



THREE SPIRES

Lichfield Advanced Motorists

(Registered Charity 1027300)



Group Newsletter

Issue 45 Summer 2017

IAM RoadSmart Members Day - 5 Aug 17



"I'm delighted to have landed the job and cant wait to get started"

David Gallagher from Wolverhampton is the next IAM RoadSmart Younger Driver Ambassador for 2017/18.



Find out more about him on page 5

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Chairman's Chat

By LAM Chairman, Nigel Rogers

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 edition of our newsletter and my thanks to our Media and Publicity manager, Ms Julie Cannell, for her excellent work in compiling this for us.



As I hope all of you are aware by now, we very sadly lost our colleague and friend **Mr Graham Simkins** on July 7th. It is really sad when someone who contributed so much to the success of our group is no longer with us. Graham is now no longer in discomfort due his condition and received excellent care, love and support from his wife Judy, family, friends and carers.

It has been a busy year for LAM and it is getting ever busier, as new Associates join us at a fast rate, which is great. Your Committee, Observers, Group members and helpers are all rising to the challenge, which has at times definitely challenged us, but with new Observers well into training and some now qualified, we are looking good for the future.

Please don't forget that passing your IAM test is not the end of the journey. You know (and the IAM's insurers know), that those who pass their Advanced test drop back into bad habits over time unless they actively maintain their skill levels. So; anyone who passed a few years ago and has done nothing since to check their standard should at least book an assessment drive via the IAM, but better still, join our "Observer training programme". By doing that, your driving skills will be enhanced and maintained, as you help others to reach the required standard by following your sound advice and example.

My thanks to all of you who attended our AGM on May 24th. I thought it was an interesting evening, which was followed by a very informative talk by the recipient of our "Neil Atkins award" and Blood-Biker, Mr Neil Scarlett. The evening rounded-off with a very nice buffet, which was organised by our ladies, thank you, on the basis that a "trip to the pub" organised by the men might not be appropriate!

Whilst on the topic of "maintaining standards", is it me or are things such as patience, consideration and compliance with the laws of the road becoming rare attributes amongst some of the motoring population? I am sure that some of the good people of Telford drive cars which do not possess a directional indicator mechanism! If this is true, they are escaping to our locality as well. Why is it so difficult to indicate where you want to go and somehow "better" to go flying around islands and such like with all other road users wondering where these people are heading off to? Advanced driving skills, particularly observation and anticipation come to the fore here, as we try to "read" the other drivers intentions by a combination of speed, position and body-language to assess whether it is safe to proceed or not.

I thought I would try to make some “safety rule comparisons”, whilst my wife and I were on vacation in Cyprus a while ago. Here we go:



This image, taken from the “Stop line” at traffic lights, shows where the “locals” feel they should stop at a Red light. This position ensures that the driver can see if traffic is approaching on a Green light and if not, it must be safe to proceed, which they often do! Mind you, I also saw a Police vehicle do much the same, but I was not tempted to follow suit.



Here is a nice example of “the rules in theory and the rules in practice”.

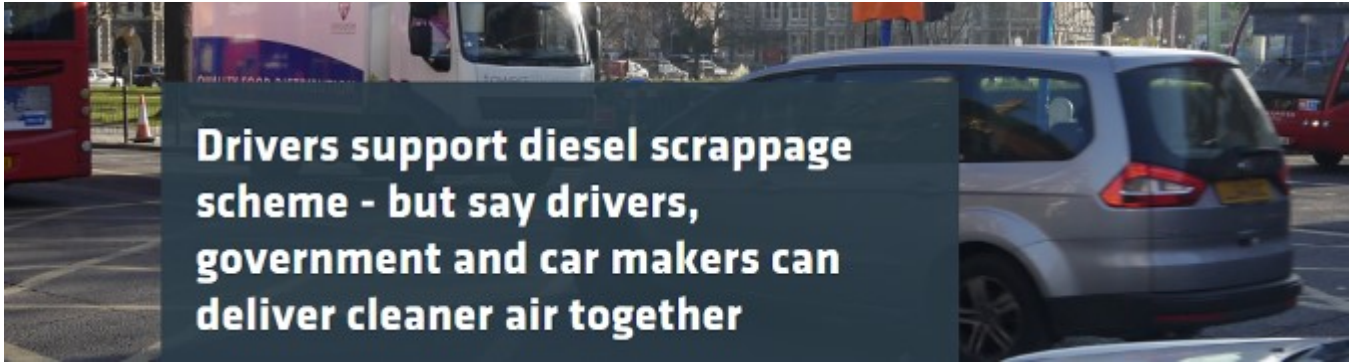
These chaps are 3 stories up with no safety wear and no safety barriers, but maybe the concrete mixer offers a “soft landing” should all go pear-shaped! They pass the safety requirements poster on the way into the site. All Greek to them it seems!

So, it seems in this small snapshot comparison, that we might not be quite as bad as we think in the UK when it comes to compliance with the law. But what is becoming clear is that where some drivers know the chances of encountering a camera or a Police Officer are slim, it can be a case that “the law does not apply to them” and in doing so, thoughtlessly ramp up the risk of an accident exponentially.

I am afraid that Advanced drivers complying with the laws of the road can face a challenging situation and it is not our place to enforce the law. If the speed limit is 30 and the driver behind is “up your bumper” as you “dawdle at 30 mph”, you have to drive in an appropriate and calm manner, because if you miss something due to distraction and end up having to brake sharply, the following vehicle is likely to become one with yours. Giving them time and space to get past, with little thanks of course, can also be a solution. There is no “selectivity” possible if we are to maintain our driving standards and enviable safety record as members of the IAM. People who break the laws of the road are in the wrong, but it is a pity sometimes there is no one around to catch them doing wrong.

Enjoy this Newsletter and do contact Julie if you have news-worthy stories or experiences of your own to share. Safe driving!

Nigel Rogers, Chairman



Around two thirds of UK road users would support a scrappage scheme for older diesel cars, vans and lorries in an effort to get the worst polluting vehicles off our roads, according to a survey by IAM RoadSmart.

The survey asked respondents to rate the various options put forward in the government's recent nitrogen dioxide consultation but found that only 3% of respondents are confident that the proposed measures solve the problem quickly.

Some 64% of those surveyed said they supported a diesel scrappage scheme, compared to 27% who did not. Most wanted any scheme to apply to cars over eight years old. Some 83% of those surveyed by IAM RoadSmart agreed with the government's view retro-fitting buses, coaches, HGVs, vans and black cabs with new equipment should be the priority.

However those surveyed felt the driver as an individual also has a responsibility to drive in a more eco-friendly manner. Some 75% agreed that encouraging drivers to change their driving behaviour should play a part in the government's approach to tackling air quality.

Sarah Sillars, IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive Officer, said: "It is clear to me that the public at large feel the government needs to be decisive and proactive when it comes to making our air quality better. They see strong government direction as key to making sure it happens.

"We must not forget that drivers themselves have a part to play in the way they drive – it is within the power of each of us to become better and more eco-friendly driver and our responsibility to do so." She added: "It is however clear that the car manufacturers have some way to go to rebuild trust with the public - it would seem that only when their environmental claims more closely match real world performance that the trust will be on the increase. Reputations take years to build and moments to fall."

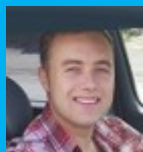
"We must not forget that drivers themselves have a part to play in the way they drive – it is within the power of each of us to become better and more eco-friendly driver and our responsibility to do so."

**Sarah Sillars
IAM Roadsmart CEO**

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David becomes the new face of young drivers at IAM RoadSmart as he takes on ambassador role



"I feel it's really important to get younger drivers interested in what IAM RoadSmart can offer while they are still in the learning mind-set. I really hope I can make a difference, even in a small way."

David Gallagher

After the completion of its 'Get Into The Driving Seat' recruitment competition, IAM RoadSmart has announced that David Gallagher will be its next Younger Driver Ambassador for 2017/18.

David, 23, from Sedgley near Wolverhampton, triumphed in the closely fought contest, which saw him and a number of other finalists get a grilling from a team of judges that included the 1992 Formula 1 World Champion Nigel Mansell, IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive Officer Sarah Sillars, and founder of First Car magazine James Evans.

David follows in the footsteps of Eloise Peabody-Rolf, who has successfully held the position of Younger Driver Ambassador from last September to August 2017. The Younger Driver Ambassador is a high-profile position with the successful candidate becoming the voice of younger drivers nationwide. In his new role David will take on a variety of responsibilities including lobbying for change within the organisation, travelling up and down the country visiting schools and colleges, and working with the charity's 200+ groups throughout the UK as they look to attract younger drivers to the IAM RoadSmart community.

David's car credentials go back a long way. He learnt to drive unofficially age 11 on private land and confesses to being into 'anything with an engine' including ride-on lawnmowers! Passing his driving test first time age 17, David became involved in his local IAM RoadSmart group in Wolverhampton, rapidly becoming their young driver representative. He also took the Advanced Driving Test and achieved a F1RST standard.

Since leaving school David has held a variety of jobs including assistant to club photographer and groundsman at West Bromwich Albion and swimming coach at Bilston Swimming Club. Now with six years of driving experience without a single incident, David now drives a Skoda Superb.

"I feel it's really important to get younger drivers interested in what IAM RoadSmart can offer while they are still in the learning mind-set. I really hope I can make a difference, even in a small way."

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Events

New Events Organiser

I have been doing the events for a few years now and I would like to thank everyone for supporting them when they can. We have recently formed a new committee and due to taking on another role I am pleased to say that there are now two of us organising events. Margaret Jackman a new committee member has volunteered to help out with them. Thank you Margaret for volunteering. Well I think you volunteered!

Jaguar Factory Tour

On Friday 12th May 2016 we had our group visit to the Jaguar factory at Castle Bromwich. On arrival I was very impressed with the modern reception area. We were welcomed by a friendly receptionist and coffee and biscuits.

We met our tour guides and enjoyed an introductory video about Jaguar and the historic factory which made Spitfire and the Avro Lancaster war planes during world war two. We were then kitted out with hi vis vest and radio headset

Due to the large size of our group we were split into two smaller groups and jumped on mini buses to take us through the factory to the various assembly plants. We saw a modern working environment which involved humans working alongside robots and everything appeared to work like clockwork. We saw the high quality and detail that goes into each customer's pre ordered Jaguar. Overall an excellent visit and excellent guides who were full of information. Just a reminder that these factory tours are enjoyed by all genders of our group.

Cars in the Park

We had plans for a weekend at Cars in the Park on Beacon Park, Lichfield for 1st and 2nd of July. We were to be guests of Tempest Ford, Lichfield. Meeting and planning had taken place and the event was all set to go. Our main target was to be "Young Driver". Unfortunately Lichfield Council decided that they wanted the ground on which Tempest Ford stands for re development earlier than previously planned. This left Tempest Ford little time to relocate and resulted in them making a decision to close down. Therefore our planned event could not take

place. Tempest Ford have been an excellent enthusiastic partner of our group and a loss to us and also the people of Lichfield as they sponsored a lot of Lichfield events and clubs.

Burton Suzuki

We also had visited Burton Suzuki and formed a partnership with them. Our first event was to be a "Meet the Dealer" event on 9th July 2017 at the Burton on Trent premises. Our contact person then suddenly left and Burton Suzuki could not go ahead with the event. We are still hoping to do further events but summertime is a busy season for them.

Sunday Drives and Talks

Thank you to those who regularly support the Sunday morning drives and talks. We have had some excellent guest speakers of late. Neil Scarlett gave us a "Blood Bike " talk at our AGM which was followed by a free buffet. Neil is a dedicated blood biker and he also picked up our Neil Atkins award for the fastest test pass. Neil joined us on 20th January 2017 and passed his car test on the 14th March 2017.

Harry Shepherd gave us a very enthusiastic talk on "Electric Cars". At the end of June Gary Adams gave us an interesting talk on "Driving at Work". Gary works within the H&S areas and his interesting talk included the risks of driving at work and it also reflected very well how our IPSGA fits in with making company drivers safer.

On Sunday 30th July Alison Bridgman talked about "Motorway Protocol". Speaker are always welcome for the Sunday 30 minute talk.

Finally in respect of the Sunday drives and also the Wednesday mid week drives can associates and observer please pre book with Pat Round. Those just coming along for the talks and a social chat then just turn up and brings some friends if you want.

Upcoming Events...

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. I shall be fixing up a date for this event soon which will be hopefully October time.

Grahame Ottewell
Events Coordinator (grahame@lamm.org.uk)



Morgan Factory Tour at Malvern

The Morgan factory tour took place on Thursday 17th August and proved very popular. The visit was a two hour tour of all the factory areas so you got to see every part of the construction process, which is all done by hand. A fascinating event that was enjoyed by all. We may not have been able to afford a new Morgan but many of us got to sit in one at least!

Morgan trip Review by Ralph Allen-Simpson

Philippa and I had a very nice day at the Morgan Car visit and thank you very much for your part in organising it. The guide (Derek) was exceptional as he spoke for almost 2 hours without any significant pause! He made it very interesting and for my part I hadn't expected so much information about what is basically a very small product. He drew our attention to some of the detailed methods of manufacture and mentioned the choice of materials used. The ash wood frame I think is unique, beautifully made but all covered up with aluminium or leather during the assembly. One cannot fail to be impressed by the quality craftsmanship and care that was apparent going into every car.

The business was referred to as a Global Car manufacturer as 80% of the cars are for overseas client. Of the 5 different versions of motor car made I think I might be right to say that 400 are completed every year.

We passed a showroom on the way out and our guide Derek asked me to sit in one to try it. I resisted the temptation as having done the tour I would love to own one. But I don't have a garage which means I would have to park it in the sitting room!



CONGRATULATIONS...

Advanced Passes

Neil	SCARLETT
Cynthia	ATWELL OBE
Russell	BOWEN
Geoffrey	RUSSELL



Cynthia Atwell OBE - Advanced Pass



Neil Scarlett - Advanced Pass

New Members

Francis	NEWSON
Paul	WILKINSON
Bill	MANTLE
David	MACKLIN
Hilary	LAMB
Paul	RIDLER
Neville	PATSTONE
Freda	BILLINGHAM
Valerie	FROST
Kevin	DAVIS



Geoffrey Russell - Advanced Test Pass



Russell Bowen - Advanced Pass

Observer Congratulations for their support to Associates



Observers received badges from IAM RoadSmart recording how many Associates they had helped pass their Advanced test:

100 - Grahame Ottewell, Peter Thomas

50 - Alison Bridgman, John Russell

25 - Mike Webb, Angharad Pugh

10 - Peter Ibison, Sally Basketfield, Stephen Hunter, John Watson

Nigel Rogers also received his 100 badge recently and David Korzonek is due to receive his 10 badge at the next meeting

Please
send your
updated
email
address to
sally@
lamm.org.uk
or grahame@
lamm.org.uk
so that we
can keep
you up-to-
date with
Group news
etc

New Observer Training Venue and Option for Associate Drives

As you all know we have been struggling to get our trainee observers moving along for their qualifications. Also we have a few of us who need to re qualify or move onto becoming National Observers. Sundays are hectic and requires us to double up etc. Doubling up is not a bad thing as we learn from each other, but we are restricted re observer training at times.

I have been talking to the committee of the Curborough Sprint Course which is located not far from Fradley. They have 8 Breakfast Meeting during the year which run from April to Boxing Day. I have now got agreement for us to use their future Breakfast Meeting to do Observer Training from.

The Breakfast Meetings are from 8.30am to 11.30am and for the rest of the year are on the following dates: Saturdays August 12th, September 9th, October 7th. So, please make a note of the dates. We can use them for the observer training demo drives and hopefully we can also get some associates along for extra drives and use those for trainee observed drives. Also any observers who would like to do any training including those already doing the National training are welcome to come along. There is a mobile burger bar serving breakfasts and drinks and the site has toilets. There will be a gathering of motoring enthusiasts to chat to and also see what is taking place on the circuit.

We will be positioned on the right as you go into the circuit and if I am there before you then there will be a feather flag to mark the meeting place. Don't go right into the main area we have agreed to stay near to the entrance so we can go in and out as we please. You can of course wander down to the main area to see what goes on and chat to people it is just that we can drive in and out easier if parked near the entrance / exit point. If you want to go on these training days please let me know and for trainees what you would like to achieve so that I can hopefully find associates.

Associates if you want to take the opportunity of an extra drive and also give our trainee observers a chance to become qualified then please keep me informed. You will need rear seats as one of our Local Observer Assessors will need to sit in the back to supervise the drive. You also of course have the opportunity of two feedbacks so it has got to be worth doing.

More details about Curborough Sprint Course can be found at www.curborough.com or find them on [facebook.com/CurboroughSprintCourse](https://www.facebook.com/CurboroughSprintCourse)

Grahame Ottewell, Chief Observer



OBSERVER NEWS

Grahame Ottewell

Chief Observer

Graham Simkins

As the newly elected Chief Observer I would like to start by remembering our ex Chief Observer Graham Simkins who sadly died on 7th July. Graham was a very enthusiastic Chief Observer and he maintained a very high standard for our group. He helped change the group from the old "Skill For Life" into the new IAM RoadSmart era. Graham stood down from his Chief Observer duties due to his illness but kept a watchful eye on things that were happening within the group. Graham will be sadly missed and I extend my condolences to his wife Judy, who is also one of our dedicated group members, and his family.

Current Chief Observer. That's me!

When Graham Simkins announced that he would have to retire from the Chief Observer role it was decided that Nigel Rogers, John Russell and myself would become caretakers for the role until the AGM held in May. At the AGM the new committee was formed and at a later discussion the Chief Observer was selected from the committee. Nowadays it is recommended that the Chief Observer be on the committee. I believe I volunteered for the role or was that when Nigel our chairman said "Pick a Straw"!

I have been Chief Observer twice before over the years. I have tried to keep up to date with things by attending the IAM RoadSmart and Regional meetings which include observer and group matters. Currently I am a National Observer and Local Observer Assessor. I am also a Masters Mentor for the IAM RoadSmart which means that I help the odd full members from outside this group area to train for their Masters Qualification. Members are not allowed to train within their own area or take their Masters test on local roads known to them. Should anyone have any concerns in respect of training guidance or other courses run by IAM RoadSmart then please email me at grahame@lamm.org.uk

Trainee Observers and Drive Bookings

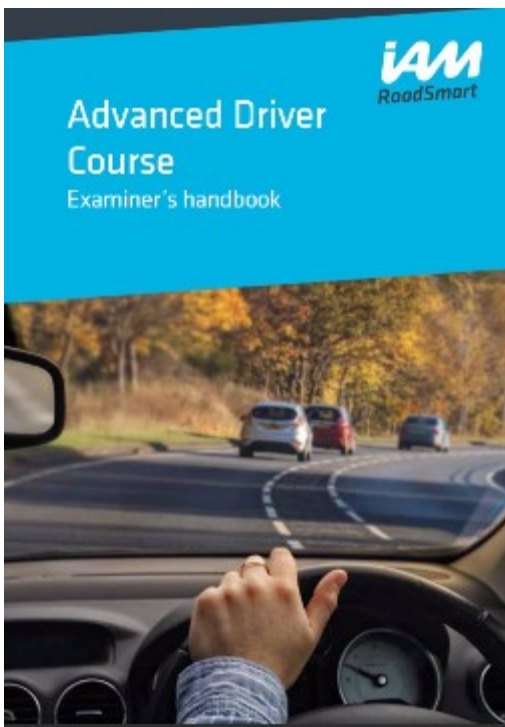
Those of you who attend the drives and talks at the hall will know that we are currently getting all of our current observers up to the new IAM RoadSmart certification. Also we have five trainee observers who are working their way through the IMI standards required to achieve the nationally recognised qualification of a Local Observer. Some of the National Observers are also due for requalification via the IMI and IAM RoadSmart examiners. All of this training is done within our group and poor Pat Round our associate drive coordinator and the other ladies on the desk have a lot to sort out on drives at Fradley. It reminds me of a Michael Caine quote, "Be like a duck. Calm on the surface, but always paddling like the dickens underneath." Well done Pat and the desk ladies.

We aim to give our Associates priority at the Fradley drives. This of course has the knock on effect that it takes longer to get more observers qualified. Associates you can help! Our

trainee observers are not allowed to take Associates out without the guidance of one of our four Local Observer Assessors (LOA's) sitting in the back. If you are willing for this to happen then please mention this when booking drives at Fradley. Also should you arrange an observed drive with one of our four LOA's then please mention to them that you are willing for them to try and get a trainee observer to take you out and for them to sit in the back of your car. This has a benefit for you as you will get the feedback from the Trainee Observer and also further guidance if necessary from the LOA in the back. Our four LOA's are Peter Thomas, John Russell, Nigel Rogers and myself.

In order to plan the Fradley hall based drives it is important that the drives are pre booked via Pat Round. Pat can be contacted by email at pat@lamm.org.uk Remember, if you do not book then we cannot guarantee a drive at Fradley hall. We may need to double up for some drives due to availability of our volunteer observers. Associates have found this "Buddy" system to be both enjoyable and a way of progressing quicker by learning from each other and exchanging information. It is advisable to have rear seats otherwise someone will get cold and damp sitting on the roof! Again if this might be an option for you then please mention to Pat when booking for Fradley hall. We cannot guarantee these options as it all comes down to availability at the time of the drives, but it may help relieve a stressful planning operation.

Some of our observers living in the extreme edges of our group struggle for drives away from the hall so please consider trying to involve them if possible. Examples are Steve Hunter from Baswich, Stafford and David Korzonek at Cannock.



Tip for Associates

Our group has a high quality standard of observers who are keen to help associates progress through their courses. In order for associates to take advantage of the observers guidance I would encourage associates to please remember that once you finish your observed drive it is up to you to maintain and practice your new skills every time you go on the road in between drives. We sometimes get the odd associate returning on observed drives who we know have not done that and it means starting from scratch again. We are different to driving schools who teach you and you need to use their car. We give you advice on what you need to do and you already have a car so you can go and practice that. When you have sorted it out, or if you cannot sort something out and need further guidance on that topic then it's time for another observed drive to move on.

Grahame Ottewell, Chief Observer

grahame@lamm.org.uk

LICHFIELD ADVANCED MOTORISTS



TEL: 07434 896 668



Promoting road safety within the county of Staffordshire by improving car driving standards through a combination of theoretical and on the road coaching using our Driving

HOME ABOUT US ABOUT ADVANCED DRIVING JOINING US CALENDAR

WELCOME

We are an independent road safety charity affiliated to IAM RoadSmart. Our aim is to improve driving standards through our extensive road safety courses.

Chase Valley, Burton Trent and (Green). We offer full courses across the IAM Roadsmart range of courses and modules.

Driving on Motorways a

Read More



Tweets by @AdvMotorists

Lichfield Motorists
@AdvMotorists
Mmm what shall I do this morning?
FREE advanced driving intro session
10am Fradley village hall. No obligation
to join. @LichfieldLive



Check out our updated website at www.lamm.org.uk - any feedback gratefully received!

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

LAM Online

Twitter:

We have 393 Followers

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

Facebook:

Our most popular posts have been about our events and monthly meetings

Flickr:

See our gallery of pics on Flickr. Search for Lichfield Advanced Motorists

Notices



Follow LAM on Twitter!

@AdvMotorists



Follow LAM ON Facebook!



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

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, 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

Lichfield Advanced Motorists

Lichfield Advanced Motorists (LAM) is one of a network of over 200 local IAM RoadSmart 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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