

# Wigan Group Newsletter



**Issue 295 Summer 2005**

# Wigan Advanced Motorists

**Group Contact number  
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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](http://www.iam.org.uk/groups/wigan)  
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## Welcome to your newsletter

Here we are again in one of the two prime windows for motorcycling (Late Spring / Early Summer), the ice and cold seem long past; yet the flies (and motorists with caravans) are not yet out in force! I may even be tempted to take up biking again.....

You have an active committee working at keeping the Group's principle aim – working to improve road safety – going strong. However you may note that there are no specific social events planned!!! (Other than meeting for a drink and a natter at the Priory Wood.)

This is because of the lack of interest shown by members and the embarrassingly low turnout for some of the speakers which were arranged last year. **Don't like it ??** then please be our guest and volunteer to initiate a social committee, there are funds available in a separate account for these activities.

Mike

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### Additional Newsletter Format

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](mailto:wigan5019@hotmail.com) indicating if you also wish to continue receiving a 'hard' copy.

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## ***SOCIAL EVENTS***

Unless otherwise stated Wigan Group meet socially every second Tuesday, at around 8pm at the Priory Wood Hotel. Come down and catch up on the gossip.

*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.*

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### ***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. We usually aim to be back at 12:00 in the pub where all are welcome to join us 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

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### **Imminent Diary Dates**

**No Specific Events Planned**

**Volunteers wanted !!**

## 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*

**Wayne Golding  
Una Talbot  
Lorraine McBurnie  
Stephen Jolley  
Annette Callister  
Mark Day  
Nichola Day  
Robert Whittaker  
Mike Seeckts  
Helen Hughes  
Sally Birch**

### *New Bike*

**Stuart Caddick  
Ian McBurnie  
Simon Hampson  
Warren Bolton**

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## Congratulations to New Members

### *Car*

**Julie Owen  
Ian McBurnie  
Margaret Small  
Michael Grant  
Andrew Thompson  
Theresa O'Brien**

### *Bike*

**David Bullock  
Mark Robinson  
Kath Spiby  
Keith Kellett**

## Obituary for John Harman MBE

## Fellow of the IAM



In 1969 John Harman was a founder member of the Bolton Group of the IAM. In those days there were only the Mersey, Manchester and East Lanc's Groups in the whole of the North West. There were no part-time examiners and only one full-time examiner. With John's leadership and immense hard work, that would soon change.

In 1977 John saw a gap in the Rochdale/Oldham area, and with Bolton's help, formed the West Pennine Group. By the end of 1977 he was forming the Wigan Group.

In 1978 John found out that there were IAM members in Warrington who didn't have their own group. So, even though Wigan Group was still a sub-group of Bolton, such was the faith in John's capacity for hard work and team building that he was entrusted with the task of forming the Warrington Sub-Group. A sub-group forming a sub-group is an event unique in the annals of the IAM.

Soon, John and the Wigan Sub-Group were forming the Chorley Sub-Group and, assisted by the Warrington Sub-Group, went on to form the St Helens Group. John even helped for Observers from Wigan and other of "his" and Bob Higginbotham's Greater Manchester Groups to send Observers to assist in the start of the Blackpool Group, and to North Wales, where they were desperately short of Observers.

John was the prime mover in setting up the Wigan IAM Motor Show at Haigh Hall.

He encouraged many people to join the IAM, including Joe Thomas and Mike Lyne, who both went on to become IAM Council Members. He made many police contacts and encouraged them to become IAM Examiners, including the late Chris Slater and others.

For his outstanding work on behalf of the IAM John was awarded the national honour of the Fred Welch Rose Bowl.

John went on to join the National Council of the IAM in 1990 to represent the Western Division, which stretched from the Scottish border to the Midlands, and included North Wales. With boundary changes, he later represented the whole of the north of England. His work ethic and tireless attention to detail meant that he became the keeper of the IAM Groups Handbook, with its Model Rules and Observer Qualification, which were in constant need of updating. The legacy of the Groups Handbook will be furthering the aims of the IAM long after John's passing.

John served the IAM for forty years, giving his life to saving the lives of others. He received the MBE in 1996 for his unstinting efforts for road safety and the IAM. He was a Fellow of the IAM when age forced him to step down from the IAM Council in 1999.

John wouldn't ask anything of us now, but perhaps we owe him a debt of honour to ensure that the Wigan Group doesn't falter in his absence.

All who had the privilege to know him will sadly miss him.

Joe Thomas

## ***News from the Institute:***

### **DRIVE & SURVIVE ACQUIRED BY THE IAM**

The business and assets of leading fleet risk management provider Drive & Survive have been acquired by the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists). "We are pleased to be part of Drive & Survive's future," said Christopher Bullock, IAM Chief Executive. "It has a deserved reputation for innovative and highly effective risk management solutions, and fits comfortably with our new strategy and objectives. Drive & Survive already makes a major contribution to road safety as one of the leading providers of risk management and driver training for those who drive as part of their work."

Though under the IAM umbrella, Drive & Survive will continue to operate as an autonomous business from new premises in Oxfordshire. "The acquisition of Drive & Survive also includes all the equipment to deliver its specialist off road driver training courses," Christopher Bullock continued. "In fact, now that Drive & Survive is part of the IAM, there will be the flexibility to deliver these in a number of locations in the UK." Drive & Survive has been providing qualified driver training since 1985, and now provides fleet safety audits, online risk assessments, E-Learning, group seminars, on-road advanced driver training and all the supporting materials needed to assist fleets in reducing their exposure to road risk. The company has won Fleet Excellence Awards for Fleet Driver Training on eight occasions in the past 11 years, is Driving Standards Agency approved and has Investors in People accreditation.

**News Release 5/5 Issued: 16th March 2005**

### **NOW IT'S "WHITE VAN WOMAN" AS WELL, WARNS IAM**

Studies of young drivers in America and Japan have revealed that females are now just as aggressive as males and display similar levels of competitiveness and sensations seeking behind the wheel.

According to the latest edition of *Advanced Driving*, the magazine of the IAM, this trend is beginning to affect UK roads too. *Advanced Driving* quotes latest Home Office figures stating that although men still account for the vast majority of motoring offences, the number of women getting traffic convictions, particularly speeding, has risen by 50 per cent in the last eight years.

Commentators attribute the rise in female lawlessness to women's changing social roles and greater independence, as well as the fact that more women are driving big, powerful cars which give them an exaggerated feeling of personal security and lead to a less cautious approach on the road.

"Bad driving by either sex is a cause for concern. We don't need the lad-ette culture putting our safety at risk. I know that 'White Van Woman' may not actually be in a Transit but she could have attitudes that can create problems for the rest of us on the road," said Christopher Bullock, IAM Chief Executive.

**News Release 6/5 Issued: 14 March 2005**

### **Wigan Biker in good company :**

How many of you noticed the picture of Mark Robinson, in the 22 June edition of MCN, being presented with his Special Edition, Suzuki GSX-R750 by WSB riders Troy Corser and Yukio Kagayama ?

### **"TWO WHEELS GOOD" AS IAM BIKERS GROW**

Unprecedented demand from bikers seeking advanced riding skills has led to the IAM extending its network of local groups - with four new groups established in the last month alone. The new groups – all preparing riders for their IAM advanced motorcycling test - are needed to respond to the increase in demand from riders. This year has seen an increase in IAM test applications of nearly 40 per cent.

Plymouth Advanced Motorcyclists were the first of the new groups (9 April) followed closely by Peterborough Advanced Motorcyclists (13 April), Wilts and Bath Advanced Motorcyclists (16 April) and Morecombe Bay Estuary Advanced Motorcyclists (17 April).

The four new groups are the latest to join a network of more than 200 IAM Groups, UK wide, most of which offer to prepare riders for their advanced test. "Our motorcycle membership is now nearly 14,000 and growing fast," said IAM Motorcycle Manager Dave Shenton. "Advanced motorcyclists get the best of their bike – and they have the time of their life. Riding is no fun if you are injured and that's where the IAM's Skill for Life course comes into its own," he said. Mr Shenton said that the rise in so-called "born again" bikers was a major factor in the surge of popularity for advanced riding. "Today's powerful machines need much more skilful handling than those that were around years ago."

The growth in IAM bike groups supports the first National Motorcycling Strategy introduced by the DfT to ensure the "mainstreaming" of motorcycling as a means of transport. The strategy recognises that an increasing number of people are turning to motorcycles and scooters in order to beat congestion as well as riding bikes just for the sheer fun of it. At its heart is the need to recognize improvements in post-test training, making it attractive to riders.

**News Release 9/5 Issued: 26 April 2005**

## Help out in a crisis ICE

A Cambridge-based paramedic has launched a national campaign with Vodafone to encourage people to store emergency contact details in their mobile phones. Bob Brotchie, a clinical team leader for the East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust, hatched the plan last year after struggling to get contact details from shocked or injured patients.

By entering the acronym ICE - for In Case of Emergency - into the mobile's phone book, users can log the name and number of someone who should be contacted in an emergency. The idea follows research carried out by Vodafone that shows more than 75 per cent of people carry no details of who they would like telephoned following a serious accident.

Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years, said: "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person. "It's difficult to know who to call. Someone might have "mum" in their phone book but that doesn't mean they'd want them contacted in an emergency. "Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history."

The campaign is also asking people to think carefully about who will be their ICE partner - with helpful advice on who to choose - particularly if that person has to give consent for emergency medical treatment.

Bob said the idea was for the benefit of loved ones as well as the patient. "Research suggests people recover quicker from the psychological effects of their loved one being hurt if they are involved at an earlier stage and they can reach them quickly,".

For further information visit [www.vodafone.co.uk/lifesavers](http://www.vodafone.co.uk/lifesavers)

## Revenge of the Wife

A British radio DJ is mourning the loss of his 25,000 pounds Lotus Esprit Turbo car after his outraged wife sold the car on eBay UK for the grand sum of 50 pence.

Hayley Shaw became outraged after hearing her husband, Tim Shaw, interview model Jodie Marsh on his radio show. She became furious with the flirting but when Tim went too far by joking on-air that he would leave his wife and children for Marsh, Hayley completely snapped. She put his very expensive car on eBay with a buy-now-price of 50 pence.

In what will go down as one of the greatest acts of marital revenge in history, Mrs Shaw wrote in the auction description : "I need to get rid of this car immediately - ideally in the next 2-3 hours before my cheating husband gets home to find it gone and all his belongings in the street."

She finished with : "I am the registered owner and I have the log book. Please only buy if you can pick up tonight."

Needless to say, the car was snapped up immediately by eBay user ID "goddamn7" and Mr Shaw came home to find the driveway empty. He is now the unwilling celebrity on news programmes and the butt of jokes everywhere. The radio station, Kerrang 105.2, based in Birmingham, said Mr Shaw was taking a few days off to talk things over with his wife.

"I am sick of him disrespecting this family for the sake of his act," said Mrs Shaw to the press. "Maybe it was childish but I had had a few drinks that night and I just thought I would get him back the best way I could. The car is his pride and joy but the idiot put my name on the log book so I just sold it. I didn't care about the money, I just wanted to get him back," she added.

By Mark O'Neill, AuctionBytes.com 24/06/05

### CONGESTION BUSTING FUNDING

Did you know ? £18 million has been made available for local authorities to support planning for local demand management schemes where road pricing is a major element. The Fund will also be used to support innovative local plans which help tackle congestion, looking for proposals which combine some form of demand management such as road pricing. Alistair Darling said, "we will continue to work with industry to develop a national road pricing system for cars and lorries."

Further information on the Transport Innovation Fund is available on the DfT website: <http://www.dft.gov.uk>

## Drugs, Alcohol and Driving

The facts behind the myths, Plus a bit more!

In an interesting and enlightening talk Dr. Andy Lane, one of Wigan Group's Motorcycle Observers, gave a presentation on Drugs and Driving. Andy works with drug addicts in the Northwest, a subject on which he has much experience.

Starting by explaining the current Laws, "*A person who, when driving or attempting to drive a vehicle on a road or other public place, is unfit to drive due to drink or drugs is guilty of an offence*" Andy explained that the law deals simply with impairment of driving. It does not distinguish between different drugs. He reeled off a few statistics including the fact that the RAC Says Drink-driving has decreased. Drug-driving has increased. A six fold increase in road accident deaths with "traces" of illegal drugs in the body has been seen.

Interestingly, as of July 2003, the police have the power to do preliminary screening for illicit drugs at the road side using sweat or saliva, or later in the police station but the equipment needed has not yet been approved!!!!

Andy talked about the range of drugs which are available and the effects they cause.



**Heroin**



**Cocaine**



**MDMA**

It is important to note that there are two distinct groups of legal and illegal drug users. The first are those who take a drug to promote wellness and avoid withdrawal (includes stable heroin users, where the drug produces 'normality' and there is no show increased risk to driving ability). The second are those who use drugs (including alcohol) to produce intoxication and euphoria. **The dilemma.....is that both will test positive for drugs at the road-side but one will show no impairment of driving skills while the other produces a huge increased risk of traffic accidents.**

### **MOTHER SAID "NEVER BUY A GREEN CAR"**

When buying a new car, you will be able to tell how environmentally friendly it is as new colour coded labels start to appear in car showrooms.

The fuel efficiency labels - announced by Alistair Darling earlier this year - are similar to those currently displayed on fridges and other white goods. They help get a variety of information across to consumers, such as how fuel efficient a particular vehicle is, how much motorists can expect to pay in fuel bills, and whether it qualifies for a reduction in Vehicle Excise Duty.

All major car brands in the UK have signed up to the introduction of the voluntary labelling scheme by September.

### **Karen's Crusade**

Ever looking for a new cause! Our Karen is urging Observers to note down and report any road problems they see in our area.

Things like the missing 30mph / NSL sign on Beacon Lane, signs obscured by foliage, potholes etc If you let her know at the end of the observed runs she will chase things up with the local councils. Alternatively report them to the council yourself, most have a web site like Lancashire's which is: <http://www.lancashirehighwayspartnership.gov.uk/>

## Wigan Group activity and events diary

Date	Event (General social functions shown in bold)	Contact
26 <sup>th</sup> July 05	Committee meeting	Les Stretton
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug 05	Open Public Evening, Priory Wood, Rivington Suite, commencing at 08:00pm.	Garry Whittaker
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug 05	Committee meeting	Les Stretton
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sep 05</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 05	Open Public Evening, Priory Wood, Rivington Suite, commencing at 08:00pm.	Garry Whittaker
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Oct 05</b>	<b>Social Evening at Priory Wood</b>	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Nov 05</b>	<b>Social Evening at Priory Wood</b>	
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov 05	Committee meeting	Les Stretton
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 05	Open Public Evening, Priory Wood, Rivington Suite, commencing at 08:00pm.	Garry Whittaker
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Dec 05</b>	<b>Xmas Quiz at Priory Wood. 08:00pm Start</b>	<b>John Bolger</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Jan 06</b>	<b>Social Evening at Priory Wood</b>	
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 06	Committee meeting	Les Stretton

### Bolton & District Group of Advanced Motorists 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

*This year Bolton Group marks the occasion of 35 years of promoting the IAM and Road Safety with a Dinner on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005, at Brookfield Masonic Hall, Peel St, Westhoughton, commencing at 7:15 for 7:45pm.*

*Guest speaker Cannon Jack Finney.*

*For only £20 per person.*

**For further details or to book a place contact Ken McGlynn on 01772 613839 or e-mail [ken-mac@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ken-mac@tiscali.co.uk)**