



Newsletter ~ August 2018

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.

As this is my first Newsletter since taking over as Group Chair, I thought I'd give you a bit of background about me and my involvement with SHGAM.

Born and raised in St Helens, I joined as an Associate for the September course in 2011, taking my test (and achieving a FIRST) in the November. I then trained and became an Observer with the Group.

Unfortunately, at that point, life intervened and I was sent to work in Northampton for a couple of years. I returned to the Northwest, moving to Manchester. I set about becoming part of the Group again, although of

course having to re-train as a now Local Observer.

I joined the Committee in November 2016 and soon afterwards was appointed and subsequently elected as Vice-Chairman at the AGM in 2017. I was asked this year by Mark if I would be willing to step up to being Chair (I think he deserves a break after seven years of hard work!).

Given the level of enthusiasm, warmth and dedication exhibited by everyone I've met who have been associated with SHGAM, I felt comfortable to step up and contribute to the direction of the Group at a time when driving standards and safe driving are arguably as important and essential as they've ever been

(although, I'm not going to lie, I was equally very nervous!)

I am proud to be leading a Group which is consistently high performing, with an ongoing high pass rate, a healthy number of FIRSTs and an excellent attitude to road safety. Long may it continue!

Thank you to all those who attended our recent AGM and congratulations to Kate Riley, Jeff Fishwick and Mark Farnworth for respectively winning the Associate, Driver and Observer of the Year competitions.

Here's to your continued safe, systematic driving!

Tom Field
Group Chairman



St. Helens Group website

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More Information (click links)

[Spring and Autumn Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

Sunglasses: A shady business - IAM RoadSmart blog

The sky's blue, sun is shining and the snow, fog and rain are a distant memory. It's time to get the shades on and celebrate the great British summer. But hold on a minute - those shades might make you look cooler than an ice box, but are they OK for driving? Are sunglasses a boon or burden for the safe driver?

Did you know about the EU standards for sunglasses?

There is an EU standard for sunglasses, ensuring

the frames are reasonably strong and sweat resistant and the lenses are shatterproof, scratch resistant and give good protection against harmful ultra-violet light.

Any which show the CE mark (and any sold in the EU should have it) should come up to the standards, but they are also graded into five categories - 0 to 4 - to show how dark the tint is, or more specifically, how much visible light they let through.

What categories of sunglasses are there?

Category 0 specs allow 80% to 100% of visible light through and are fine for driving at any time. Categories 1, 2 and 3 are progressively darker tints, shielding against brighter levels of sunshine, and while they are all fine for daylight driving, none of them should be worn if you're driving at night. The darkest is category 4, which lets just 3% to 8% of the light through. These are very dark, like ski goggles. They are so dark that they should not be used for driving at any time, and category 4

sunglasses must be labelled as unsuitable for driving.

Where can I find this information?

Sunglasses on sale in shops such as chemists or opticians do have the label and are marked with the category - normally on the arm. However, online shoppers beware; a look through several shopping websites revealed that very few sellers display the tint category or any symbol, so you have no way of telling whether the glasses are suitable for driving until they arrive.

[More information](#)



Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to Valerie Cunningham and Andrew Farrimond on their recent Test Passes. Both achieved the IAM First which means a great Test performance from both.

Congratulations also to Kate Riley who won the Associate of the Year Trophy and also to Mark Farnworth and Jeff Fishwick who won Observer of the Year and Driver of the Year trophies respectively.

The recent Course was a very busy one with the number of Associates reaching double figures on several occasions. Thankfully, we also had excellent attendances from the Observers so were able to cope each

week.

As we also had four promotions, we have had a lot of Assessment Drives to do; these are still ongoing as I write. Hopefully we should have a good number joining us for the September Course.

I must also thank Oliver Fullerton, who took the Meet The Examiner Evening. Oliver gave an excellent explanation of what the IAM is all about and how the Test Drive is marked. He also put everyone at ease by assuring that if their drive was safe, systematic, smooth and progressive, then they would pass.

When you have passed the Test,

you might wonder what to do next. If you are considering Observing, then speak to Ken Nevitt. If you would like to know about the Training Support Team, then see Kay Heppenstall or Phil Sharples. If you wish to be involved in any other way then speak to the Chairman, Tom Field. Whether you become involved or not you are most welcome to attend any of our Social functions.

Finally, enjoy the Summer break. September isn't too far away.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Congratulations to:

Valerie Cunningham
Andrew Farrimond
for passing the Advanced Driving Test.
Both received an IAM F1RST which is a fantastic achievement.

Test Certificate Presentations at the AGM



Associates who passed the Advanced Test in the past year (left to right: Kate Riley (Associate of the Year), David Hickman and Pam Boffey) are shown with Deputy Mayor Councillor Janet Johnson and Group Chair Tom Field (centre) at the AGM on the 7th June.

Driver of the Year Jeff Fishwick



Observer of the Year Mark Farnworth



Star Performer Award



After having stepped down as Chairman, new Vice-Chairman Mark Farnworth received an IAMRoadSmart Star Performer Award from Deputy Mayor Councillor Janet Johnson at the AGM on the 7th June. The award was one of two presented at a recent regional meeting by Steve Ellis, the Northern (Area 6) Service Delivery Manager. Mark received the award for his work with the Group's [Young Driver Scheme](#) and for leading the Group's involvement in a national trial of "Group sign-off".

Morcambe Bay Walk

Saturday 18th August

Arnside Promenade at 10.20am (at the Ashmeadow area at the end of the car park) in preparation for the walk which starts at 10.45am.

The walk is approximately 8 to 10 miles and we are likely to be wading through water up to knee height at times. Having completed the walk we will get a bus back to the starting point.

Group Events

Contact Kay Heppenstall if you plan to attend any Group events.

07849 674393 (after 6pm)
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