



Newsletter ~ April 2021

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



Dear All,

Welcome to the April Newsletter. As you know the government has provided a roadmap for coming out of the Covid-19 restrictions. In line with this roadmap, IAM RoadSmart has provided a plan for the restarting of Group activities. Hopefully, it shouldn't be too far off before the Group can start running courses again.

In the meantime, please stay safe.

Tom Field, Group Chair

IAM RoadSmart activity advice

The advice is shown on page 2. If all goes well there are two important dates.

Monday 12th April - from this date, Observers will be able to meet to check each others driving and re-build advanced driving and observational skills. Many of our Observers have been self-isolating or driving much less over the last 12 months.

Monday 17th May - from this date the Group will be able to re-start Associate training. Associates - after this date, please let our Associate Co-ordinator, Alan Prescott, know when you would like to resume your training.

For all in-car training mutual agreement is necessary.

Mark Farnworth, Chief Observer

St. Helens Group website

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More Information (click links)

[**SHGAM News**](#)

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

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

[**IAM RoadSmart Tips and Blogs**](#)

Membership

IAM RoadSmart membership is open to any driver or rider who passes the Advanced test or qualifies by exemption. Their community of members includes like-minded people of all ages from across the UK

Benefit from great discounts on various products and services. From discounted tyres and MOTs to deals on popular magazine subscriptions, offers on a new car or motorbike, breakdown cover, car hire and savings on your car and motorbike insurance, plus much more. And with their insurance partner save money on your car or bike policy.

Sharing the road - IAM RoadSmart Blog 18/2/21

We teach our children to share nicely. We want them to understand the other child's point of view. When my children were young, I was forever explaining how their friend (insert name here) deserves a turn with the ball too. Being empathetic to other people's needs is the glue of society.

How then does this apply to driving or riding? We all share the same road space. We all need to coordinate our journey with those around us. But sometimes, when someone pulls out or fails to indicate, it annoys us. It tests our patience. We forget to share.

It is easy when cosseted in our mobile armchairs, to forget that other road users may need something different. A cyclist may see a pothole late and need to avoid it or face a long walk home. The driver of large lorry might have to use a bit of

space on 'our' side of the road to make a sharp turn. If we can recognise these sometimes differing needs and try to accommodate them, we can all make much better use of the road.

A basic premise of advanced driving is about asking the 'what if' questions. Anticipating what another road user might do and avoiding them. But let's now expand this out to ask what do other road users need from me?

Scenario: pedestrian standing between two busy lanes of traffic. You could think "Idiot, shouldn't have crossed there." Or you could be sympathetic to the fact that they're stranded. Whatever the reason, they're vulnerable, and you have the power to help them. Why not give it a go? You'll likely improve their day as well as yours.

At times our manners on the road can slip due to the ever-increasing pressures of the world. It is often the individual who holds the door open for you on your way to the car park, who is the one blasting their horn at you 30 seconds later if they perceive you have wronged them on the road. The world, viewed through the eyes of others, may allow you to help them without them even realising it, making the road a safer space. It might even catch on if we all gave it a go.

Remember, until you walk a mile in another person's shoes, you won't appreciate that driving is much better than walking, especially if we 'share nicely'.

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



IAMRS PRESS RELEASE

60% of motorists consider self-driving cars a threat to road safety

Posted 24th March 2021

A study from the UK's largest independent road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart, has revealed that 60 per cent of motorists consider the growing ability of vehicles to drive themselves as a serious threat to road safety. While female drivers (66 per cent) and drivers over the age of 70 (64 per cent) had even higher concerns.

This is despite well-documented evidence that most road incidents are actually caused by human error, suggesting that giving greater control to the vehicles themselves in the future might actually reduce the number of collisions.

However, while automated vehicle technology could have the power to improve road safety, this will only happen if the new systems are used correctly, including through driver training to understand their capabilities and limitations, believes

the road safety charity.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy & Research, said: "Autonomous and automated vehicle technology is becoming an integral part of everyday motoring and while it does have the capacity to improve road safety, its capabilities must be fully understood to ensure we don't over rely on them. "Over reliance on these systems, and a lack of training on how to use them, could have a negative effect, with potentially worrying results for motorists and pedestrians alike. "As an ever-increasing number of vehicle systems take on the tasks that drivers used to perform, IAM RoadSmart is calling for an understanding of automated features to be included in the UK driving test."

Concerns still remain however around the high cost of research and development, making autonomous vehicles too expensive for some, together with possible malfunctions, data security issues and moral dilemmas as to what the vehicle should be programmed to protect.

Neil added: "Our research clearly shows that many motorists remain to be convinced about the safety of self-driving vehicles".

Merseyside Road Safety Partnership

Online Road Safety Workshops for the over 60's

Merseyside Road Safety Partnership are offering FREE online workshops for anyone aged 60 and over. The workshops are designed to support senior road users to keep them safe as drivers, riders, pedestrians and public transport users

APRIL: 15th, 22nd and 29th April.
MAY: Dates to be confirmed

The workshop is split into three online sessions, over a three week period. Different topics are covered in each session so we recommend you attend all three sessions. Please allow up to an hour and a half for each session. Workshops can be delivered to community groups or individuals who will join a group session.

If you have any questions or would like to book a workshop, email us at: roadsafety@wirral.gov.uk



ENGLAND – Issue date 01/03/21 (note all dates subject to change)



COVID-19 Proposed Roadmap: IAM RoadSmart activity advice

DATES (not before)	29 th MARCH 2021	12 th APRIL 2021	17 th MAY 2021	21 st JUNE 2021
Rules on mixing	Stay at home order lifted Rule of 6 or 2 households mixing in outdoor settings only. No indoor mixing of households.	Rule of 6 or 2 households mixing in outdoor settings only. No indoor mixing of households.	Rule of 6 or 2 households in indoor settings (under constant review) 30 person meeting limit but outdoors only.	All restrictions lifted.
Travel	Minimise travel. You can leave home for exercise and recreation.	Minimise travel. You can leave home for exercise and recreation. DVSA instruction & testing restarts.	Minimise travel restriction lifted. Domestic travel only. No international travel before this date (subject to review)	All restrictions lifted.
Shopping & retail	Non-essential retail remains closed. Take away service only. Hotels remain closed.	All retail open. Hotels remain closed.	No overnight stays restriction lifted. Hotels and all retail now open.	All retail open.
IAM RoadSmart Motorcycle activity	Peer reviews – no observing with associates. With all parties in agreement, minimising travel as advised	YES With all parties in agreement, minimising travel as advised	YES With mutual agreement	YES
IAM RoadSmart Car activity	NO No indoor mixing of households allowed	Peer reviews – no observing with associates. With all parties in agreement, minimising travel as advised	YES With mutual agreement	YES

Government guidance can be found here – [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/covid-19-response-spring-2021)

To read the latest IAM RoadSmart COVID-19 Restart Guidance, log into the members' dashboard at www.iamroadsmart.com