

Wigan Group Newsletter



Issue 291 June 2004

Wigan Advanced Motorists

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Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Deadline for contributions is the last Tuesday in the month Send any contributions to the group E-mail address at: Wigan5019@Hotmail.com		No photo yet (Don't worry he won't escape for long !)	Committee Tony Rigby

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor. They are not necessarily those of the Group, it's Officers or the Institute
 Previous copies are available to download at www.iam.org.uk/groups/wigan
 Wigan Advanced Motorists is a registered charity, No 518387



Welcome to your newsletter

June already !

In my opinion one of the best times of the year, good weather, few flies and other insects to decorate your visor (or windscreen), children still confined to school, what more can I say. *(Well I could say I can't wait till my leg gets better so I can get back on my bike !!).*

For those of you planning holidays, please write in and let the rest of us know how you get on. We had a couple of good articles last year.

Mike

Additional Newsletter Format

Following a trial period the newsletter is now being published electronically in PDF format for those members preferring to receive it this way (in our increasingly paperless society).

If you wish to be included please E-mail your address to wigan5019@hotmail.com indicating if you also wish to continue receiving a 'hard' copy.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated Wigan Group hold a social event every second Tuesday, starting at 8pm at the Priory Wood Hotel.

Leave the M6 at Junction 26 (M58) and at the Orrell exit turn left. Priory Wood is on your right as you cross over the motorway.

Planned Meetings

Every Sunday at the Priory Wood, Orrell. Meeting in the car park at 09:30 (Bikes) and 10:00 (Cars) for Associates and anyone interested in joining. All are welcome to join us at 12:00 in the pub for a natter.



Mid week Bike runs leaving the Priory Wood at 19:00 on a Wednesday have now recommenced. Other

Bike and Car mid-week runs are available on request. See Martin Duckworth or Les Stretton

Imminent Diary Dates

June 8th, Moorhouses. You should all have booked your places on the brewery visit by now, if not ring Gary now !

June 13th and July 11th. Motorcycle Sunday ride-outs. See inside for details.

July 11th Kenny Davies from the AA will be talking to us at the Priory Wood, starting at 08:00 prompt.

For a full list of diary dates please see the back page of this Newsletter.

Had you heard ?

In Holland a woman had a lucky escape from a crash when a squirrel fell out of a tree and dropped through the open sun-roof. the squirrel eventually had to be rescued from behind the glove box by a vet.

Do we need to change the SYSTEM to **INFORMATION-POSITION--SPEED -GEAR**(check nuts)- **ACCELERATION** (or scream depending on previous phase).

Gary

Have Pride in Our Institute

Ever been asked, "Why should I join the IAM?", and struggled to give a concise answer? Well the following extract off the IAM Website may help:

The Institute of Advanced Motorists aims to raise the standard of driving by increasing the skill and competence of drivers. The result of a Transport Research Laboratory Report showed that Advanced Motorists have between a 50% and 75% lower accident rate. This is the main, and most significant, benefit of passing the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test.

Once drivers have passed the Test, services available to Members include motor insurance, through the IAM Select Insurance scheme. There are also special offers such as the IAM Car Purchase Plan, breakdown and recovery insurance, an IAM credit card, personal loans, car hire. Members also receive a copy of the colour magazine 'Advanced Driving', published three times a year, which has interesting features on driving and other topics, as well as News from the Groups.

Membership of the Institute currently stands at over 110,000. Nearly 10,000 people successfully take the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test every year.

There are also 200 local Groups in the UK who provide a course of preparation, events for their Members, and promote the Institute in their locality, offering the Skill for Life Full Driving/Motorcycling Programme.

The Institute has, since it was founded more than forty years ago, given hundreds of thousands of motorists and motorcyclists the opportunity to check whether they have the qualities to be better and safer drivers. This has made them more aware, helping them to deal with increasingly difficult situations on today's roads, as well as giving extra protection to themselves and to their passengers, with the added touch of enjoying their driving/riding more.

Welcome to New Associates

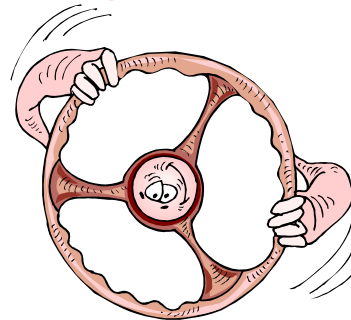
New Car

**Mary Finch
Christine Dodgson
Julia Sixsmith
Ben Cowley
Susan Seddon
David Marsh
Justin Hesford**

New Bike

**Tony Kerr
Alan Walker**

Congratulations



New Members

Car

**Susan Smith
Dawn Leyland
Kerry McLeean**

Bike

Non this month

EIGHTEEN WHEELS ON MY WAGON.

What an experience trying to handle & master an articulated HGV, the Mercedes Benz Axor is a real animal. This model is the Mercedes Benz Axor 2543LS it has a 12 litre turbo intercooled in line 6 cylinder engine with direct injection with of course 4 valves per cylinder.

That equates to 430 BHP with 1550 lb ft torque @ 1100 RPM, there is an intelligent electronic engine management system onboard with a two position engine braking control. With its 16 speed pre selected gearbox complete with cruise control & speed limiter it would be a real pressure to drive



HGV Awaiting the next driver



Martin and his instructor Steve

Disc braking with EBS, ABS & CANBUS gives the unit the ability to stop on every surface & in all conditions. Even the cab has a high specification, double bed, night heater, electric windows, air conditioning, sunroof, CD player, microwave & air bags of course.

The training ground, Weeton Army Camp was large with lots of opportunities for left & right hand turns, roundabouts, figure of eights, reversing, parking in loading bays & stopping under control. Steve, my instructor was an extremely experienced driver & made me feel very relaxed & comfortable.

We started with an introduction the Mercedes, a very familiar cockpit drill & at some of the basic controls because time was limited. Reversing is real skills test in itself, knowing were the trailer & cab are, how to control them in relation to each other. It's only when you try something different that you suddenly realise how skilled the trainer is & how much training they must have done. What a fantastic experience, something you would never have the opportunity to try. The mini did feel very small & easy to manoeuvre on the way home, especially reversing.

Many thanks to Keith Shuck for organising the event, when is the next one?

*Martin WR Duckworth
Senior Observer*

I A M NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE CONFERENCE

Dunstall Park Racecourse Wolverhampton, Saturday 8th May 2004

A wet Saturday morning saw myself and Martin set off on the bikes for Wolverhampton, the weather did improve as we headed south. We arrived at the Holiday Inn about 9.30 in time to sample the free coffee and biscuits, and meet up with all the other bikers from around the country.



A line up of horse power at Dunstall Park

The conference opened with speeches from the chairman and chief executive telling us about where the IAM is at present. Next we had the first of four guest speakers, Cris Burgess a psychologist from Exeter University, who works along side Devon police in trying to re-educate motorcyclists who come to the attention of the police. One interesting statistic he came up with was, most motorcycle accidents happen on warm dry days!!

Next lunch, more free food and drink!



Top table at a Top Event

Inspector Steve Green of North Wales Police gave on the Bike safe scheme which he now is in charge of nationally, but not all police forces participate in scheme. Surprise surprise. Where the schemes are running though he is looking to enlist the help of senior observers from the IAM.

Neil Ellison, a road safety officer with Stockton Borough Council, presented the best talk of the day. He is very involved in motorcycling and road safety, and has set up web site (www.handleitorlooseit.com), that seems to get into the biking community far better than we ever achieve. The web site also has a go at improving the image of the IAM and is well worth a visit. The day closed with short but informative by Jon Taylor on the future of improving standards in crash helmet design and testing, would you believe that horse rider headgear is better regulated than ours.

All the information from the conference can be obtained from the IAM web site.

Tony Rigby

“SNEEZY DRIVERS” (MAY BE COMING TO A ROAD NEAR YOU !)

Hay fever sufferers at the wheel may pose a risk to themselves and other road users, says the IAM, the UK's leading driver and rider safety specialists. As we approach the start of the hay fever season, it's worth reflecting that a sudden burst of sneezing can often cause a driver to lose concentration and vision for a considerable distance. This means that if a hay fever sufferer has a bout of eight or nine sneezes when travelling at 70 mph on a motorway, vision could be lost for up to half a mile.

Bryan Lunn, IAM Chief Examiner, says that if you don't suffer from hay fever, remember that the driver in front or behind you may be one of the UK's estimated ten million hay fever sufferers about to have a bout of sneezing and go "blind " for some considerable distance. While motorists normally pay attention to major health problems that can affect their driving skills, they pay less attention to the host of mundane illnesses that affect many drivers and can increase their risk of having a crash.

“A cold, a headache, tiredness, stress, indigestion, a stiff neck, a bad back, stiff joints, feeling claustrophobic in tunnels, the fear of insects in the car - the list is endless,” said Mr Lunn. “There are some simple things that a driver can do if he or she is having a bad hay fever day. Obviously, if it's really bad, you shouldn't drive at all. If your journey is really necessary, try to get someone else to do the driving. Keep all the windows closed all the time to reduce the number of pollen grains in the car and vacuum all the mats, carpets and upholstery every week to get rid of the dust.”

Mr Lunn said that car dealers can often fit pollen filters. Other precautions include checking that any medication you take for hay fever is suitable to use if you're going to drive. And remember that many hay fever remedies cause drowsiness so check the label.

“If you feel a bout of sneezing coming on when you're driving, slow down - not forgetting to check the mirrors and give a signal if one would be beneficial to other road users. Try pressing hard between your upper lip and nose with your finger. “That usually delays the sneezing or stops it altogether but keep a box of tissues handy on the passenger seat if you're alone in the car, just in case. If there is someone with you, get him or her to hand you a couple of tissues when you feel a bout of sneezing coming on.”

(Taken from IAM News Release Number 08/04)

EX FOOTBALLER WINS PROMOTION AT IAM FLEET

IAM Fleet, the UK's foremost corporate driver training company, has promoted Southport-based sales chief Derek Camp to a new national role. Mr Camp - who was previously IAM Fleet Business Manager for the North - will this month (March 2004) take on the role of UK Fleet Business Manager, with responsibility for the whole of the UK.

Aged 51, Mr Camp has a wide background in sales and management in the company fleet and other business sectors. Most recently he was National Sales Manager with Inenco Group Ltd. He is a keen follower of football and played for Liverpool FC and Blackburn Rovers. “Our intention now is to continue developing flexible services managing work -related road safety, with a view to helping our customers to significantly lower the risk to the occupational driver,” said Mr Camp.

IAM Fleet was formed in 1985 as the dedicated training arm of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, which itself has been involved in driver improvement since 1956. The company provides risk management services and appropriate coaching for drivers of all classes of vehicle through customised training packages. IAM Fleet (iamfleet.com) now has a call centre with a single local rate UK number (0845 3108311) giving access to one of the largest and most highly qualified driver trainer networks in the industry.

Taken from IAM News Release Number 04/04 Issued: 16 March 2004

Motorcycle section rideout report

Wet, cloudy and foggy weather saw our group of eight hardy bikers depart Priory wood bound for Wales on Sunday 8th May.

Despite the poor weather, early on good progress was made as the group made their way through Cheshire and into Wales via Oswestry where Keith (who didn't have his wife's permission to play out all day) sadly had to leave us. Our first stop, following Andy Lane's magical mystery tour of Oswestry was at Lake Wynvry. Where despite the rain the views were spectacular over a lake that went as far as the eye could see.

A short section to Bala took us over some wonderful tight twisty roads where all we were to encounter was a few sheep and an MG owners club outing!

Lunch for the "hells angels" as the locals dubbed us was a rather posh affair in Bala. Andy was smiling.

As our departure neared Eva got the wanderlust... No longer was the rear seat of an FJR for her, she wanted a piece of the action and so it was that Karen's Bike was targeted, stolen and ridden with gusto over to Trawsfynydd where they swapped and we headed northwards to Beddgelert and a particularly spectacular run over the Llanberis pass.



Another stop at Llanberis to get our breath back and Eva's head went to one side again and out came that knowing smile, this time Andy, who was still grinning like the proverbial Cheshire cat, was the target. So it was that John got to demonstrate the pleasures of the FJR to a prospective buyer, whilst chasing Eva over to the A5.

Being kind Eva was unable to deprive Andy of his opportunity to demonstrate his recently acquired weight transfer skills during the run down into Betws y coed along one of the best roads we had encountered all day, and quickly gave him his bike back. Eva then resorted to talking John through a series of bends and overtakes. Needless to say John wrote to Autocom the following day, complaining about how good their system was. It was too clear he moaned, "I could hear her".

Disaster then befell the group. The petrol station at Betws y coed was closed; it was now time to find out just exactly what the tank range of an FJR was. A very pedestrian run over Denbigh moor took the FJR to over 225 miles without refuelling. It was with great relief that a petrol station was sighted on the run into Denbigh and the relieved leader could breathe a sigh of relief. Andy was still grinning!

A sedate and pleasurable run through the Cheshire borders brought us all safely back to the A4 where we parted and went our separate ways. Some home, some to Wigan and some to the pub for tea.

330 miles was the daily total due to a couple of slight changes to the route but if the grin on Andy Lanes face was anything to go off it each and every one was fully appreciated.

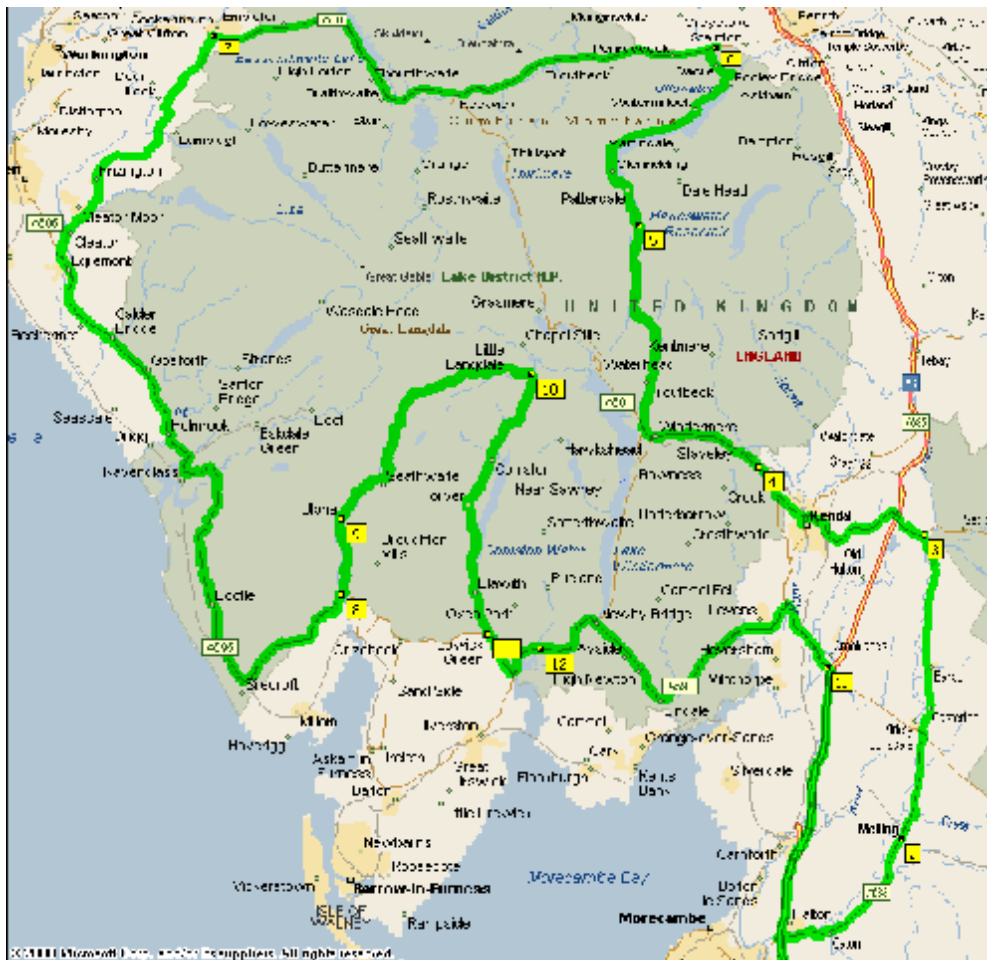
John.

June Ride out to the Lake District

Sunday June 13th Depart Priory wood 0930hrs Prompt.

Following on from the great success of our Welsh adventure in May our next run will take in the sights and sounds of the Lake District. Our schedule will take us up the M6 for a short while before turning right to head up towards Sedburgh, passing Devils Bridge en route. If you have yet to experience the road from Devils bridge to Sedburgh then this is a run out not to be missed.

From Sedburgh we will head across to the north of Kendal, through Windermere and towards Keswick where we will aim to have lunch. After Keswick we will make for some of the more remote parts of the lakes following the western coast back to the Ulpha and Corney fell roads around West water as well as the world famous wrynose pass before making our way back to the M6 and home. Total distance is anticipated to be in the region of 250 miles.



As usual Route guides will be prepared and available but can you let me know if you are coming so not only do I know how many to do, I know who to wait for on the morning.

By way of advanced warning the July 11th run will be heading out towards the North Yorkshire forests of Dalby, Pickering and Hamsterley stopping at Scarborough en route.

Is there anywhere you want to go? Do you have a favourite route? Don't keep it to yourself, lets all go there one month. Let me know and ill even do the arranging for you. Contact me by Email john.tuer@blueyonder.co.uk or by phone 07880 728990 and ill do the rest

John.

Comedy Page

I try to keep the focus on motoring or road safety issue, sometimes interspersed with little comedy fill-ins. However it has been pointed out that there haven't been many of late and some of you have been sending some crackers. So here they are:

Mike

EXCERPTS FROM A DOG'S DAILY DIARY:

8:00 a.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favourite!
9:30 a.m. Oh, boy! A car ride! My favourite!
9:40 a.m. Oh, boy! A walk! My favourite!
10:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Getting petted! My favourite!
11:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favourite!
Noon- Oh, boy! The kids! My favourite!
1:00 p.m. Oh, boy! The yard! My favourite!
4:00 p.m. Oh, boy! To the park! My favourite!
5:00 p.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favourite!
5:30 p.m. Oh, boy! Pretty Mums! My favourite!
6:00 p.m. Oh, boy! Playing ball! My favourite!
6:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Watching TV! My favourite!
8:30 p.m. Oh, boy! Sleeping in master's bed! My favourite!

English as she is spoke:

ABROAD – a girl (USA)
ACRE – It hurts !
AIRY – his arms are !
APPARENTLY – like a father
BAILIFF – a leaf used in cooking
BARBECUE – waiting for a haircut
BEGUILE – like Australia
BISECT – an arm muscle
BUTTERCUP – a mug for goats
CABARET – a line of taxis
CAPSIZE – head measurement
CORONET – for holding ice cream
CURTAIL – last bit of the dog
DENIAL – an Egyptian river
EMPTY – Motor Transport
EXACT – lay on eggs
EXHORT – under a car
FLESH – New (Chinese)
FODDER – male parent

(I can't remember who sent this but if you have a second 'page' let me have it !!)

Bargain Chop

The man and the little boy entered a barbers together. After the man received his haircut he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm going to buy a present for the wife," he said. "I'll be back in a few minutes." When the boy's haircut was completed and the man still hadn't returned, the barber said, "Looks like your dad's forgotten all about you." "That wasn't my dad," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, Come on, lad, we're going to get a free haircut!"

In Germany some bloke had just bought a new Porsche and to stop it being stolen decided to sleep in it on his drive. Only to find that in the morning that his house had been burgled.

EXCERPTS FROM A CAT'S DAILY DIARY:

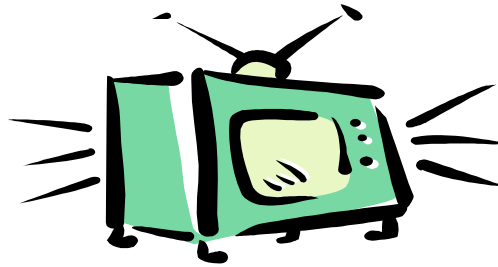
Day 183 of My Captivity: My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another house plant.

Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded; must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favourite chair, must try this on their bed. Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan.

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary confinement throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food. More importantly, I overheard that my confinement was due to my power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird, on the other hand, has got to be an informant, he speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the high metal room, his safety is assured. But I can wait, it is only a matter of time

Videos



You know when people ask, “Have you seen that film?” The reply is often “No! but I’ve read the book!” Well now you can ALL read the book AND see the film.

Of course I’m talking about PYADT (Pass Your Advanced Driving Test), PYAMT (Pass Your Advanced Motorcycle Test) Roadcraft and other videos. As part of your course either past or present you should have read one of the above publications. The group also has access to a range of excellent videos on driving and riding produced by a variety of motoring organisations. They are a really good way showing how advanced driving / riding should be done and are another way of getting the message across... all from the comfort of your armchair. You can even watch them whilst on your mobile phone or enjoying a cup/glass of the amber nectar!

Titles and subjects are as follows :

TITLE	CONTENT	PRODUCED BY
Roadcraft	Police drivers at Hendon learning the SYSTEM	Police
Roadsense	Hazard perception	Driving Standards Agency
What If (car)	Hazard perception for cars	Driving Standards Agency
What If (biking)	Hazard perception for bikes	Driving Standards Agency
Reversing	Reversing, steering and manoeuvres including 3 point turn	BARSA Blackburn Area Road Safety Association
Demonstration Drive	Demonstration drive of using the system and giving commentary	Wigan Advanced Motorists
Demonstration	IAM groups video on the system	Westmorland IAM
Demonstration Drive	Demo drive of police driving	Lincolnshire Police
Motorcycling	Biking and use of the system	Thames Valley Police Motorcyclists
Motorcycling	Biking and the system	Kent Constabulary
On The Level	Road Safety at Automatic Level Crossings	Network Rail
Think Ahead	Advice for Large Goods Vehicle, Drivers	RMC / DAF

Videos can be borrowed for a two-week period and there is no cost involved.

The Lord of the Rings... sorry The Lord of the Videos is.... Arthur Fletcher.

If you want make use of videos see Arthur or Gary Whittaker on a Sunday and they will arrange the loan for you.

Wigan Group activity and events diary

Date	Event (General social functions shown in bold)	Contact
June 8 th	Visit to Moorhouses Brewery. If you have not booked already – ring Gary now !	Gary Whittaker
June 13 th	Ride-out to the Lake District	John Tuer
June 17 th	Region 5 AGM	Alf Birtle
June 22 nd	2 nd Classroom Session for all Associates	Les Stretton
June 29 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
July 11 th	Ride-out to the North Yorkshire Forests	John Tuer
July 13 th	Kenny Davies talks about the work of the AA	Gary Whittaker
July 20 th	Open Evening at Priory Wood	Les Stretton
July 27 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Aug 10 th	Treasure Hunt and Hotpot Supper	Gary Whittaker
Autumn 04	Continental tour, is under consideration	John Tuer
Aug 31 st	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Sept 12 th	British Superbikes – Oulton park Cheshire	John Tuer
Sept 14 th	GMP. A talk by an Instructor from the Police Driving School	Gary Whittaker
Sept 21 st	Open Evening at Priory Wood	Les Stretton
Sept 28 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Oct 12 th	GMP. Vehicle Enforcement, those roadside checks, why are they there, what are they looking for ?	Gary Whittaker
Oct 14 th	Region 5 meeting	Alf Birtle
Oct 26 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Nov 7 th	NEC bike show	John Tuer
Nov 9 th	Roger Taylor, 'Tales from a Senior Examiner'	Mike Smalley
Nov 16 th	Open Evening at Priory Wood	John Tuer
Nov 30 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Dec 14 th	Christmas Social	Les Stretton
Jan 11 th	A talk on the work of the Mountain Rescue	Gary Whittaker

Advertising Space

Wigan Group Committee are happy to consider advertisements provided they are related to Motoring or IAM activities. These can be from Group members, other IAM Groups or private motoring dealerships.

Want to know more ?

Contact the Secretary or any Committee member.