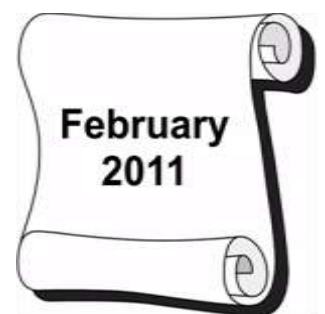


# Chain Links

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**THE LINCOLNSHIRE ADVANCED MOTORCYCLISTS**  
IAM GROUP 7176, REGISTERED CHARITY 1049955, SUPPORTERS OF THE BMF



## GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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### **IAM Motorcyclists Regional Group Co-ordinators, Region 7 - East England (inc. London north of the Thames)**

Terry Towler	Terry.TowlerRGC@iam.org.uk	0115 846 5870 0771 388 2854
Tony Clarke	Tony.ClarkeRGC@iam.org.uk	01462 894624

Group Web Site <http://www.i-a-m.co.uk>

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 8pm  
in Dave Capell's Games Room at his house in Kirton Lindsey. Many Thanks Dave  
Meetings at The Crown Inn, Glenthams, from March 2011  
(Dave's house is next to Kirton Lindsey Railway Station)

The next issue of Chainlinks will be in March 2011.

**Please provide any copy to the stand in editor, Iain Johnston, by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at the latest, earlier is better.**

You can send copy by email to

[ihajohnston@theiet.org](mailto:ihajohnston@theiet.org) or [ihaj@bcs.org](mailto:ihaj@bcs.org)



# WANTED YOU!

To help Lincolnshire Advanced Motorcyclists we need members to:

Join the committee

Sell advertising in ChainLincs or the web site

Put on a social run

Help out at an event where we have a stand publicising the group

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER

HELP THE GROUP SURVIVE

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hi Folks,

Happy New Year to you all.

The arrival of a 'proper' winter at the end of November brought an abrupt end to the biking year and caused the cancellation of the December Group and Committee meetings. Hopefully the much improved weather, we're experiencing at present, will continue and enable us to get a good start to 2011.

By the time you read this, all members should have been informed of the change of venue for the monthly Group meetings. After eighteen months of meeting at Dave Capel's luxurious games room, we have decided to move to a new venue – The Crown Inn at Glentham (on A631 approx. 2 miles east of Caenby Corner). The first meeting at The Crown will be on 2nd March 2011, and it'd be great to see you all there. This is a very prominent location and a car park full of bikes will be a good advert for the Group.

On behalf of the Committee and all of the members, I'd like to thank Dave for providing us with an excellent place to meet and for making us so welcome. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Andy Kitchen

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the February edition of ChainLincs and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

For those of you who don't remember I used to edit ChainLincs before Mick Smith ably took it over. I thought I'd got rid of it, but the powers that be at Mick's work thought otherwise, so you are stuck with me again for a few months. Just enough to see you back in to the riding season proper again after all that snow.

I thought I'd entertain you with a front page photo taken in December during all the snow, when I had a week in Perth, Australia, for work. The police rider concerned was leading the Perth RAC

Christmas carnival parade. All the Christmas stuff in the sunshine felt a little odd, especially as Mary and bystander had had push the taxi that took me to the airport for about 100yds through the snow to get it up the high street outside the house. With a bit of luck I might even manage the photo in colour on at least some copies!

Here's the contrast, my garden before I left for Australia.



All contributions welcome for the March and April ChainLincs, and indeed for later ones.

This month has little more than a further part of Jim Rendell's Pyrenees Adventure, for which many thanks to Jim.

Iain Johnston

ihajohnston@theiet.org or ihaj@bcs.org

## **Invitation From Nottingham Advanced Motorcyclists**

Presentation by Mr John Stepney about "Blood Bikes", featured in a TV program just before Christmas called "Emergency Bikers". He is the organiser of "Blood Bikes" and is apparently trying to set up a group of "Blood Bikes" volunteers in the Nottinghamshire / Lincolnshire area.

Approximately 2 hours, with Q&A. Friday 4th March 2011 @ 7pm - 9pm.

"The Black Lion Pub"  
Main Road  
Radcliffe on Trent  
Nottingham  
NG12 2FD

Contact is Steve Laughton of NAM. 07973 892121

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

No new members and no test passes to report this month. Indeed no change since December. Not surprising given the weather.

Membership currently stands as follows:

Full Members	85
Associate Members	15
Group Friends	1
<b>Total Group Membership</b>	<b>101</b>

May I remind you that there is still room for further committee members to help share the workload. You can put yourself forward at any time during the year; there is no requirement to wait until an AGM. The committee have the authority to co-opt new members between AGM's, just contact any committee member to express your interest.

That's all for this month, ride safe:

*John Cheetham*

## OBSERVATIONS

By Iain Johnston

I have received advance information of the Humberside Police BikeSafe dates for this year. They are:

Launch event:

Humber Bridge: Sunday 17th April 10 am onwards

Workshops:

Beverley Sat 30th April

Grimsby Sun 8th May

Beverley Sat 21st May

Grimsby Sat 4th June

Beverley Sun 12th June

Beverley Sun 17th July

With more to be added later in the year.

What can I add folks. I've done the editorial. Just ride safely, sensibly and miss the potholes.

Enjoy Safe Riding

Iain

## PYRENEES ADVENTURE (PART 5)

**Saturday** Last night's inclement weather has long since departed and been replaced by the far more welcoming sight of sunshine. Breakfast set us up well for the day ahead and l'addition (the bill) wasn't too painful either. For me the hardest part is always transporting all of my gear from the hotel room to the bike. I try very hard to be organised so as to speed up the process but frequently fail for the sake of one overlooked item or another. Kryten normally rivals my stupidity but on this trip he is triumphant. The hardest choice he has to make is what to throw away, each discarded item helping make the repacking and reloading of his machine that little bit easier. He is still no match for the super cool Festa, however, who seems to pack little but always have the right thing to hand.

After the passage of sometime eventually I am ready and awkwardly encourage my right leg into the gap between tank bag and roll bag before making myself comfortable in the seat and poking the start button. We leave the hotel and head back into the hills and passes at the back of ax les thermes. The D52 leads us over some unspectacular Cols before plummeting into the Gorges du Rebenty. The road runs alongside the free flowing river that must have carved out this gorge over many thousands of years. We are surrounded by woods of Beech, Fir and Oak through which, at various points, I spy a fisherman tempting the trout that fill these beautifully fresh waters. The air is cool and the roads more reliable as we twist and turn our exhaust notes reverberating off the sides of the steep walls. Sometimes the cliffs form a canopy above our heads, sometimes we pass through short tunnels and at one point there seems to be an enormous boulder the road must detour around.



We leave the gorge to join the far more purposeful D117 soon passing through Axat and looking for our next side road escape route. After the tranquillity of the gorge road the pace of this road is a bit of

a shock so in the grandly named town of Caudies-De-Fenouilledes I bring the group to a halt near a railway bridge. Helmets are removed to allow for some head scratching while pouring over the map. Dan and Kryten wander off to photograph the bridge while Festa wanders in the opposite direction to read a signpost. When we regroup I have found the road we need to take on the map, it runs near an old castle. Dan and Kryen point to an old castle they have been photographing through the archways of the bridge and Festa confirms we just missed the turn as we entered the town, I think that's probably teamwork.



The old castle, by the way, is the the Chateau de Peyrepeteuse a large ruined Cathar fortress. The lower castle was built by the kings of Aragon in the 11th century on an 800m (2,600 ft) high crag and when the weather is clear you can see the Mediterranean Sea from it. Just thought you might want to know.

With the route now located we start to head upwards once more along a narrowing road towards the Col Del Mas. The road has a more rural, farming kind of feel to it. It's a bit like riding along some of the more remote lanes in the Lincolnshire Wolds, only much higher and steeper and warmer with sharper bends (I did say a BIT like). At times we emerge from the tree lined road to find a meadow bathed in sunshine with a Buzzard circling overhead. At other times there is a small hamlet (that's one or two houses not the cigar!) to pass through but only rarely do we meet another vehicle. I get slightly more confident and begin to quicken the pace slightly heaving the laden CB1300 through the turns like a fat bloke on skis. I find myself shuffling from one side of the seat to the other and flapping a knee out at times as well. My confidence is rewarded as the bike never gets out of shape and copes admirably even when I've miss-read the next piece of tarmac. It's hard not to love this kind of riding, dry twisting roads under a clear blue sky with little coming the other way. Concentration is the

key to remaining upright as these Pyrenean roads have a way of testing you with an unexpected sharp turn or well placed pile of gravel just when you're taking a quick glance at the view.

By now my concentration was being taken up by an over filled bladder so it seemed like a good time to find a place to stop. We came to rest on a wide bend in the road and when the engine noise died away it was replaced by the sound of silence. There was barely a breath of wind, except from Festa, and the sun felt much warmer. From within the tightly packed luggage various forms of snacks and liquids emerged and we stood taking in the calm of the situation.



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Back on the road once more and there is no let up to the constant direction changes this road makes. We are heading for a planned lunch break at a town called Ille sur Tet but it doesn't seem to be getting any closer. At some point the road changes to a far wider and better surfaced effort. As we continue our decent out of the mountains to the Mediterranean the road treats us to some stunning wide open views. Then, totally unexpectedly, we find ourselves looking at an extraordinary site. I Googled this on our return and find it to be called 'Les Orgues d Ille sur Tet'. Over thousands of years the Tet river eroded the clay and rock here to leave huge finger like cliffs. Now, however, the river takes a different course and only curious tourists erode the area. It's a fascinating area but we don't really have the time to explore it as we must move on.

Above the rumble of the bikes engines I am convinced I can hear the rumble of Dans' stomach so it is with some relief that we finally approach Ille sur Tet across a bridge over the river. The town looks old and has a large church in the middle. We finally come to rest close to the towns War Memorial, Marianne flies through bomb filled clouds of war, her hair streaming out behind her, her mouth wide open. Quite an unusual sight.

Once settled we decide it would be nice to briefly visit the church before lunch and set off to find it. From the bridge it seemed like a huge structure but from the town it was a different tale. The streets were very narrow and most of the houses were three or four stories high giving the impression of a

labyrinth. There were voices from somewhere but almost no people. As we were about to give up a local looking fella appeared so I greeted him and bust forth with my bestest “Où se trouve l’église s’il vous plaît?” but this receives a completely blank expression and he walks away. Moments later he returns saying “l’église?” and points us round the next corner. On rounding the next corner we find the entrance and the main tower. Bloody Hell! There are huge cracks all over the thing and it looks to be in immediate danger of collapse. Time to retreat to find a café.

It’s very hot now, too hot to be in motorcycle leathers and we all remark on it as we enjoy a ‘Magnum moment’. Our intended route should take us back into the mountains once more before finally ending up at the town of Argeles Plage on the Mediterranean coast. General consensus seems to be that it’s now too hot to enjoy more slow mountain tracks and the most favourable plan would be to strike out for the cooler coast and jump into the sea using the most direct route possible. Dan programmed the sat nav, pointed his bike Eastwards and off we went as fast as we could caper.

After the splendor and solitude of the rural roads the D612 had only one redeeming quality, it got us there quickly. Unfortunately, it turned out, rather too quickly as we arrive to find our hotel doesn’t open for about another 1½ hours. After some deliberation we ride our bikes round to a car park on the beach. It’s very hot and Kryten, Fester and Dan strip down to beach attire hurriedly abandoning sticky leathers. Kryten is in his natural (should that be un natural?) element, time to ‘pump-up’ the Temple for the crowd. Bemused holiday makers are treated to a poor-mans version of ‘The Full Monty’ before Kryten leads the stampede to the sea. I sit in 35°C dressed in leather trousers and boots guarding the bikes and piles of cast offs. To be sure it’s not a great look and as I attempt to



look cool by draping myself casually over a wall I become aware that I too am the cause of some local amusement.

Once into the dubious portals of the Hotel Centre Plage we shower, change and head back to find a beach bar, oh yes...it's beer o'clock! The beach bar prices take your breath away faster than the heat from the sun, but we're on holiday so what can we do? Well get out the mobile phones seems de rigueur as I sit and watch Krytens 'fastest finger first technique'. Later as we mooch about looking for somewhere to eat, I realise I am in my own personal holiday hell. It's 'Chav-ville sur Mer' and I am in the bar from the Star Wars movie! It's teeming with semi-pissed Brits, loud Agga-do music playing from naff souvenir shops lit by flashing neon lights, to quote Top Gears James May 'Oh Cock'.

After dinner it is dark and we find an ice-cream shop. Among the many temptations is 'Red Bull' flavour, you just gotta try that, it really tastes like the stuff. Our wanderings draw us to the sounds of a Jazz / funk group playing in a bar. This seems slightly out of place for the area so we stop and listen for a while. Moving on through the freaks and weirdoes once more we follow our ears and are lead to a beach disco in full swing. This seemed an oddly civilized affair that had attracted many people with young children to dance the night away under a starlit sky.

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# REPORTING POTHOLES

Suggested in an email by a member whose name I have forgotten. Unfortunately I can't find the email so this is taken mainly from the Lincolnshire County Council Web Site

Councils have a statutory duty to maintain adopted roads and paths (the Highway) within the County. Maintenance of the highway includes making safe potentially dangerous defect such as potholes.

Potholes are defined as a defect in the highway surface, which is surrounded by surfacing material on all sides. Edge damage generally occurs on uncurbed rural roads and is generally caused by vehicles overrunning the verge.

Potholes can develop over short periods of time and depending on the size, depth and location there will be a greater or lesser risk to the general public. The response of the County Council will be dependent on the severity of the reported defect.

Should the site in question be within adopted highway, staff at the local Divisional Office will arrange for works to make safe the potentially dangerous site. The County Council has a number of Pothole Patrol Gangs who will temporarily repair the defect normally within 24 hours. If the defect is not considered dangerous the area will be included in future programmed works to resolve the fault.

In the event that the area in question is beyond the limit of the adopted highway, staff at the local Divisional Office will inform the Customer accordingly.

To report a pothole to Lincolnshire County Council fill in the online Highways defect report form at:

<https://lincs.firmstep.com/popup.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=Qw7FFFcwE6c>

I couldn't find a phone number to use on their site.

To report a pothole to North Lincolnshire Council fill in the form at:

[http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/AF/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=bo5z\\_o-pii](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/AF/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=bo5z_o-pii)

or phone 01724 297000 during office hours

To report a pothole to North East Lincolnshire Council

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/AF/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=CdsPXWzGSj1>

I couldn't find a phone number to use on their site.

## AND FINALLY

If you have access to the internet you might like to check out these two examples of how not to ride. One was found by Terry Towler (IAM Regional Co-ordinator), the other by Pete Crowther (long time member of our group and Chief Observer of Hull & East Riding Group).

[http://angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencereport/high\\_speed.html](http://angelfire.com/ak2/intelligencereport/high_speed.html)

[http://www.vidmax.com/video/62619/Motorcyclist\\_Overtaking\\_a\\_Bus\\_Crashes\\_into\\_Another\\_Motorcycle/](http://www.vidmax.com/video/62619/Motorcyclist_Overtaking_a_Bus_Crashes_into_Another_Motorcycle/)

# CURRENT DIARY OF EVENTS

Contact point: Dave Hall 01522 828010

The Sunday morning Group Observed Runs are open to all members. Also non members considering advanced training may have an assessment ride. The prime purpose is to provide guidance to benefit associate members, although assessment rides for full members may be available depending on observer numbers. The runs last around 2 hours, usually with a refreshment stop, starting at the following venues.

Brigg Leisure Centre parking area	South side of A18
Willingham Woods picnic site	A631 east of Market Rasen
Hartsholme Country Park	South side of B1378, Skellingthorpe Road (off Lincoln Bypass)

Social runs 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 note that due to an IAM directive regarding insurance cover for affiliated groups, Social Runs are for group members only. Guests are welcome as pillion passengers.

## FEBRUARY

- Weds 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Monthly meeting at Dave Capell's Games Room, Station Farm, Station Road, Kirton in Lindsey at 8.00pm. There will be a talk from Andy Greenslade. Andy is former special branch and close protection officer for the royal family.
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** - Group Observed Run from Brigg Leisure Centre. Meet 11.30am for 12.00am. Prompt start.
- Weds 9<sup>th</sup>** - Committee Meeting, Offices of LK2 Architects, Nettleham. Prompt start at 7.45pm
- Weds. 23<sup>rd</sup>** Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Planned venue - Offices of LK2 Architects, Nettleham. However please contact Iain Johnston for confirmation before attending.

## MARCH

- Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup>** Monthly evening meeting at the Crown Inn, Glenthams (A631) at 8.00pm.
- Sun. 6<sup>th</sup>** Group Observed Run from Willingham Woods. Meet 9.30am for 10.00am. prompt start.
- Wed. 9<sup>th</sup>** Presentation from Regional Groups Co-Ordinator Terry Towler. Venue is the Crown Inn, Glenthams at 7.30pm.
- Weds. 30<sup>th</sup>** Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Planned venue - Offices of LK2 Architects, Nettleham. However please contact Iain Johnston for confirmation before attending.

## APRIL

- Wed. 6<sup>th</sup>** Monthly evening meeting at the Crown Inn, Glenthams (A631) at 8.00pm.
- Sun. 10<sup>th</sup>** Group Observed Run from Hartsholme Country Park. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am. prompt start.
- Weds. 13<sup>th</sup>** Committee Meeting, Offices of LK2 Architects, Nettleham. Prompt start at 7.45pm
- Weds. 27<sup>th</sup>** Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Please contact Iain Johnston for further details.

## MAY

- Wed. 4<sup>th</sup>** Monthly evening meeting at the Crown Inn, Glenthams (A631) at 8.00pm.
- Sun. 8<sup>th</sup>** Group Observed Run from Brigg Leisure Centre. Meet 9.00am for 9.30am. prompt start.
- Weds. 25<sup>th</sup>** Meeting for Observers and those interested in becoming Observers. Venue TBA.

**ANYONE READY TO OFFER TO PUT ON A RUN OR OTHER EVENT TO LIVEN UP THE CALENDAR PLEASE CONTACT DAVE HALL ON 01522 828010**