

Newsletter ~ February 2017

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

Chair's Remarks

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

The New Year has got off to a fantastic start with 12 Associates enrolled onto our Winter RoadSmart Advanced Driver Course which started in January. Welcome to you all and I'm sure you will enjoy the Course.

At previously reported, at the December Committee meeting Tom Field and Anita Clift were co-opted onto the Committee. This gave us an opportunity to re-assess Committee roles and led to the following changes that were approved at the January Committee Meeting.

Tom Field is now the

Vice-Chair of the Group, taking over from Ken Nevitt. Tom was also appointed to the new role of Publicity Co-ordinator.

Anita Clift is now the Membership Secretary, taking over from Julie Brown who has stepped down from the Committee.

Kay Heppenstall, in addition to her roles as Group Contact and Events Co-ordinator, has taken on the new role of Recruitment Co-ordinator.

I'd like to extend my best wishes to Tom, Anita and Kay in their new roles and to thank Julie for the diligent work that she has done as Membership Secretary and Group Contact over the last few years. Best wishes for the future.

Plans are in place for recruitment activities for our May Course. We will be in the entrance of ASDA, St. Helens late morning and into the afternoon on Saturday 4th March and we will be giving a talk to members of the St. Helens Rotary Club on Monday 3rd April. If you have other ideas for recruitment Activities, please get in touch. Remember that we offer discounts to both young drivers under 35 and to less young drivers over 60! See the [discounts](#) page on the website for more information.

Well, that's it from me. Save driving and good observing.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman



St. Helens Group website

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More Information (click links)

[Winter and Spring 2017 Course dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

Saving fuel: Tips from IAM RoadSmart

Saving money will most definitely be on the agenda for many this year but many neglect the expenses that derive from your vehicle. This week's tips give advice on saving fuel, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

Try to keep your driving smooth, gentle acceleration and using the highest safe gear will use less fuel. Ease off the accelerator early for traffic lights if they are red; why hurry up to wait?

Try to avoid driving during the rush hour. Stopping and starting in traffic needs the use of the first gear and a lot of fuel is dispensed to get the vehicle moving again

Keep your tyres well maintained at the correct pressures, when they are due for replacement there are brands which are designed for extra economy which may be worth considering.

Get rid of unnecessary weight. Cars work just like the human body, your body needs more energy

to more around more weight and so does your car, take heavy items out of the car if you don't need to carry them. A roof rack or roof box will increase drag and you will use more fuel to overcome this; remove it if it is not being used.

Stop the constant back and forth. During this winter season as your engine is trying to warm up it uses more fuel for the first four miles or so. Your engine stays cold when you drive less than two miles and your car

will produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm engine – avoid these short journeys where possible.

Turn off the air-conditioning, it will be working overtime and it uses extra fuel. When the rear window is cleared turn off the rear screen heater, the more electricity your car has to produce the more fuel it will use.

Keep your speed 'low'. It sounds pretty standard but driving faster uses more fuel, you can reduce fuel consumption by up to 25 per cent.



Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to Richard Ridyard and Gerry Stubbs on their recent Test Passes, with both of them achieving the IAM First.

Welcome to Catherine Dutton, William Heyes, Pamela Boffey, Adam Hope, Molly Keaton, William Rickerby, Sue Austin, Dimitri Gardikiotis and Thomas McGuire, all of whom have recently joined the Group.

Clearly our Observers are going to be very busy in the coming weeks. I would like to wish all our Associates every success as they work their way through the Course. It is inevitable that you will have something to work on, particularly the

new material that is presented to you. I would also encourage you to attend the classroom sessions. You are bound to learn a lot from these and there will always be an opportunity to ask questions. You will also realise that others are having the same problems as you are. We are very fortunate as a Group, in that two of our Observers, Lee Westhead and Oliver Fullerton, are also IAM Examiners. They will not be taking your Tests, but will certainly be able to answer any questions you may have. Lee will also be taking the Meet The Examiner Evening, when he will explain everything about the IAM Test and how it is marked. He will tell you exactly

what is expected by Examiners.

Over 90% of those we present for Test pass first time. The biggest cause of Test failure is breaking the law, particularly speed limits. Places where speed limit signs are hard to spot include just before and just after roundabouts and also just after a junction. It is all about Observation, which is what we will focus on each week.

If you do have any problems or are confused about anything, then let me know.

Alan Prescott
Associate Co-ordinator

Notice Board

Welcome to

- Lesley Marriott
- Catherine Dutton
- Will Heyes
- Adam Hope
- Molly Keaton
- Pam Boffey
- June Soo
- William Rickerby
- Dimitri Gardikioti
- Sue Austin
- Thomas Mcquire
- Paul Burgess

who have joined our Winter Advanced Driver Course, starting in January

New Vice-Chair and Publicity Co-ordinator



Tom Field

New Membership Secretary



Anita Clift

Congratulations



Well done to Alan Phillips for passing the IAM RoadSmart National Observer Test

In the News

Car and smartphone makers must come up with an answer to hand-held mobile phone dangers, says IAM RoadSmart

Posted 5th January

Road safety charity IAM RoadSmart has renewed its calls for car makers and smartphone manufacturers to work with the government to develop a technological solution to distracted drivers – saying that simply hoping that drivers will 'do the right thing' is not enough.

The call comes as Department of Transport Ministers plans to meet mobile phone manufacturers this month to hammer out proposals to tackle the growing issue of people interacting with their smartphones at the wheel.

This is in addition to the government announcing last November that anyone caught using a hand-held mobile phone while at the wheel of a car would be fined £200 and receive six points on their licence – a doubling of the existing penalty.

The issue was brought into sharp focus with the jailing of Tomasz Kroker for 10 years in October 2016. Kroker killed a mother and three children last August when he was distracted by changing music on his smartphone and ploughed into a line of stationary traffic in his lorry.

Winter Course Introduction Evening

Thursday 5th January

