



# Newsletter ~ June 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.

The year really is flying by, with summer (allegedly) in full swing. I hope you all enjoyed the recent bank holidays (even if they weren't as sunny as many hoped).

The Spring / Summer Course is now well underway. A warm welcome to all our new Associates who've joined us for this course and welcome back to those returning from the last course.

The Observer team has seen some changes lately. Firstly, we have had long-serving Observers, Frank Rigby and Steve Taylor, hang up their clipboards. I'd like to, both personally and

on behalf of the group, extend my thanks for the hard work and dedication they have shown. Their input and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

We've also had a change of Lead National Observer, with Lee Westhead stepping down from the position and Mark Farnworth stepping up to fill the role. Many thanks to Lee for his input and dedication to the Group as Lead National Observer, his input has been invaluable; and congratulations to Mark, who I'm sure will relish the role.

We have also seen some changes to our committee, with Frank Rigby stepping down. Again, both personally and on behalf of the Group, I

extend my thanks to Frank for his input on the committee; he will be missed.

Speaking of committees, our Annual General Meeting is coming up on 13th June at the Ibis hotel, starting at 8pm prompt. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

That's all from me, I hope you all enjoy the arrival of summer and the (hopefully) better weather!

Here's to your continued safe and systematic driving.

**Tom Field**  
**Group Chairman**



St. Helens Group website

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

### Contacts:

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editor@shgam.org.uk

### **More Information** (click links)

[Spring Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

## Festival driving: tips from IAM RoadSmart

The festival season is here which means a lot of us will be climbing over dusty boxes and making our way through the shed like it's some kind of assault course to get to our camping gear.

### **Choose a designated driver**

If this is you, make sure you set the rules from the beginning. Are you going to allow your friends to drink alcohol in your vehicle? Bear in mind that their behaviour could attract the authorities to you. Would a car smelling of alcohol be the best

thing for you? Could you get peer pressured to having "just one drink" with friends? We recommend for the driver and passenger to not drink any alcohol in the vehicle – **not even one**. Why not wait until you're at the festival so you can party together?

### **Planning your trip**

Do you know where you're going? Have you taken into account the likelihood of traffic? Looking at the route of your journey and the time it takes beforehand gives you a chance to determine how many breaks you need and

where you can stop off.

### **Have you pre-booked parking?**

The last thing you want to do is to get to your destination and stress over finding a parking space. Pre-planning your parking spot will save you this hassle. If you're parking in a field, make sure you check the weather – the last thing you want is to go back to a water-logged field with your wheels stuck in the mud!

**Leave your car alone**  
You've been at the festival for a few hours and

the party has started. It's getting a bit chilly but you've left your jacket in your car. Do you go and get it? No, not if you've been drinking alcohol. Even if you're not in the driver's seat but still accessing your vehicle, you could be charged for accessing your vehicle when over the prescribed limit.

### **Packing up the morning after**

Are you fit to drive? Have you had enough sleep? Do you have enough energy and has the alcohol from the night before left your system?



## Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to Anthony Gallagher who recently passed the IAM Test and achieved the First. Welcome to our new Associates; Maria Kolokatrone, John Kolokatrone, Christine Billinge, Kathy Higgins, Katherine Bates, Naomi Davies, and Julian Raffay, who have recently joined the Group.

Also, welcome back to Sophie Fairhurst who joined us toward the end of the previous Course. It is also a case of welcome back to Michael Egan, Nigel Morley, Rozanna Whitely and Jose Cabriati.

If I have missed out anyone then I do apologise.

I would like to thank our Observers, many of whom have been prepared

to do a Run at 9.30am and another one later in the morning.

I hope everyone enjoys the Course and I wish you every success. Remember that if your Test Drive can be described as safe, systematic, smooth and progressive, then you will pass. Included within the 'safe' aspect of the Test is legality. You cannot break the law and expect to pass any Driving Test, including the IAM Test. For the last sixteen months we have had at least one person fail for breaking the speed limit. Make sure it does not happen to you. Every time you go on a new road throughout the Test, ask yourself 'Is there a change of speed limit?' Systematic means quite simply driving to the System. You will find that if you get your speed on approach to hazards

correct, then everything else should fall into place. If your speed on approach is incorrect, then it won't.

As long as you put into practice what you are told each week, then you should be able to reach the required standard and then it is a case of producing that standard on the Test Day itself. However, if should be of some comfort to you to know that since the Group began in 1985, we have had 655 Passes and only 64 Fails. This is a Pass rate of about 91%. Last year it did fall below that to around 70%, the reason as I said earlier was breaking the speed limit. Make sure it doesn't happen to you.

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

## Notice Board

### Advanced Driver Course

**Meet an Examiner Evening**  
Monday 17th June, 8 to 9pm,  
Millennium Centre,  
St. Helens Town Centre

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13th June, ibis Styles Hotel  
8pm prompt start

### New Observer

Congratulations to Valerie Cunningham who has completed her Observer Training with the Group and is being registered with the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) to become an approved IAM RoadSmart Local Observer.



### Welcome

Welcome to Maria Kolokatrone, John Kolokatrone, Christine Billinge, Kathy Higgins, Katherine Bates, Naomi Davies, and Julian Raffay who have recently joined our Spring / Summer Course.

**Tom Field**  
**St. Helens Group Chairman**

### Thank you and best wishes

Steven Taylor has decided to hang up his clipboard and stop being an Observer due to family and work commitments. The Chairman and Committee would like to thank Steven for his service to the Group over the last few years and wish him well for the future.



### Website and Facebook updates

Website development continues and it is my aim to make finding information by visitors, general members, Associates and Observers as easy as possible. On the [Group Membership](#) page I've added the following.

- a link to the current and previous versions of the [RoadSmart magazine](#)

- a link to the new [Member Benefits](#) website.

You can get to the Group Membership page by clicking [Quick find](#) on the Home page or clicking [About Us](#) followed by [Group Information](#).

If you have any suggestions for website improvement then let me know. Also, take a look at our [Facebook posts](#) and 'like' the page if you would like to receive regular updates on your Facebook timeline.

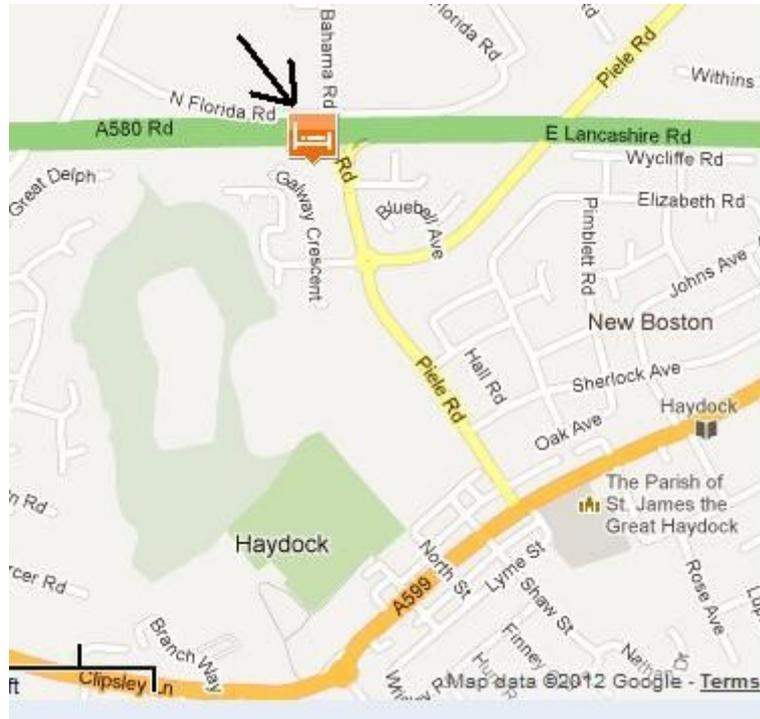
**Mark Farnworth**





## Group Annual General Meeting

ibis Styles Hotel, 4 Galway Crescent Piele Road Haydock, St. Helens WA11 0GR



### **NOMINATION FOR 2019/2020 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE**

N.B. The Nominee, Proposer and Secunder must be **full** members of the St Helens Group.

Nominations **must** be **submitted** to the Group Secretary, Mr John Matthews, by **Thursday 30th May 2019**

Please e-mail John to register your Nomination. Send via [editor@shgam.org.uk](mailto:editor@shgam.org.uk) or complete the on-line [Committee Nomination Form](#).

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