

## Newsletter - April 2015

### **"Thank you, Renee!"**

At the end of March we marked the long and dedicated service given to the Group by Renee Logan who was our Group Secretary for 21 years. Thirty members and friends from the Group including some from Enniskillen gathered for the celebration at the Drummond Hotel in Limavady on 27 March.



After the meal Examiner, and former Chief Observer, Ian Scott reminded us of the highlights of Renee's time as Secretary, before presenting her with an engraved Galway Crystal hurricane lamp from the



Group. May Connelly from Enniskillen also recounted her memories of Renee's work, particularly in supporting her as Secretary of

Enniskillen. On behalf of the Enniskillen members, May presented Renee with a Belleek pot-pourri dish. Victor Fails presented Renee with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Committee, and Linda Scott closed the presentations with display of



photographs on the theme of "Days Like These" which illustrated Renee's extensive involvement in the Group over the years.

### **Coming up - Observers' Day on 18 April**

Remember those Observers who helped you prepare for your test? They make it possible to run STACs to the very high standard for which groups have such a good reputation.

N W Ulster Group will be hosting an Observers' Day on Saturday 18 April for all current Observers (whether Trainee, Group, Senior, Local or National) as well as for those who want to start on the way to helping others improve their driving skills. It will be in the TBF Thompson facility at 12 Killyvally Road, Garvagh, BT51 5JZ. The staff in the security hut at the gate will show you where to go when you arrive.

We start with registration, coffee and scones at 9:30am, with the main event beginning at 10:00am. After our morning session of discussion and practice observed runs around the local roads we will have a finger-buffet lunch at 1:00pm. Following

lunch we will have more opportunities for observing practice and we will close at 3:00pm.

As well as developing our observing skills out on the road we will also take a look at the Observer qualifications which have been changing over the past couple of years. The Senior Observer qualification is no longer offered and the new equivalent is National Observer. Anyone who is a current Senior Observer can transfer to the new qualification by taking the National Observer test at the time when their Senior Observer re-qualification would have been due. For now, this is at no cost to encourage as many Senior Observers as possible to remain accredited. Come along and find out what is involved in the new qualification and brush up on your observing skills at the same time. We will also talk about the Local Observer qualification which replaces the Group Observer.

The cost is £10 per person; to help us prepare we need to know numbers ahead of time, so please **contact me before Monday 13 April** to let me know if you are coming. Payment can be made at registration on the day.

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## March meeting

Alan Keys, a Principal Engineer with DRD TransportNI, (formerly known as Roads Service),



was our guest speaker on 2 March, taking us on a tour of his work as Network Development Manager. He covered a wide range of subjects from road

improvement schemes, traffic management and accident remedial work, especially those which address driver perception.

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## Other dates for your diary:

**NI Regional AGM** - Saturday 30 May, Beechlawn Hotel, Dunmurry. This will be preceded by the region's standards workshop.

### **Our next SATC dates**

Unfortunately there were insufficient numbers for our Spring STAC this year, however we are planning the Autumn STAC for 7, 14 & 21 September, 12 October

If any of your friends or family would be interested in taking the test, let them know that there is still space on these courses and encourage them to get involved – details from me at the Group's e-mail address.

## Subscriptions

As before I'd like remind you that subscriptions for 2015 are due. Memberships this year remain at £15 and became due at the AGM for all Group members who joined before 1 July 2014. If you haven't already paid yours, can you please do so as soon as possible? Please send your subscription to our Treasurer, Linda Scott, as soon as possible. Cheques for Group Membership Fees should be made payable to: N.W.Ulster Group of IAM and sent to:

Linda Scott,  
4 Castlehill Way,  
Ballymoney,  
BT53 6RW

Gift aid is a valuable source of funds for the Group, so if you are not already signed up for Gift Aid, but do pay UK income tax, please contact Linda to discuss signing up. If you have signed up for Gift Aid but your tax circumstances have changed, you should also contact Linda to allow her to update the records before she makes the annual declaration to HMRC.