



# Newsletter ~ October 2016

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



## Chair's Remarks

Hello everybody and welcome to the October Newsletter.

As I mentioned to you earlier this year the committee and I have been considering whether the existing Newsletter format is fit for purpose taking into account costs of production and the now ready availability of large amounts of information on our and the IAM RoadSmart websites.

It is recognised that a minority of the Group members don't have access to the internet so in order not to disenfranchise these members we will continue to post the Newsletter to them.

The Newsletter will be two pages, highlighting what the group has been doing, what it plans to do

and will contain selected articles from the IAM RoadSmart website. All Group members will continue to be informed about Group activities via these bi-monthly Newsletters.

For those with internet access then the links on the right hand side of this page will take you to static information on our website such as course dates and our driving tips as well as current information on the **IAM RoadSmart website** such as News Releases.

The previous format of our bi-monthly newsletter had produced problems of its own over the years. - when an Associate passed the test it may have been two months before this information was passed on to the

wider membership. This has frequently been mentioned by Alan in his Associate Co-ordinators report.

- when events were planned we had to be looking ahead about three months in order to ensure the information was put into the Newsletter.

To overcome these issues additional ad-hoc Newsletters will be sent, when necessary, to the 90% of the members for which we have e-mail addresses. The focus will be about communicating current information about the Group in a potentially speedier way to its members. I hope you enjoy the new format.

**Mark Farnworth,**  
**Group Chairman**

St. Helens Group website  
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### **More Information** (click links)

**[Autumn 2016 Course Programme](#)**

**[Up and coming events](#)**

**[SHGAM News](#)**

**[IAM News Releases](#)**

**[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)**

**[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)**

## **Distraction: the enemy of action (blog posted 29th Sept)**

The daily commute can often get repetitive and could tempt you to look to your car for entertainment. A favourite song may come to mind or even the thought of calling someone from a hand held mobile phone to pass time. Here are some driving tips to avoid distractions from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

- Most crashes actually happen close to home, so ensure familiarity does not breed contempt by

keeping your focus. Glancing away from the road ahead even for a few seconds can make you miss that vital clue of a dangerous situation developing

- Multi-tasking is a myth - even the shortest phone call or text is taking your attention away from the road, so talking on the phone whilst driving is a big 'no'. Even though you may have devices in place such as bluetooth headsets or hand free these can be very distracting and we recommend not using devices such as these. If you

can't stop yourself using the smartphone put it in the boot!

- Avoid smoking when driving. It is very easy for hot ash to get everywhere and cause accidents.

- Eat and drink at home. Eating and drinking on the road not only takes your eyes off the road but dropped food or spilt drinks don't mix with smooth driving.

- Distracted drivers swerve from lane to lane,

drive too close to the car in front or react too slowly. All of these actions can bring you to the attention of the police who can issue a careless driving ticket at the roadside - as well as being a danger to other road users.

- Get your playlist ready before you set off for your journey. This limits the amount of fiddling with music and audio controls or trying to plug in loose wires. Even consider a drive without music you may enjoy it.



## Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to John Dickson, Ged Gornall, Martin Brady, Nikki Mather and Adrian Whalley on their recent Test Passes. Well done to Nikki and Adrian for getting a First. I would also like to congratulate one of our Observers, Oliver Fullerton, who passed the IAM Masters' Test with a Distinction, which is a tremendous achievement to say the least.

Welcome to Richard Ridyard, Gerry Stubbs and Michelle Williams, who joined the September Course. I wish them every success with the Course. They can take every encouragement that since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 we have had eleven Passes, including five Firsts. This doubles our number of Firsts so we must be

doing something right!

Clearly, regular attendance on Sunday morning is very important but it is equally important that you put into practice the skills you learn on Sunday every time you drive. Advanced Driving can never be a Sunday-morning-only activity.

I would also urge you to attend the Classroom Sessions. You will learn a lot from them and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions. Questions on the detail of the IAM Test are best left until the Meet The Examiner Evening, when an IAM Examiner will tell you exactly what is required on Test. He will also answer any other questions you might have.

Most of our Test Failures down the years have been caused by Candidates breaking the law, particularly speed limits, or by doing something that would cause failure on an 'L' Test.

However, if your Test Drive can be described as safe, systematic, progressive and smooth, then you will pass.

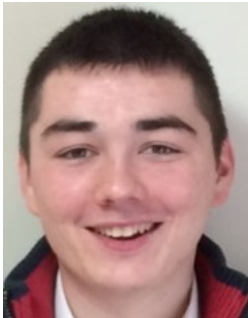
Enjoy the Course!

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

## Notice Board

## In the News

### Congratulations



Congratulations to Oliver Fullerton for passing the IAM Master Driver Test with a Distinction

### Lancashire Canal Cruise

Monday 29th August



Members and their families had a great couple of hours on the Lancashire Canal, at Lathom Nr. Ormskirk. They enjoyed great weather, company and views. A good time was had by all.

### IAM RoadSmart's Mature Driver Assessment isn't 'half baked' for queen of cakes Mary Berry



Great British Bake Off judge Mary Berry is the latest high-profile driver to take IAM RoadSmart's Mature Driver Assessment. Mary was presented with her certificate for having completed the assessment by IAM RoadSmart chief executive officer Sarah Sillars at the Kop Hill Climb on Saturday, a Buckinghamshire-based celebration of all things car and bike which raises tens of thousands of pounds for local charities.

Mary has been an IAM RoadSmart member since the 1950's, when she took an early version of the current Advanced Driver Course.



## PILKINGTON

SHGAM and Sefton Group will be supporting the **NSG-Pilkington Safety Day** on Thursday 13th October.

Advanced Driving demonstration drives, advice on good reversing technique and presentations will be given to employees.

### Visit to the Radio City Tower and Tower and the Echo Wheel of Liverpool

Saturday 6th August



Several intrepid members who had heads for heights tackled the Radio City Tower and the Echo Wheel. They were rewarded with great views on what was a fine summer's day.