



# Newsletter ~ August 2017

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

## Chair's Remarks

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

Thanks to all who attended the AGM in June. It was nice to catch up with some of the long established members and welcome some new members to the AGM. The Mayor of St. Helens, Councillor Joe Pearson and the Mayoress, Mrs Silvia Pearson attended the AGM and the Mayor was kind enough to Chair the meeting. Both the Mayor and Mayoress were very appreciative of the work that the Group does.

New Committee members Anita Clift and Tom Field were formerly elected at the AGM. Anita is now our Membership Secretary and Tom is our Vice-Chairman and Publicity Co-ordinator.

I'd like to offer my own congratulations to Anita Clift, Jim Cunliffe and Oliver Fullerton who respectively won the Associate of the Year, Driver of the Year and Observer of the Year competitions.

Well, here we go again, a new Group

year! The Group is in a great position going forward. Due to prudent money management our financial position is sound. All of our 16 Observers are now Institute of Motor Industry (IMI) qualified; we have a new, fully functional, IAM branded website; we have streamlined our administration processes and are enjoying very well attended Advanced Driver courses. All is good but I know from experience that we can't rest on our laurels. Therefore, we have new initiatives in the pipeline to engage young drivers and raise awareness of IAM RoadSmart and the Group.

The 'perseverance' mentality is a strength of the Group. It's particularly pleasing that some of our Associates also persevere to improve their driving; doing more than one course, being re-tested to try and get a F1RST and re-taking the test following an unfortunate failure. Well done to everyone for your commitment to improve the standing of the Group and your personal driving skills.

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



St. Helens Group website

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

### Contacts:

contact@shgam.org.uk  
07849 674939 (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](#)

## Farewell to Pistons: IAM RoadSmart blog

The government has given a signal to the car industry that it wants to end all sales of petrol and diesel only cars by 2040. Technically this is perfectly feasible – it doesn't exclude hybrid vehicles and the industry has 23 years' notice. Volvo has already committed itself to this as a policy from 2020.

There are technical challenges for the car makers, but none are hard to overcome. There are already lots of hybrids on the market from virtually every manufacturer, pure electric cars are a small but significant part of sales and battery technology is improving in leaps and bounds. Charging points are

spreading and, more importantly, charging technology is improving as quickly as battery technology. The industry will introduce more and more electric and hybrid vehicles and I suspect from about 2025 or 2030 at the latest, no more purely piston engine cars will be launched. New cars will just be hybrid or battery (or hydrogen) and the industry will make them as desirable and affordable as piston engine cars are today. Most people keep a car for about 3 years, whether they buy new or used. By 2040, most non-electric cars will be at least 10 to 15 years old and buying electric or hybrid will be as normal as choosing petrol or diesel today.

Charging all these cars will be an issue, but not a particularly difficult one if we get some decision making by government, power companies and the national grid.

A more difficult challenge is persuading us to trust the electricity companies to get it right. Most of us have wasted hours on the phone to a vast utility company, trying to sort out billing errors or get some apparently simple change made. Will I really trust them to have my car charged when I want to go to work, or will I claim that I need it charged by 10 pm, just to be on the safe side?

**Tim Shallcross**, IAM RoadSmart's head of technical policy and advice



## Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to Andrew Heaton, Stephen Cople, Christopher Parle, Paul Heaton and Catherine Dutton on their recent Test Passes.

Andrew, Christopher and Stephen also achieved the IAM First.

The course which has just ended has been very busy for everyone. On some Sundays, we have had as many as thirteen Associates present. I must thank them for this as most have come back each week. I must also thank the Observers whose attendance has been excellent. We have also done quite a few Assessment Drives, so hopefully we should have good Course numbers in September.

Thanks must also go to Jeff Mather, who took the *Meet the Examiner* Evening. Jeff gave a very thorough explanation of what the IAM Test is all about and how it is marked. Jeff also put everyone at ease. If Associates did on Test what they did on Sunday mornings, which was a drive that was safe, systematic, progressive and smooth, then they would pass.

Those of you who have passed the Test might be wondering what happens next. If you want to know about Observing, then have a talk with Ken Nevitt, who will explain how Observers are trained and assessed. If you would like to know more about the Training Support

Team, then see Phil Sharples or Kay Heppenstall. If you would like to be involved in any other capacity, then see Mark Farnworth.

Of course, some of you may decide to leave us. If that is the case, then we wish you well. However, you will still be welcome to attend any of our social functions as long as you remain a Member of the Group.

It is now time for our Summer Break. However, it won't be long before we are back in September!

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

## Notice Board

### Competition winners:



**Associate of the Year**  
Anita Clift  
(presented by the Mayor)



**Driver of the Year**  
Jim Cunliffe (left)  
(presented by Ken Nevitt)



**Observer of the Year**  
Oliver Fullerton (right)  
(presented by Mark Farnworth)

### AGM 8th June 2017

The Mayor of St. Helens, Councillor Joe Pearson and the Mayoress, Mrs Silvia Pearson with Group Chairman Mark Farnworth (right) and Group Secretary John Matthews.



### Welcome to a new Associate

A belated welcome to Alica Moore who joined our Spring Advanced Driver course (was not mentioned in the June Newsletter)

### Morecambe Bay Walk

Saturday 19th August

An opportunity to take part in one of the guided walks across Morecambe Bay.

See website or contact Kay Heppenstall for more information.

### Observer Recognition Awards

2017 is IAM RoadSmart's 'Year of the Observer'. Badges have been provided to recognise Observers preparing 10, 25, 50 or 100 Associates for the Advanced Driving Test. The following awards were made, from left to right: Phil Sharples (25), Ken Nevitt (50), Tom Field (10), Jim Cunliffe (100), Mark Farnworth (100), Alan Prescott (100), Frank Rigby (25).

