

ChainLincs



THE NEWSLETTER OF

Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists

IAM GROUP 7176, REGISTERED CHARITY 1049955

FEBRUARY 2026



Social Gatherings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 1930hrs at the Nags Head, Gainsborough Rd, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU.

Next Issue

The next issue of ChainLincs will be in March 2026

Please provide any copy to the Editor by **23 February 2026**

Mick Smith

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Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of ChainLincs for 2026, it was nice for all of us that contribute to have break for a month but back to normal this month and group rides start again on 8 February (weather permitting).

Thanks to Jayne bell this month for her article ([Yugoslavia September 2025](#)) on her trip to Yugoslavia last year and Jerry has done a great resume of what you can do in the IAM in his Observer bit on [Page 9](#).

For the first Social this year on Wednesday 4 February we have a speaker, it is Dave Ayres of [FliesontheVisor.com](#) fame. Please come along to the Nags Head in Middle Rasen to support him. The title of his talk is 'Why am I doing this?'

As you can see from my Facebook roundup there are often extra rides laid on a short notice by some of our members so if you want to know what's going on Facebook is the place to look. By being a Facebook member you will get to know about them before and not just read about them afterwards in here. If you haven't found our Facebook page go to [\(1\) Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists | Facebook](#) and ask to join to see all the other exciting things that go on. It is a private page so not open to the public's prying eyes.

I need your help to make ChainLincs a worthwhile read so if you have anything you want to share with other members whether your recent IAM journey or other advanced riding experience (RoSPA), your experience at a track day, a recap of a European tour or an experience that may have happened on the road that others can learn from or anything else you can think of please send it to me for inclusion at lincs.am.editor@btinternet.com.

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In ChainLincs this month we have:

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Stay safe

Mick

CHATTER FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year everyone.

Firstly, a warm welcome to new member Martin Laverack. I'm told he is not on his own, but all the 'proper paperwork' hasn't come through yet so, watch this space, you haven't been forgotten.

I don't know about you readers, but the New Year seems such a long time ago. It also seems a such a long time since I've had my bike out. It actually isn't that long, (for some lucky retirees like myself), there were a couple of moments when the rain stopped, the salt was washed away and it wasn't too windy. Sadly, not long enough for a good ride, but better times are coming. Hopefully, we might see some occasional warmer/dryer days in the weeks to come when we might think it's safe to venture out.



In the middle of Jan, I was sent this picture from fellow member, Observer and Northern Observer Group leader Mike Day (he knows I have an interest in these signs).



Quite a dramatic and very welcome reduction in road deaths. These figures show all road traffic, so not just motorcycles. What they also don't tell us is anything about 'other suffering' that has happened. Any collision, any vehicle, whether resulting in paintwork damage at the lighter end of the scale, or physical personal damage (at the heavier end of the scale) can leave emotional scars to the people involved and also their loved ones, not forgetting to the witnesses and first responders.

January is a long cold dark generally wet month. It is known for being a time of depression even without the above. 'Samaritans' (plugging a different charity) offer a gentle listening ear for anyone needing to talk about anything that's bothering them, however 'minor'. Freephone number 116 123, the lines are manned 24/7 and you won't be judged.

Due to an ankle injury before Xmas, I didn't get to put on my annual ride out to the Sheffield Peaks, watch this space, because I fully intend to ride that route again, but only in decent weather.

Remember, just because you can doesn't mean you should.

Thank you,

Ride safe, Look after each other.

Ian (Chair).

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There has been one new member enrolment since the December newsletter.

Member	Observer
1137 Martin Laverack from Scotter	Mark Gill

Three test passes to report, making twenty-two in 2025 and the first of 2026
Congratulations on your success and a big thank you to your Observers.

Member	Pass Date	Observer
Mike Schofield	2 December	Alex Munford
Andrew Gledhill	15 December	Malcolm Heaton
Chris Smith	17 January	Kevin Brereton

The present composition of the group is as follows:

Full Members	148
Fellows	12
Associate Members	15
Total Group Membership	175

Please remember that the rules of our affiliation with IAM RoadSmart state that local group membership is dependent on current IAM RoadSmart membership being in place.

Finally, let's all look forward to 2026 and the riding opportunities it will bring.

That's all for 2025, ride safely:

John Cheetham

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FACEBOOK ROUNDUP

7 December

7 of us turned up at Willingham Woods for this morning's Observed ride. Thanks, Ken for leading a ride to Sutton on Sea and then back to Wickenby. – Will



9 December

Hi All Sorry for the short notice.

Does anyone fancy joining me on a pre-Christmas Ride around Olivers Mount at Scarborough followed by fish and Chip lunch on the front.

Starting at Starbucks Caenby Corner at 10 am this Thursday and I'm aiming to be back in Lincoln before it's dark 4ish. (bring a Christmas hat for photos) I will be there about 9.30am

Full and Associate members welcome – Will

11 December

Thanks to everyone who came on my ride and putting up with me choreographing the pics. at Olivers mount. I had a great day. - Will





21 December

Ten of us for the ride from the Homestead this morning. Many thanks to Will for leading us to the Boatshed at Huttoft Beach, great ride Will thanks. What was not so good was the bit of flint that found it's way into my rear tyre! On the plus side thanks to Ian Batchelor and Ian Welsh for the use of the pump and plugging kit which got me home. Thanks again and Merry Christmas to you all. 🌲🛵🌲 - Mick

We had a great turn out this morning at the Homestead. 10 bikes, we went to a nice cafe at Huttoft beach. And i think we avoided a lot of rain. – Will



28 December

Hi All, I hope you have all had a great festive season. I would like to end the year with a short year end ride into to Wolds with a coffee stop mid way.

I will be at Starbucks, Horncastle Ln, Scampton, Lincoln LN2 2NA (Lincolnshire Showground) at 10.30 on Tuesday 30th December. All are welcome to join me. – Will

30 December

Thanks to everyone who turned out for my ride today. I hope you enjoyed it. Happy New Year to all. - Will



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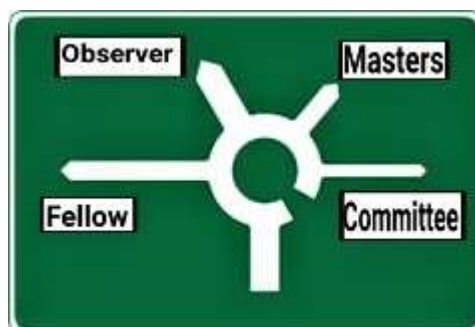


New Year, New Challenge?

Welcome to the first Chain Lincs of 2026, and a celebration 70th year for IAM RoadSmart for helping to make roads safer. It has been really encouraging to see some recent Associate test passes despite some poor weather conditions, also LAM Observer trainees and their mentors working throughout the winter in preparation for their up-coming National Observer qualification assessment, well done.

As well as all the options mentioned below, remember, LAM have a regular Sunday morning Observed ride open to all members (details always in Chain Lincs) this is a great opportunity for Associates to gain Advanced riding knowledge and skills, and meet other members of LAM, plus a great opportunity for Full members to guard against skill fade.

When you have passed the Advanced test, this should be considered the start of your Advanced journey. There are many more options that open up to you along that journey.





IAM RoadSmart Fellow membership

Our Fellow membership is open to all current full IAM RoadSmart members. It provides you with enhanced recognition in return for your commitment to keep your advanced skills up to date by retesting every three years with us.

Our research clearly shows that advanced driving and riding skills deteriorate over time, and that three years is a pivotal timeframe to check and refresh those skills. Fellow membership costs £70 per year (or £65 if you pay by Direct Debit) and it includes the cost of your retest.

What are the benefits of becoming a Fellow

- Confidence in knowing that your advanced driving/riding skills are up to date and in line with the current IAM RoadSmart standards
- Inclusion in our online Register of Fellow members
- Exclusive Fellow membership certificate upon passing the Fellow entry test or the Fellow requalification
- Ability to pay for your 3-year re-test in 3 instalments (the re-test fee is paid together with your annual membership subscription).

How to become a Fellow member

Simply choose the application process that matches your membership circumstances

If your most recent IAM advanced test pass was less than three years ago

Then all you need to do is to advise us that you wish to become a Fellow and we will adjust your membership details immediately and you'll become a Fellow right away. After 3 years we will remind you that it's time to retest. **Call 0300 303 1134 to switch now.**

If your latest IAM advanced test was over three years ago

Please book a Fellow car or motorcycle entry test using the links below, and upon passing you'll be made a Fellow for three years from the date of your entry test pass. **Call 0300 303 1134 to book your Fellow entry test.**



Become an IMI Qualified Observer

To take on the role of Observer, it is necessary to hold the National Observer qualification. Becoming a National Observer means you can deliver our Advanced Driving and Riding courses and is essential for the role of National Observer Assessor, Masters Mentor or Skills Day Instructor.

The LAM Observer team are geared up to assist any member that would like to take the IMI Observer Qualification, doing Observer duties can be very rewarding, not financially, but the reward of assisting another rider to achieve the Advanced test is a great feeling of achievement, it will certainly take your riding skills and riding knowledge to the next level. If you would like to find out what is involved in completing the IMI Qualification then give me a call 07412935333



The IAM RoadSmart Masters standard offers the ultimate challenge for civilian drivers and riders.

Open to all current IAM RoadSmart members, our Masters programme provides true one-to-one mentoring support and guidance that will help you to attain the highest standard of civilian driving or riding ability in the country. There are no exemption qualifications to our Masters standard. On completion of the Masters programme, your name will be entered into the Masters Register.

Masters candidates are expected to travel to test locations as tests are not conducted in an area local to the candidate. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the candidate.

Building on your skills as an existing advanced road user the Masters programme will help to enhance and develop your ability even further in the following areas:

- Applying cornering principles
- Assessing, planning and executing safe overtaking manoeuvres
- Recognising opportunities to make safe progress (within the speed limits)
- Improving observation, anticipation and awareness consistent with vehicle speed
- Applying sound judgement of speed and distance
- Delivering a fluent, relevant and continuous commentary
- We recommend that potential motorcycle Masters candidates read the Full Control document first.

To purchase the Masters course please call 0300 303 1134



Joining the LAM Committee is another way to help within LAM. As a member of the Committee you will help with steering the group, and day to day activities that the group undertake to keep it on track and moving forward with current practices. If you feel that you have skills to help, have a chat with any of the current Committee members to find out what is involved.



Finally not forgetting the great IAM RoadSmart

Skills Days

IAM RoadSmart Skills Days allow drivers and riders, using their own car or motorcycle, the chance to develop their skills with qualified instructors, using four iconic racing circuits as a classroom.

The sessions are open to both IAM RoadSmart members and the general public, allowing attendees a rare chance to learn precision driving and riding techniques on a racing circuit, and to develop new skills that they can use when back on public roads.

Drivers and riders will either work on a one-to-one with an instructor, or as a part of a small group, and will be given the opportunity to put their new knowledge to practice on a track. Search Skills day 2026 on the IAM RoadSmart website to find out more.

There's lots of options within IAM Roadsmart to up skill and have some fun, Doing nothing shouldn't be an option for 2026!

Stay Safe Jerry

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I've been doing big adventure trips by motorcycle and car for the last 20 years. Some organised and some self-planned. Whatever vehicle, they've generally included a percentage of unmade roads. However, my trip last September was an 'all tarmac' trip. I booked this particular tour with BMW Motorrad Tours because I particularly wanted to ride down to Dubrovnik and also visit the old bridge in Mostar that had been demolished during the Bosnian war.

I knew the tour leader from a previous trip but met the 13 others for the first time at Folkstone Eurotunnel. I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised that all the other bikes were big 1250cc BMWs with one older 1050, then there was me on my F700. There was one other lady rider so I didn't feel too much of an outsider. All the Brits were riding their own bikes but an American contingent of three couples, plus our French tour leader were on hired bikes (This would give a problem later on).



We set off at a fast pace down through France, into Switzerland where we rode the Grimsel, Furka and Gotthard passes on our way into northern Italy. I broke from the group during this time, preferring to ride alone. Less pressure, more enjoyment! After these first few days the usual comments had started about how well I ride. I kept

the fact that I was an IAM Advanced Rider and former Observer from all but the 1050 rider who was also an IAM Observer.

The first day in Italy meant an early start to get through the traffic around Milan and required a lot of filtering (or white-lining for the Americans). As I only had top-box and tail pack I found it easier than the others who all had wide panniers. By the time we had got through it I was buzzin' and had great fun 'riding like an Italian' and 'playing with the traffic'. We pressed on down to Ancona on the east coast where we boarded the overnight ferry to Split in Croatia. Temperatures had been rising all the way and regularly in the low 30's, so having a day off the bikes to explore the beautiful historic city and harbour was very welcome.

We then hit the coast road down to Dubrovnik with beautiful fast bends all the way. Dubrovnik traffic was just one big jam,



and now it was raining and surfaces were very slippery. After we made it to the hotel a gigantic thunderstorm hit and lit up the sky. Further heavy thundery showers persisted the next day, so it was just as well that we were not on the bikes again but exploring the old fortified city. I was walking round the Fortress walls when a 'Biblical' rain storm hit, and at one point about 100 of us took shelter in one of the towers for half an hour or so.



Next day we left the coast and headed into Bosnia, but the border guards wouldn't let the hired bikes in because they couldn't show a V5. So all the British that had crossed then had to be 'stamped' out again and returned into Croatia only having travelled some 10 metres into Bosnia. After much discussion we made for another border and this time all got through so headed to Sarajevo mostly following river valleys on good fast twisty roads with surprisingly good surfaces.

Sarajevo is a city of two halves, the Muslim side with its bazars, Mosques and souks where you can eat Baclava cake and drink Bosnian coffee. The Christian side is typically western with all the usual shops and bars. There is an inset marker in the road where the two halves meet, meant to show union but actually points to how much division there still is, and evidence of the war is still fresh.

Next back along the river valleys to visit Mostar (the bridge is now completely rebuilt). It is beautiful but the place is a tourist trap. We stay a couple of hours then leave for Makarska on the Croatian coast and a lovely swim in the sea before sunset. Next morning it's back into Bosnia but this time heading north through national parkland on more good surfaced bendy roads. The riding down here is easy, fast and very enjoyable. At this point I'm often making my own way, stopping where I want, engaging with locals and taking in the scenery. As we head over into Slovenia through wooded hills the sky turns black and we finish the day taking a motorway shortcut on what more resembled a river. Full wet gear now deployed!

So, onwards into Austria, over the Grossglockner and to Garmisch in Germany. I left Garmisch alone about half an hour after the main group and the first problem was my headlamp failure. I always carry a spare bulb so fixed it at the side of the road while I chatted with a local guy who was trimming his hedge and who wanted to talk motorcycles. Then I found that all roads to the west were closed so I eventually headed north, looking for a 'big' left. There were more closures but I eventually got back on route some 100 miles later. I had stopped for petrol, lunch and to put a bit of air in my front tyre when six of the group that had left before me went past. Not sure how that happened!

During the next three days we made our way northwards through Germany, France and Vosges region and I am now choosing to travel alone. There were a few motorway tailbacks to

navigate, an exit that I missed, plus a 'stability' warning light needing investigating. I pulled into an 'Aire' parking area where I removed all the luggage to access my Owners' manual, which drew interest from the motor-homers who looked on while they ate their lunch! Problem sorted, luggage reloaded and off again to our last overnight at Marche-en-Famenne in Belgium before the Calais Eurotunnel.

At the Eurotunnel we said our farewells and boarded the train to Blighty. Being tea-time I hit heavy traffic at the Dartford tunnel and M25. It was odd being on the left side of the road, also much colder too but if I pressed on I could make it home before dark. I totalled 3200 miles, visited places I had wanted to go to and had a lovely bunch of travelling companions, even if I didn't ride with them half the time, they were there to eat, drink and laugh with each evening and share the days adventures.

Jayne Bell



EVENTS DIARY

The Sunday morning Group Observed Rides are open to all members and also potential members who may be considering preparing for the IAM test.

The prime purpose is to provide the opportunity to hone/improve skills through riding with fellow members.

Potential members considering taking the IAM test may have an individual assessment ride.

Rides usually last around two hours: often with a mid-point refreshment stop.

Depending on numbers / balance etc., it is customary for different groupings to embark on a ride style of their choice as they feel fit.

The main purpose is to have the opportunity to ride with fellow like-minded bikers.

ANCHOLME LEISURE CENTRE	Scawby Brook, Brigg, DN20 9JH
WILLINGHAM WOODS.	Willingham Woods, LN8 3RQ.
THE HOMESTEAD	Canwick Avenue, Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, LN4 2RS
STARBUCKS	M180, Junc 5 Services, DN20 0PA, ///breakfast.slippers.alleges
NAGS HEAD	The Nags Head, Gainsborough Rd, Middle Rasen, LN8 3JU

Group social rides will incorporate café stops unless an alternative is specified. Please try to arrive at the meeting point in good time and with a full tank of fuel. Please let the ride organiser know if you want to invite a guest. If carrying a pillion you should ensure that this is covered by your motorcycle insurance policy.

MEETING TIMES

OBSERVED AND SOCIAL RIDES **1030hrs FOR PROMPT DEPARTURE AT 1100hrs
(November to February)**

SOCIAL MEETING **FIRST WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH AT 1930hrs**

OBSERVER NOTE: for those wishing to become observers contact JERRY NEALE 07412 935333

FEBRUARY 2026

Wednesday 4 th	Social Meeting	Nags Head, Middle Rasen
	Speaker Dave Ayres: 'Why am I doing this?'	
Sunday 8 th	Group Observed Ride	The Homestead
Friday 13 th	Committee Meeting	1900hrs, Zoom
Sunday 22 nd	Group Social Rides	The Homestead and Starbucks
Wednesday 25 th	Observers Meeting	Details from Jerry nearer the date

MARCH 2026

Wednesday 4th	Social Meeting	Nags Head, Middle Rasen
Sunday 8 th	Group Observed Ride	Ancholme Leisure Centre
Sunday 22 nd	Group Social Rides	The Homestead and Starbucks
Wednesday 25 th	Observers Meeting	Details from Jerry nearer the date

APRIL 2026

Wednesday 1 st	Social Meeting	Nags Head, Middle Rasen
Sunday 5 th	Group Observed Ride	Willingham Woods
Sunday 19 th	Group Social Rides	The Homestead and Starbucks
Wednesday 29 th	Observers Meeting	Details from Jerry nearer the date
Committee meeting on a date TBC.		

May 2026

Wednesday 6 th	Social Meeting	Nags Head, Middle Rasen
Sunday 10 th	Group Observed Ride	The Homestead
Sunday 24 th	Group Social Rides	The Homestead and Starbucks
Wednesday 27 th	Observers Meeting	Details from Jerry nearer the date

JUNE 2026

Wednesday 3 rd	Social Meeting	Nags Head, Middle Rasen
Sunday 7 th	Group Observed Ride	Ancholme Leisure Centre
Friday 19 th	Classic Track day	Cadwell Park
Sunday 21 st	Group Social Rides	The Homestead and Starbucks
Wednesday 24 th	Observers Meeting	Details from Jerry nearer the date
Committee meeting on a date TBC.		

IMPORTANT NOTE

IT IS YOU, AS THE RIDER WHO IS DEEMED TO BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR MOTORCYCLE AT ALL TIMES DURING AN OBSERVED OR SOCIAL RUN

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GROUP CLOTHING

There is a wide range of group clothing available to order, with our Lincolnshire Advanced Motorists logo on it, you can also add the IAM logo and a name if desired. There are several colours available, contact Martin Atkin, martin@funnelweb.org or 07795 443607.

Name						
ITEM	DESIGN	SIZE	QTY	Name to be embroidered(leave blank if not required)	PER ITEM	TOTAL
Polo Shirt with	Group Badge				£8.50	£
Polo Shirt with	Group Badge + IAM Logo				£10.50	£
Sweatshirt with	Group Badge				£10.00	£
Sweatshirt with	Group Badge + IAM Logo				£12.00	£
Fleece with	Group Badge				£14.00	£
Fleece with	Group Badge + IAM Logo				£16.00	£
T-shirt with	Group Badge				£7.00	£
Caps	Group Badge				£5.00	£
Beanies	Group Badge				£5.00	£
Colour required:					TO PAY	£
PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED WITH ORDER						



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