



WIGAN ADVANCED MOTORISTS



NEWSLETTER No 298

A New Location –

Following the move from the Priory Wood (now renamed back as the 'The Mount' following renovation), Wigan advanced Motorists has now adopted the Plough and Harrow as it's base of operations. Directions are included on the back page.



Sunday Morning at the Plough & Harrow

Editorial

It has been a while since the last newsletter, I make no apologies as I have been busy and there have been no other volunteers, however your committee recognise the need to keep in touch and we will be trying out this new single sheet format on a monthly basis. I intend to keep things simple with two sides devoted to Group matters, new members, test passes etc, one side to IAM articles such as the 'National Motorway Month' and contact / mailing details on the back page.

If you wish to contribute an article please e-mail it to me or pass details to any committee member.

Mike

Get Lost

with

Gary and John

To Celebrate the IAM's 50th Birthday Year, Wigan Group are holding a treasure hunt ending at the Plough and Harrow. This will be on **Saturday 9th of September**

For those unadventurous sorts (or motorcyclists as we sometimes call them) just come and meet at the pub from 08:00pm for others who fancy a challenge contact John or Gary (In person on any Sunday morning, e-mail to wigan5019@hotmail.com or call 07071 226693). They will provide details of the start point and will be taking orders for food for those who fancy a bite to eat.

So..... Get down and catch up with old friends All Welcome

Sunday Morning Motorcycle run-out

3rd September 2006

This will be the second of our planned '**1st (Sunday) of-the-month ride-outs**'. The destination will be a surprise as before but I can guarantee it won't be Southport or Rivington (because they tend to be destinations for our normal Sunday morning rides - before I get comments from people from Southport or Rivington !) so come along.

Meeting at 09:30 at the Plough & Harrow, Shevington.

A Riddle

You are driving in a car at a constant speed. On your left side you see lots of pedestrians and on your right side is a fire engine traveling at the same speed as you. In front of you is a galloping pig which is the same size as your car and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is a helicopter flying at ground level. Both the giant pig and the helicopter are also traveling at the same speed as you. What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?

Answer at bottom of next page

One quarter of motorway drivers “an accident waiting to happen”

IAM News Release - NR 06/13



More than a quarter of motorists (26 per cent) are “an accident waiting to happen” because they drive too close to the vehicle in front on motorways, according to a new nationwide survey of 22,105 vehicles released by leading motoring bodies at the start of National Motorway Month (NMM). The worst offenders in the survey were on the M4 in Wales, where over 50 per cent of drivers were too close to the vehicle in front. The next worst were Midlands motorists on the M42, where 39 per cent were too close, and the M9 in Scotland, at 26 per cent. The best motorway behaviour was found on the M5, where just 1 in 12 drivers were tailgating, followed by the M20 and the M2.

Researchers from the IAM surveyed a sample of UK motorways on two successive Wednesdays in June and July, before feeding data to the RAC Foundation for analysis. Together NMM campaigners have highlighted tailgating as the number one driver error on the UK’s motorway network, and are calling on drivers to remember the “two second rule”. Highways Agency (HA) research into safe driving found that tailgating contributed 29 per cent of all injury accidents on the network. The Highway Code says that you should allow at least a two second gap between you and the vehicle in front on roads carrying fast traffic. But this latest survey shows that this is alien to many motorway users. If the weather is poor, the ‘two second rule’ needs to be doubled.

Worst Locations	Total	Too close	Per cent		Best Locations	Total	Too close	Per cent
M4 (j 27)	4708	2411	51.2		M5	3677	304	8.27
M42	3423	1344	39.3		M20	1450	161	11.1
M9	628	169	26.9		M2	1297	151	11.6

Motorways are the safest roads in the UK but with there are still more than 8,000 drivers killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the network each year. More than 42 per cent of crashes occur within 1 km of a junction. In 2004, National Motorway Month highlighted the success of chevrons in reducing tailgating. NMM members would like to see more frequent reminders via the roadside Variable Message Signal (VMS) boards which could also make a difference to driver behaviour.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said: “It’s obvious that too many drivers simply forget their speed, regardless of the conditions on the motorway or what is in the lane ahead of them. They then follow other vehicles as if they were travelling much more slowly. So they are ignoring the two second rule – designed to help you leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front so you can pull up safely if it suddenly slows down or stops. “Regardless of what indicators are available on the motorway, every driver should make it standard practice to leave a good gap, adjusting their following distance regularly to take into account weather and traffic conditions,” said Mr Rodger, who was an examiner at the Metropolitan Police Driving School before taking up his role as the IAM Chief Examiner earlier this year.

Get off the merry-go-round

Wigan Advanced Motorists can offer Car, Motorcycle, minibus and commercial vehicle courses.

We meet at ***The Plough and Harrow, Shevington Lane, Shevington*** on a Sunday morning. We congregate in the car park at around 09:30 for Motorbikes and 09:45 for cars.

From the South: Leave the M6 at Junction 26 (M58) and at the Orrell exit turn left. At the traffic lights turn right for Shevington, the pub is a couple of miles on the left.

From the North: Leave the M6 at junction 27(Standish, Wigan) and turn left up a dual carriageway towards Standish. At the end, turn left for Shevington, the pub is a couple of miles on the right.

Car parking is available at the rear of the building and there is also a public car park opposite.

Contact Details: Tel: 07071 226693, E-Mail: wigan5019@hotmail.com
Web: www.wiganadvancedmotorists.org.uk
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