



Newsletter ~ April 2024

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

Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to the April edition of the newsletter.

A special welcome to David Reynolds, Michael Foster, Tom Oaks, Richard Gage and Simon Brook who will join our Spring course.

With at least five new Associates and some returning Associates our Observer team is going to be busy! I'd like to thank all the Observer team for their continued commitment and enthusiasm for what we do. Without you we would not be able to train Associates and we would become a stagnant Group.

We cannot remain static as a Group, we need to be proactive and take every opportunity to both raise awareness of what we do

and become more efficient at what we do, to take advantage of new technologies, to become 'digital' which is also a key objective of IAM RoadSmart.

We are making increasing use of Facebook to reach out to different communities. If you on Facebook then please support the Group by 'following' us. The chain of contacts from a single post can be quite staggering and its one of the best things you can do to support us as a member.

Our newly formed Publicity and Recruitment team comprising Val Cunningham, Garry Maddocks and Andrew Farrimond supported by our Treasurer Stephen Dumont and me has been making advances on several fronts in raising

awareness of the Group and the benefits of Advanced Driving. The fruits of their labours are already showing. We were delighted to support the Prescott Fire Station open day, a very well attended event by the public.

A reminder that Group annual subscriptions are due. Please support the Group by paying annual subs. At only £8.50 it's a small annual subscription but every little helps. Donations to the Group of any amount are welcome and much appreciated. Lets remember why we do what we do. .. to do our bit to improve driving standards and reduce death and injury on our roads.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman



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More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

New year, new changes - IAMRS Blog 31st January

Motorists across the country are facing several changes in 2024, and with new driving rules around safety and fuel, it is best to know about them ahead of time. Changes include the introduction of low-emission zones in Scotland, updates to DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) services, and possible changes to the driving test eyesight.

Car tax changes

Vehicle Excise Duty, sometimes also known as car tax, is set to rise on April 1, 2024. HM Reve-

nue and Customs has previously confirmed the new VED charges will be based Retail Price Index inflation from the spring. How much motorists will pay will depend on how 'green' their vehicle is. The measures will affect motorists who drive a car, van, or motorcycle.

Low-emission zones

Three Scottish cities will see enforcement begin in 2024 in a bid to improve air quality. Under the rules, vehicles must meet certain emission standards or face a hefty penalty. In Aberdeen and Edinburgh,

enforcement will kick off on June 1; in Dundee, it will be on May 30. Unlike England's Clean Air Zones where non-compliant vehicles pay a daily fee, Scotland's low emission zones prohibit non-compliant vehicles, and the fine is substantially more than a daily charge.

Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate (ZEV)

As of January 1, 2024, car manufacturers will need at least 22% of their car sales and 10% of their van sales to be fully electric. The UK gov-

ernment's planned ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 has now been pushed back to 2035.

Eyesight Test Changes

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency is holding a consultation on possible changes to eyesight requirements for 2024. Currently, during the test, the driver must read a number plate from 20 metres to pass. The DVSA is currently consulting with a team of medical experts on how the procedure should look and asking drivers and experts for better ways to conduct the test.



IAM RoadSmart joins forces with Young Driver Foundation to upskill next generation of drivers - News Release 16/02/24

Younger drivers are disproportionately involved in road traffic collisions

IAM RoadSmart supports early intervention as a way to make our roads safer

The UK's leading road safety charity IAM RoadSmart is teaming up with the Young Driver Foundation (YDF) to promote road safety among youngsters. The Foundation provides driving lessons and skills for those aged between 4 and 17 and is dedicated to instilling safe and responsible driving habits in young people.

To support this new partnership, IAM RoadSmart CEO Antony Kildare will be heading to East Sussex for a Young Driver event on 17th February 2024 where 15-year-old Eddie Blake Peter will be taking part in a 30-minute supervised drive with one of the on-site Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs).

As we see more young people passing their driving test and beginning to experience the freedom of having their own car, IAM RoadSmart

is dedicated to supporting young drivers. Department for Transport statistics* show that a quarter of fatalities on roads in Great Britain were aged 17 to 29 years old, despite this age group representing just 13% of all licence holders. Our Steering Futures Campaign aims to upskill young drivers and ensure they feel confident on the road for life.

IAM RoadSmart Chief Executive Antony Kildare said: "Evidence shows that younger drivers are more likely to engage in riskier behaviour behind the wheel, so anything we can do to help younger drivers hone their skills at an early stage could prevent a tragedy once they've passed their practical driving test. Our partnership with the Young Drivers Foundation is a natural fit as both organisations share the mission to instil safe and responsible driving habits in young people."

To find out a little more about what Eddie will experience on the day - check out the below video: [Driving lessons for 10 to 17 year olds \(youtube.com\)](#)

Glaring errors: the impact of LED headlights - News Release 26/03/24

Bright LED headlights are leaving motorists dazzled and dazed at night, and now the government is under pressure to act. In a survey for the UK's leading road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart, 83% of respondents agreed that headlights are much brighter in modern vehicles.

Other potential factors for the dazzling displays include badly aligned headlights and a rise in the number of cars sitting higher on the road, such as SUVs. A petition has been launched to strong-arm Number 10 into commissioning an independent study into the contentious subject.

Best wishes

Best wishes to everyone at the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce. Sorry to learn of your difficulties and that we won't now be able to work with you.

Mark Farnworth, Chairman

Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to David Reynolds, Michael Foster, Tom Oaks, Richard Cage and Simon Brook who will join our Spring Advanced Driver Course.

Best wishes to you all. I'm sure you'll enjoy the experience.

Congratulations

Sarah McNally

for passing the Advanced Driving Test and achieving a F1rst, a fantastic achievement. Well done Sarah, all your hard work has paid off.

**Mark Farnworth
Chairman**

Prescot Fire Station Open Day

Mark Farnworth, Garry Maddocks and Andrew Farrimond represented the Group at the Prescot Fire Station open day on the 24th March. It was a great opportunity to speak to people about Advanced Driving.



Garry (right) and Mark

Congratulations



Congratulations to Observer Chris Bradley for passing the Master Driver Test and achieving a Distinction

Mark Hemans, Lead Observer

Next Advanced Driver Course

Thursday
9th May
Course Introduction

8pm St. Helens Town Hall



**You are cordially invited to the
St Helens Group of Advanced Motorists
Annual General Meeting**

**to be held at 7.45pm on Thursday 6th June 2024
St. Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square. Prompt start**

**Guest Speaker: Andy Blythe, Merseyside Fire and
Rescue Service (MFRS)**

Station Manager Andy Blyth will talk about how MFRS respond to road traffic collisions and their training (see page 4 for more information). We hope that the new Mayor or Deputy Mayor of St. Helens will be able to attend. Our President Lady Kirsty Pilkington will also be attending. Due to these special guests we are looking for a good turnout and encourage you to make every effort to attend.

Wives, husbands, partners etc are welcome.

NOMINATION FOR 2024/2025 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE

I _____ (full name in capitals)
_____ (signature)

wish to be elected to the following position:-

- *Chairman *Vice-Chairman *Secretary
- *Treasurer *General Committee. Member *Other (specify)

**delete as appropriate*

Proposer (full name in capitals) **Secunder** (full name in capitals)



St. Helens Group Annual General Meeting

Town Hall, Victoria Square, St. Helens, WA10 1HP



NOMINATION FOR 2024/2025 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 Chris Bradley by **Thursday 23rd May 2024**

Please send an email to register your Nomination via the following email address
editorshgam@gmail.com

Guest Speaker

Station Manager Andy Blythe, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) will be attending the AGM to give a presentation on Road Safety. Andy is the day to day service lead for delivering Road & Water Safety education and awareness across Merseyside.

The presentation will cover how MFRS respond to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) within Merseyside and beyond its borders, including how our Firefighters are trained for these incidents and what techniques and equipment are used. The presentation will also look at how MFRS interacts with its schools and communities to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on our roads, this will include a demonstration of how we use Virtual Reality (VR) to help get the safety message across.