



Newsletter ~ August 2019

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



Chair's Remarks

Hello everyone and welcome to the August edition of the newsletter. It appears we're having weather extremes of late, going from the hottest day on record to flooding in the space of less than a week! British weather is nothing if not unpredictable!

These sudden variations are something we as advanced motorists still need to allow for however, especially when it comes to the affect that hot weather followed by sudden downpours can have on the road surface and therefore the amount of grip available.

Many thanks to those of you who attended our AGM. The evening went seamlessly thanks in part to the excellent job the Mayor of St. Helens,

Councillor Janet Johnson, did of chairing the meeting. My thanks to her and also to the members of the committee who put in a lot of hard work behind the scenes to ensure the evening goes off without a hitch.

Congratulations also to Mark Farnworth, Ken Nevitt and Andrew Farrimond for becoming Driver of the Year, Observer of the Year and Associate of the Year respectively. Special mention also goes to our Associate Coordinator Alan Prescott, who's longstanding dedication to the Group was also recognised at the AGM.

Whilst I'm extending congratulations, I'd like to congratulate all the Associates who have recently passed their test.

Their hard work and dedication has paid off.

Our Autumn/Winter course gets underway shortly (Course Introduction is on Sunday 8th September). If you know of anyone who would be interested (especially if they can take advantage of our wonderful discounts on offer for drivers aged 17-35 and drivers aged 60+) then please put them in touch with us.

That's all from me. I hope you all enjoy the rest of your Summer and that the upcoming bank holidays are sunny days!

Here's to your continued safe and systematic driving

Tom Field,
Group Chairman

St. Helens Group website

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More Information (click links)

[Spring Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

Do you carry these items in your car - IAM blog

Phone and charger

Turn your phone to silent and place it in the glove box to avoid temptation to use it whilst driving. Ensure you remember a charger for any emergencies.

First aid kit

You never know when you might need a first aid kit. You may need yourself or you may be able to help another road user if you're the first on scene at an accident. So, keep one in the boot of your car just in case.

Empty fuel can

Carry an empty fuel can with you. DO NOT carry a full or partially full one as this can be a fire hazard if it's recently had fuel in.

Warm clothes/blanket/high vis

We recommend keeping a blanket and some warm clothes in your car. The last thing you want is to be cold whilst broken down on the side of the road. Ensure you wear a high visibility jacket.

Food and drink

Don't forget to bring some snacks and water to keep your energy

levels up, always carry a bottle of water when driving.

Jump leads

Your car battery can go flat at any time and can be a worry when your car won't start. Make sure you keep a set of jump leads in your car.

Shoes

Now, this may sound silly but keep a pair of comfortable/sensible shoes in your car. You never know when you're going to breakdown, and where for that matter. You may need to assess your car

in the typical English weather.

Warning triangle

An item that is regularly overlooked is the reflective warning triangle. Highway Code rule 274 says you should "put a warning triangle on the road at least 45 metres (147 feet) behind your broken-down vehicle on the same side of the road, or use other permitted warning devices if you have them.

Richard Gladman, head of driving and riding standards, IAM RoadSmart



Associate Coordinator's Corner

I must begin by thanking everyone who contributed to the magnificent present I received on the night of our recent AGM, commemorating my twenty-five years as Associate Coordinator. It is no exaggeration to say I was overwhelmed by your generosity which I will remember for a very long time.

Now I must give my congratulations to Mark Farnworth, Ken Nevitt and Andrew Farrimond who won Driver of the Year, Observer of the Year and Associate of the Year respectively.

By now, most of our Associates will have either taken the Test, be about to take the Test, or have for various reasons decided to return in September. I hope that those of you who have taken the Test got

the result that you wanted. If you didn't, then do consider reapplying to take it again. The Examiner will have given you the reason(s) why you did not pass. If you only need one or two Runs to put it right, then contact me and I will arrange them. If you need more, then it may be best to return in September.

If you are about to take the Test, then remember that if your drive can be described as safe, systematic, smooth and progressive, then you will pass. You will have heard many times that the biggest single cause of Test failure is breaking the speed limit; ensure that you are not added to that particular list.

If you are not ready for Test and will need quite a few more Runs,

then you simply return in September. The first Sunday of the new Course is the 8th of September.

Those of you who have passed the Test may be wondering what to do next. If you are considering Observing, then speak to Ken Nevitt. If you would like to know more about the Training Support Team, then see Kay Heppenstall. If you wish to be involved in anything else, then speak to Tom Field, our Chairman. Whether you continue to be involved with the Group or not, remember you will always be welcome to attend any of our Social functions.

Finally, enjoy the Summer break.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Advanced Driver Course

Starts Sunday 8th September

10am, ibis hotel, Haydock

Social Event

Visit to the Hack Green secret Nuclear Bunker

Saturday 31st August

Congratulations

Associate of the Year

Andrew Farrimond

Observer of Year

Ken Nevitt

Driver of the Year

Mark Farnworth

Congratulations to:

Rozana Whiteley

Nigel Morley

Jose Cabrita

on their recent Advanced Driving Test passes

A particular well done to Rozana and Jose who both achieved the IAM F1rst.

New National Observer

Congratulations to Tom Field who has become an Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) qualified IAM RoadSmart National Observer.

Well done Tom. All your hard work has paid off.



Alan Prescott

25 years as the Group's Associate Co-ordinator



In recognition of Alan Prescott (left) being the Group's Associate Co-ordinator for 25 years, Group Secretary John Matthews presented Alan with a gift as token of the Group's appreciation at the AGM on the 13th June 2019.