Another Step into the Digital Age

I wonder On the 8th of June the paper part of the UK photocard driving licence became invalid and will no longer be issued by the DVLA. The advice from DVLA is to shred this part of the licence after this date. Other organisations, however, are advising caution in the short term. If you have the old paper licence – in use before the photocard type was issued – it is still valid and should definitely not be shredded!

The slight issue with this is that anyone interested in your entitlements and endorsements can no longer get that information from your licence. Even if you have the old style licence, new penalty points will not be recorded on it. All such information is now held and used electronically. If you need to see the information held in relation to your licence there is a “view driving licence” service on GOV.uk. You can also share this detail with, for example, your employer or a car hire company. The “share your licence” service allows you to generate a one use code, which when used with the last eight digits of your licence number, will provide access to your information. This code is valid for 72 hours and can be used by both holders of photocard licences and the older paper type.

John Norrie
Group Chairman

Keep Left or face £1,000 fine and 5 points

IA motorist was fined almost £1,000 and given 5 penalty points on his licence for driving in the middle lane of the M62 near Huddersfield. Widely reported in the national press as the ‘first case brought for ‘middle lane hogging’, there is no actual offence of middle lane hogging. Ian Stephens, the driver, was charged with ‘driving without due care and attention’

Police were given more powers to issue on-the-spot fines for careless drivers in 2013, covering offences such as hogging the middle lane, tailgating and failing to give way at a junction.
**Group Events**

**Check drives**
Sunday, 5th July
The next check drives will be held on Sunday 3rd May at Midsummer Meadow Car park, 09:30 and 11:00. All Associates are encouraged to attend. Remember to book in with Ian Phillips.

**Northamptonshire Police UNISON Summer Fair**
Wednesday, 8th July (10:30-14:00)
Sports Hall, Police HQ NN4 0JQ
UNISON are holding a Summer Fair for officers and staff of Northamptonshire Police. This is a fun and interactive event, with many stall holders offering taster sessions and demonstrations. We have a stall and need your help.

Please contact Helen Chown if you are able to spare a few hours.

**Observer Meeting**
Monday, 10th August (20:00)
Lecture Theatre, Police HQ, NN4 0JQ
The next observer meeting will be on 11th May, and all observers and trainee observers are welcome.

**Associate Classroom Session**
Saturday, 15th August (08:30)
Police HQ, NN4 0JQ
The next Associate Classroom session is being held on a Sunday to cater for those who cannot attend the normal Saturday session. This is a must for all Associates, as as well as the classroom aspect includes a demo drive. To book your place contact Alan Brown.

**Useful Group Contacts**

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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**Earls Barton Festival of Transport**
We took our unit to the Earls Barton Festival of transport over the May bank holiday. As you would expect for a bank holiday weekend, the weather was terrible which reduced the number of visitors a little. There was an excellent runout of steam engines and classic vehicles. Because of the weather some stall holders didn’t come back for the 2nd day however we manned our unit for the whole two-day event regardless of the rain. Ian’s flag got soaked – don’t tell him!

Photos: Ann Lancaster

**Congratulations**
Many congratulations to the following members who have all passed their IAM test since our last newsletter:

**Sasha Skillen**

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