



Newsletter

July 2025



Out and About - Promoting Advanced Driving and Road Safety:



The High Wycombe Group is working hard to **promote Road Safety** across our region this summer. We have engaged with members of the public at events such as the **Hyde Heath Show**, **Classics on The Crick** in Naphill (see photo: Tara Ridgeway and the HWGAM stand), **Chesham Car Show**, **Holmer Green Village Show**, and **The Big Meet** in West Wycombe. Using these opportunities to raise awareness of what IAM offers, and how our local team of Observers can help to improve individuals' driving standards.

In July our Chairman and Secretary (**Nigel Mason & Margaret Gordon**) delivered an evening presentation on Advanced Driving to the **Wycombe WI**, which was very well received, and stimulated a lot of discussion – with follow up of one booking an Advanced Course, and a couple of others keen to try a Taster Session.

GROUP NEWS:

We have recently welcomed **Paul Royer** as our newest National Observer. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise following a career in driving a wide range of vehicles, as a Driving Instructor and an Examiner in the RAF.

MEET OUR OBSERVERS:



Panch is a National Observer and has the IAM Masters with Distinction qualification for both car and motorcycle. He works as a Programme Director for a leading Global IT company. As a keen track driver and self-confessed petrolhead, Panch enjoys spending as much time as his job allows on track with his heavily modified Vauxhall VX220. He firmly believes that achieving the IAM qualification makes for a driver who "thinks" much more about their actions on the road than the average driver, thereby protecting the safety of both themselves and other road users.



National Observer and Group committee member, **Tara Ridgeway** is a qualified accountant with over 30 years' experience, the last 15 as Finance Director, including at The Ritz Hotel, London. It was at The Ritz that she became a qualified beekeeper. Bee hives were kept on the roof and the honey used in many of The Ritz Restaurant's dishes. Nowadays she volunteers as a beekeeper at the National Trust's Hughenden Manor.

Originally from Penzance, Tara loves to travel and speaks many languages, including German, Dutch and French. She has lived in several countries, and having completed her motorbike test in 1989, she worked for BMW Motorcycles in Munich, at the time when they launched the R1100RS and F650. It was at BMW that she became interested in cars, driving some of the directors' BMWs. This was her first experience of driving in Continental Europe, which she still does on a regular basis, these days in her BMW 530i M Sport. Tara is currently studying for her IAM Masters.

COMMITTEE:

Chair	Nigel Mason
Membership Secretary	Valerie Brickell
Group Secretary	Margaret Gordon
Without portfolio	Bob Hill, Tara Ridgeway and Bern Warr

Treasurer
Chief Observer
IT Admin

Tim Nicholson
Nigel Mason
Sean Pearce

DRIVING TIPS: Being tailgated?



Being tailgated by another vehicle can make you feel intimidated, scared and bullied. While it may not be intentional by the driver behind, it can feel aggressive and personal. But reacting negatively to tailgaters can create further problems, so it's important to stay calm and remain in control of your vehicle.

Drive normally: Don't let the tailgater's poor behaviour negatively influence your own driving. Simply continue to drive safely and cautiously, aware but not affected by their presence.

Allow them to overtake: Keep a steady speed so they may overtake.

Clearly signal: Ensure the tailgater has a clear idea of your intentions by signalling early.

Keep left: Keep in the left-hand lane unless overtaking. Some tailgaters argue that 'middle-lane hoggers' cause tailgating. Don't give tailgaters an excuse.

Don't speed up: Generally, this will encourage the tailgater to speed up behind you. Continue to travel at a safe speed. Do not allow the pressure from the tailgater to influence you to drive unsafely.

Don't slow down: Intentionally slowing down to irritate the close follower or tapping the brake lights can trigger road rage and cause more dangerous scenarios to arise.

Don't stare in the rear-view mirror: This can cause you to lose focus on what's in front of you.

Source: National Highways.

IAM ROADSMART RESPONDS: The Scottish Government's consultation on the National Speed Limit Review.



RoadSmart's Stewart Mackie said that "as a road safety charity, IAM supports measures that will reduce casualties. However, it is believed that a blanket national speed limit reduction will be counterproductive and may even increase risky overtaking manoeuvres. We support lower speed limits being applied where data and evidence suggest they will be most effective, including options for targeted speed limit reductions to even below 50mph on more dangerous stretches. Safety upgrades to roads will make a sizable difference in reducing collisions, and cancelled upgrades must be reconsidered. Opting for a blanket

national speed limit reduction will not provide an adequate level of scrutiny of Scotland's major road collision hotspots".

(Editor's Note: The same rationale can apply nationally.) Source: IAMRoadsmart

DID YOU KNOW:



About **10% of people will die** if hit by a vehicle travelling at **20mph**, but at **30mph most people will die** if hit by a vehicle travelling at this speed.

A crash at **30mph has twice as much energy** and destructive potential as at 20mph.

Source: IAMRoadsmart/Road Safety Foundation

(Reported by Graham Feest in *Traffic Safety Roads*, the Road Safety Charity Brake "brake.org.uk" has written to Lillian Greenwood MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Future of Roads, requesting the Government commits to introducing 20mph as the default speed limit on roads in built up and residential areas, and which should be part of the Road Safety Strategy.)

IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR EYESIGHT CHECKS:



Based on Police roadside testing, it has been estimated that over **720,000 UK motorists** could be driving with **defective eyesight**! Of those who failed the sight test, 50% were not wearing their required prescription glasses. The research also found that 40% of the motorists had not had a sight test in the previous two years, as is recommended. In other research, ROSPA estimates that 1.8million motorists' vision falls below the legal requirement to drive. Brake (Road Safety Charity) estimates 2,900 accidents a year are due to poor vision.

ARE YOUR TYRES LEGAL?



DVSA data shows that 2,152,849 vehicles **failed the MOT on tyre defects** in the year 2023/24, and up from just over 2 million the previous year, and rising steadily from 1.83 million in 2019/20. Of these tyre failures 36% had previously been warned with tyre-related advisory notices. This potentially exposing a widespread and dangerous pattern of ignored warnings.

(Unless stated otherwise, visuals are courtesy of the High Wycombe Group of Advanced Motorists)

www.highwycombeiam.org