continue so we always want people to become observers. You have the driving knowledge as you have passed your test. You will need to then be able to learn how to pass that knowledge on to others. Becoming an observer will also help you to maintain your own standard of driving.

Contact Peter Thomas, Alison Bridgman, Graham Simkins or Grahame Ottewell for more information or speak to any of our observers after your drive

PASSED YOUR TEST A WHILE AGO?

Book in for a free brush-up drive to take place at the end of month meeting.

Book in with Pat@lamm.org.uk

“Keeping to the 2-second rule”



Those of us who do adhere to the “golden rules” are in the minority it seems. Yet can anyone tell me what advantage there is in “tailgating” an HGV or any other vehicle for that matter!

Is it some sort of incentive for the driver in front to go faster, which in the case of a HGV running on the “speed governor” and performing a 5-mile overtake is about as likely as the rain turning to £5 notes.

Yet this is what so many drivers do!

Those of you who use the Motorways will observe the “dedicated user of the middle lane” and also the stream of cars and vans that comprise the 3rd or outside lane. Similar to the middle lane drivers, these “fast lane drivers” seem to travel at whatever speed is required to remain in the fast lane or else they stay there at just over 70mph and to the annoyance of the usual gang of “we want to go faster” brigade.

The point of this little missive is to remind everyone that every day it seems, one or more of the Midland motorways and dual carriageways have lanes closed or the entire thing closed, due to accidents. Given that vehicle mechanical failures are comparatively rare and we know that 95% of all “clangs” are due to driver error, could failing to keep to the 2-second rule be the primary cause of a lot of these accidents and travel disruption?

If all road users used the motorway lanes intelligently and obeyed the rhyme “only a fool breaks the two second rule”, I suspect the roads would be a much happier place than they are now!

As Advanced Motorists, you will recognise the risks being posed in these situations and add that to your Driving Plan and risk-assessment, because when the brake lights come on and bits of vehicles fly through the air, you really do not want to be anywhere near that mess.

Nigel Rogers

Acting Chairman

Notices

Do You Belong to a Group?

Lichfield Advanced Motorists offer
FREE talks on topics such as

Motorway driving; Vehicle
technology; Night driving;
Lone driving

Please contact secretary@lamm.org.uk for
more information



*Nigel Rogers, Pat Round
and Julie Cannell
'modelling' their new
IAM RoadSmart polo
shirts and the Group's
new feather flag!*

Lichfield Advanced Motorists



Lichfield Advanced Motorists (LAM) is one of a network of over 200 local IAMRoadSmart groups across the UK.

The group is run by dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise in an effort to improve driver skills.

In addition, the group is a place where full and associate members can share ideas and contribute to the IAM RoadSmart's work in developing and promoting innovative road safety strategies. It also provides a social focus where members can meet and enjoy the company of fellow driving enthusiasts.

IAM RoadSmart



At IAM RoadSmart we make better drivers and riders. As a registered UK charity formed in 1956, we've spent more than 60 years making our roads safer by improving driver and rider skills through coaching and education.

Our qualified experts, our network of thousands of volunteers and 200 local groups are our lifeblood. They champion our cause and help drive our vision – to be the best, most recognised provider of coaching and advice for all post-licence drivers and riders – and our mission is to make better drivers and riders.

We also help businesses to develop their staff to become more confident, skilled and responsible on the road. IAM RoadSmart provides a range of risk management and training services, include e-learning, on-road coaching and seminars. We are proud of our achievements but there's always more to do. In 2015 we welcomed 6,000 more people as full IAM RoadSmart members, helped 150 achieve Master driver or rider status and awarded our 1,000th F1RST Register membership.

We also helped Go Ahead London to win the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award. At any one time there are over 7,000 drivers and riders actively engaged with our courses, from members of the public to company drivers, while our Driver Retraining Academy has helped 2,500 drivers to shorten their bans through education and support programmes.

And, as the voice of advanced drivers and riders in the UK, last year we made 5,500 media appearances and had a place on 24 major transport and road safety panels. Everything we do is designed to inspire confidence, respond to individual driver and rider needs, make our courses and services enjoyable and drive progress

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