

# Newsletter ~ April 2017

**St Helens Group of Advanced Motorists**  
*Working to make our roads safer every day...*

## Chair's Remarks

Hello everybody and welcome to the April edition of the Newsletter.

I am pleased to report that all of the Group's established Observers have now attained Institute of Motor Industry (IMI) qualification. The process was started exactly three years ago and over this period existing and new Observers rose to the challenge set by IAM HQ for Observers to be IMI qualified by the end of 2017. We now have 10 IMI National Observers, 5 IMI Local Observers and 2 trainee Local Observers. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the commitment and enthusiasm of our [Observer Team](#) to strive for excellence with their observing. Well done to you all.

Late last year the Committee asked for volunteers to support our recruitment activities by delivering presentations to various groups in and around St. Helens. We had a few volunteers and subsequently held two 'presenter training' sessions at the ibis, Haydock. This kick started several opportunities and in recent weeks Jim Cunliffe (a well established presenter) gave a Senior Road Users presentation at the Everton football ground, Anita Clift gave a similar presentation at the Mansion House, Victoria Park and in early April Martin Brady will give a presentation to the St. Helens Rotary Club. Thank you Jim and to new presenters Anita and Martin for the work you have put into the delivery of these

presentations.

The Winter Advanced Driver Course has now ended and we are following up on the contacts that we made at our recent recruitment events, in preparation for the Course starting in May. Please spread the word to your family and friends. [Discounts](#) are available to those aged under 35 and over 60.

A note for your diaries, our AGM is on Thursday 8th June. Following the AGM the winners of our various competitions will be announced and there will be a talk about Merseyside Roads Policing. Well, that's it from me. Safe driving and good observing.

**Mark Farnworth**  
**Group Chairman**



St. Helens Group website

[www.shgam.org.uk](http://www.shgam.org.uk)

### Contacts:

contact@shgam.org.uk  
07849 674393 (after 6pm)

editor@shgam.org.uk

### **More Information** (click links)

[Spring and Autumn Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

## Driving with technology: Tips from IAM RoadSmart

Mobile communications and GPS systems used as Sat-Navs are becoming very common in cars. Whether you are connecting your Bluetooth to blast tunes or looking for the nearest Waitrose, these have become a fundamental part of the daily drive for many of us.

Whilst a Sat-Nav aids in getting you from A to B try to not become reliant on it. It is important to pay attention to road signs and the road ahead, in case there's a diversion sign that the device may not have picked up

Get to know your Sat-Nav before you set off and always programme it when stationary. Many people trust their Sat-Navs not to get them lost but you also need to know about roadworks, diversions and places to stop. Keep an up to date paper map to ensure that you limit the chances of going completely off track

Create your playlist before you start your journey. Taking your eyes off the wheel to look at or adjust your music can often prove to be hazardous. It only takes a few seconds dis-

traction to cause an accident. Remember to also keep your music down in some circumstances; your hearing can keep you safe, so be prepared to turn the music off.

Don't make or take calls when driving and never text or engage with social media on your smartphone. Extensive research has shown that making calls, even hands-free affects concentration and slows reactions when driving.

Some vehicles have the ability to create a Wi-Fi

zone allowing internet access. This should be used as a luxury for passengers whilst ensuring they do not distract you as the driver. For instance a computer screen reflecting in the dark is a dangerous distraction

Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards said:

"The latest driver assistance systems can be the perfect back-up to cover our occasional human failings but are no substitutes for concentration".

## Associate Coordinator's Corner

I would like to begin by thanking everyone, Observers and Associates, for their support during the recent Course. With eleven Associates on the Course (ten on Sundays and one doing the Course mid-week), we have certainly been very busy! Attendance by the Associates has been good and a lot of commitment shown. Quite a few of our Observers have been involved in midweek Runs and of course their Sunday attendance has been good.

Congratulations to Molly Keeton, Bill Rickerby, Dimitri Gardikioti and Adam Hope on your recent Test

passes. To those still waiting then best wishes. If you wish to stay with the Group in any capacity, then please have a word with Mark Farnworth. If you decide to leave us, then thank you for doing the Course. As long as you are a Member, you can return at any time and in any case you will always be welcome at any of our social functions.

If you did not pass, then I hope you will stay with us and try again. We will give you all the support you need. The Examiner will have given you a full explanation of why you didn't pass, so you will know what

you have to work on. It may be that you decided not to take the Test yet, but to come back on the next Course. That is fine. You do not necessarily have to do the full Course, just take as many Runs as you need.

On behalf of the Associates, I would like to thank Mark, Lee, Jim and Anita, who took the Training Evenings, and Oliver, who took the Meet The Examiner Evening.

**Alan Prescott**  
**Associate Co-ordinator**

### Notice Board

#### Congratulations to

Molly Keeton  
Bill Rickerby  
Dimitri Gardikioti  
Adam Hope

on passing the Advanced Driving Test and a particular well done to Molly, who achieved a F1RST.

#### Advanced Driver Course

**Starts Thursday 4th May**  
**Tell family and friends!**

#### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8th June  
ibis Styles Hotel  
8pm prompt start

**Bring a friend!**

#### Visit to the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre, Widnes

29th April 2017

Catalyst is an interactive science centre and museum, devoted to chemistry and how the products of chemistry are used in everyday life. It aims to make science exciting and accessible to people of all ages and to inform them about science based industries and their role in our lives, past present and future.

We will meet in the entrance foyer at 11am. The cost is £5.95 per person. E-mail Kay Heppenstall if you are planning to attend

**events@shgam.org.uk**

### In the News

#### Moves towards driverless cars must not produce lazy drivers reliant on gadgets, says IAM RoadSmart

16th March 2017

IAM RoadSmart has expressed concern that cars with growing levels of autonomy could make motorists lazy and over reliant on gadgets – with far reaching implications for the potential reduction of people killed and seriously injured on the roads.

The report sets out recommendations for the government to ensure it makes policy and investment decisions that enable the UK to receive maximum economic and safety benefits from autonomous vehicles.

IAM RoadSmart also added that there is widespread concern from the charity's members about the ease with which a driverless car could be hacked ([reference 1](#)) – with research showing there are many places security could be breached in a modern vehicle on sale today ([reference 2](#)).

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart director of policy and research, said: "When it comes to driverless cars, IAM RoadSmart members are not keen to give up full control and are also very concerned about hacking, so we welcome the House of Lords Technology Committee's view that cyber security is an important issue.

#### Mersey Tunnel Walk Sat 25th March



Intrepid Group and family members relax after negotiating 600 steps as part of the Queens (Birkenhead) Tunnel Walk!

#### Congratulations



Well done to Andrew Appleton for passing the IAM RoadSmart National Observer Test



**You are cordially invited to the  
St Helens Group of Advanced Motorists  
Annual General Meeting**

**to be held on Thursday 8th June 2017  
8pm at the ibis Styles Hotel, Haydock, St. Helens**

**Guest Speaker:  
Mr. Paul Mountford,  
Recently retired from Merseyside Police**

**Prompt start! *Bring a friend!***

**NOMINATION FOR 2017/2018 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (full name in capitals)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

wish to be elected to the following position:-

\*Chairman                      \*Vice-Chairman                      \*Secretary

\*Treasurer                      \*General Committee. Member                      \*Other (specify)

*\*delete as appropriate*

**Proposer** (full name in capitals)      **Secunder** (full name in capitals)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)      \_\_\_\_\_



## Group Annual General Meeting

ibis Styles Hotel, 4 Galway Crescent Piele Road Haydock, St. Helens WA11 0GR



### **NOMINATION FOR 2017/2018 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE**

N.B. The Nominee, Proposer and Secunder must be **full** members of the St Helens Group.

Nominations **must** be **submitted** to the Group Secretary, Mr John Matthews, by **Thursday 25th May 2017**

Please e-mail John to register your Nomination  
secretary@shgam.org.uk

or call the Group Chairman, Mark Farnworth  
on 07929 978788

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