



Newsletter ~ December 2016

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



Chair's Remarks

Hello everybody and welcome to the December edition of the Newsletter. Well, here we are, at the end of another busy year that has seen many changes within the IAM and SHGAM.

A major event was the rebranding of the IAM to IAMRoadSmart in April. This resulted in a number of changes to how we operate, the more obvious changes being new IAM-RoadSmart clothing for our Observer team, new IAMRoadSmart booklets for both Observers and Associates and a new IAMRoadSmart Group website. These are exciting times for the IAM and it's group network and I'm sure that further changes will be occurring next year.

Our main aim continues

to be the provision of three Advanced Driving Courses per year, each being 8 to 10 weeks in length and comprised of both in-car training and classroom sessions. The Committee and Observers have worked exceptionally hard to deliver new material and to find ways of engaging with members of the public.

Sue Hunt has decided to step down from the committee after 15 years service to the Group as both an Observer and Committee member. In recognition of Sue's service the Committee unanimously agreed to appoint Sue as an Honorary Member.

Anita Clift and Tom Field have been co-opted onto the Committee. Tom is a Local Observer for the Group and Anita has

*Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!*

recently started Local Observer Training. Their co-option gets the Committee back to full strength following the departure of Sue and Marilyn Waugh earlier this year. In addition, Julie brown has transferred the 'Group Contact' role to Kay Heppenstall. Julie continues as Membership Secretary.

It just remains for me to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**Mark Farnworth,
Group Chairman**

St. Helens Group website

www.shgam.org.uk

Contacts:

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

editor@shgam.org.uk

More Information (click links)

[Winter 2017 Course Programme](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

Everything you wanted to know about driving but were afraid to ask! IAM RoadSmart launches new bite-size safety sessions ([News release 30/11/16](#))

IAM RoadSmart has announced the pilot of a range of bite-size safer driving modules for private drivers. These shorter courses address six specific driving needs:

- Driving on motorways
- Driving on rural roads
- Driving on urban roads
- Vehicle management
- Overtaking
- Confined space manoeuvring

They have been created as one-off one-to-one sessions which last be-

tween one and two hours, enabling drivers to brush up on a particular area of concern. All of these modules are conducted by IAM RoadSmart's advanced driving experts in the customer's own vehicle.

IAM RoadSmart is offering this comprehensive range of individual one-off courses, to satisfy consumer demand. The themes of these modules are based on extensive research the charity has conducted over the last year, including its existing members

(currently over 92,000) and more than 7,000 non-members. This work includes eight customer focus groups, a survey with Mumsnet and Gransnet, and 6,000 drivers age 40 and under.

Sarah Sillars OBE, IAM RoadSmart chief executive officer, said: "Currently, the majority of drivers do not undertake any further training after they pass their driving test. But like any skill, driving should be regularly developed.

What we have done is to make post-test, on-road learning as easy and accessible as possible by addressing the areas drivers tell us they would like extra help with.

We know that people have little spare time in our fast-paced society and what we have come up with offers great flexibility and a chance to be a more confident and safer driver in a way that fits into their lives."

The modules will be launched in early in 2017.



Associate Coordinator's Corner

I would like to begin by thanking our Observers for their support on this Course. It has not been an easy one due to the small number of Associates.

However, the Associates that we have had have attended on a regular basis and, as I am writing this before I know anyone's Test results, I hope they got the Pass that they deserve. Whatever the result, the Examiner will have given a very thorough debrief. We do catch up with the written report eventually but if the Examiner said anything to you that you think we should know,

please tell us.

In an attempt to increase the number of Associates, we have had a presence at two events aimed at the older road user. One was at the World of Glass in St Helens, and the other was in Huyton. At both of these events, Jim Cunliffe gave excellent presentations which have resulted in us doing several Assessment Drives. Naturally we hope that some of these will result in an increased number of Associates in January.

If you have passed the Test and

would like to know what you can do next, then please see Ken Nevitt or Mark Farnworth, or me. If you are leaving us, then remember that you will still be welcome at any social functions we have. If you have not got the result you wanted or perhaps have not yet taken the Test, then we will continue to support you.

Finally, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

National IAMRoadSmart Breaking News

23rd Nov 2016

Group News: Oliver is SHGAM's high flyer



Well done to Oliver Fullerton of St Helens and District Group of Advanced Motorists (SHGAM) who at the age of 23 is now an IAM RoadSmart examiner.

Oliver joined SHGAM in January 2014 and passed his advanced driving test in March that year. He became qualified as an Observer in September 2015 and a National Observer in July the following year. Not satisfied with this, he then gained his Masters with distinction in September and in October passed his Commercial Test with a F1RST.

IAM Surety adopts a zero tolerance policy towards penalty points for mobile phone usage whilst driving

The risk of using mobile phones while driving has been very prominent in the media recently, following the tragic quadruple fatality caused by an HGV driver using a phone at the wheel. From this point forward our insurer, IAM Surety, will be unable to offer our exclusive 'members only' insurance scheme to any members who obtain points for using a phone while driving. This will be a permanent exclusion.

Best wishes

Sue Hunt, stalwart Observer and Committee Member has decided to step down from the Committee and cease being an active member of the Group after 15 years of faithful service. Sue passed the Advanced Driving Test in 2001 after which she became an Observer. Sue was the Group Secretary for six years. We wish Sue well for the future and look forward to seeing her at our social events.

Congratulations to

Richard Ridyard
Gerry Stubbs

On passing the advanced driving test. Both achieved an IAM F1RST.

In the News

Drivers warned about thieves using key lock jammers at M-way services

Drivers using motorway services are being warned to check their cars are secure after a spate of thefts believed to be linked to technology that stops them remotely locking. Thames Valley Police said there had been 14 recent thefts from cars at motorway services in Berkshire and, in many cases, there was "no obvious sign of a break-in and no damage caused to the vehicles as items were stolen from them". It is believed that thieves may have used radio jammers, which can interrupt signals sent by a remote key, to plunder the vehicles undetected.

Items such as a laptop, suitcase, wallets and luggage had been stolen during the break-ins, and police have advised motorists to do a manual check before leaving their car unattended. Investigating officer, Sergeant Alan Hawkett of Newbury Police Station, said: "I strongly recommend that any members of the public visiting motorway services stations anywhere in the country keep all valuable items in their possession when away from their vehicle. "Offenders may be using technology to prevent your vehicle from locking therefore we would advise a manual check of the doors before leaving your vehicle."

By Alex Patrikios,
Press Association