



# Newsletter ~ December 2020

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the December edition of the Newsletter.

2020 has certainly been a challenging year for everyone, in both our personal lives and our Advanced Driving Group.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all our lives, some more than others. A main priority for us has been to avoid getting Covid-19 and a combination of government restrictions and personal choices governing our

interactions with others has caused many of our lives to be very different.

Since March the Group has effectively been 'on hold' with little activity.

As Covid-19 vaccinations come on stream, we hope and pray that our lives will return to some kind of normality in 2021.

The Group has a role to play next year. People are still driving and fatalities and injuries are still occurring.

As people return to driving they will be 'rusty' and some apprehensive and even fearful. As a Group we will need to rekindle our passions and skills to help others to become better, more skillful and confident drivers.

In the meantime the Group Chair and Committee would like to offer our best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



St. Helens Group website

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## Don't let Jack Frost Bite - IAM RoadSmart Blog 26/11/20

We usually dress for the weather and when the temperatures drop this means wrapping up with a hat, gloves, scarf, a big coat and appropriate shoes. So, it makes sense, when you're heading back out with the lifting of travel restrictions this winter, to adapt your driving or motorcycling behaviour to suit the weather and road conditions around you. With white frosty mornings also comes icy roads, and so here's some advice on how to deal with driving and riding in icy conditions:

- In very bad weather, where police advice is not to travel it is better to stay at home rather than risk an incident.

- Always check the weather and road conditions on your route before setting off. If you are using public transport links, remember they too, may also be delayed.

- Make sure you know how the de-mister settings on your car work and how to adjust them properly.

- If you are riding a motorcycle, a clean scratch-free visor with a correctly fitted insert will help you stay mist-free.

- If you are braving a motorcycle remember to wrap up warm, as the cold will affect your concentration. Heated kit is a good investment especially for your extremities.

- Ensure your lights and wipers are working well - you need to see and be seen. If your wipers are making a terrible squeaking noise, it's time to get them checked; they may need replacement blades or the arms straightening.

- Never pour boiling water on the screen as the sudden temperature change may cause

cracks. Prevention is better than a cure so if possible, cover the glass overnight with an old sheet to prevent freezing, or invest in a windscreen cover. Never use newspaper or cardboard on a wet screen as it can get stuck and leave a real mess.

- If you haven't done so already, get an anti-freeze check at your local garage or fast-fit centre. Keep your washer bottle topped up with an even stronger concentration of screen wash.

- It might sound obvious, but you may need up to 10 times the distance to stop in icy conditions - increase your following distance to account for this. If the car in front must stop suddenly or worse still, a crash occurs, you will need that extra time to react and stop safely.

Preparation and planning

**More Information**  
(click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

are the key to worry-free driving and riding when the mercury plummets.

- Plan your route carefully as major routes are likely to be treated with salt and less likely to be icy - but ice might still form in dips, on bridges and in shaded areas.

- Leave more time for your journey, respect the conditions and don't rush. Factor in delays and, if you're driving, give yourself plenty of time to clear the ice properly from all your windows.

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



## Associate Coordinator's Corner

I would like to thank our active Associates Anthony Jones, Michael Egan, Joshua Robinson and Maria Kolokotroni who had started the Autumn Course, for their patience. We were not able to meet on Sundays due to the pandemic, but they were able to have some observed runs with Observers who were able to take them. Once again I would like to thank Andrew Appleton, Mark Farnworth, Chris Bradley, Phil Sharples, and Anita Clift who had made themselves available to take observed runs.

Unfortunately the pandemic situation in our area worsened. The Group took the decision to stop providing observed runs and we informed our Associates of this on October 1st and this meant that Parkash Singh Ghaia who had also joined us was unable to start. A week or so later the Liverpool City Region (includes St. Helens) went into Covid Tier Three which meant we were not allowed to do observed runs according to instruction given by IAM RoadSmart.

second national lockdown and came out of it on the 2nd December and then the Mersey City Region went into and remains in Tier Two which also means we are not allowed to do observed runs according to IAM RoadSmart instruction.

We do not know for how long this situation will continue but is unlikely to change before 2021. In the meantime drive safely and have a good Christmas.

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

In November we entered the

## Notice Board

### AGM

On Thursday 12th November the Group held its AGM. This had been delayed from June due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A number of members joined the online Zoom meeting - the screen capture opposite shows some of the attendees.

The AGM business was conducted efficiently with all members of the Committee returning to the Committee. Group Chair Tom Field said that Covid-19 had substantially affected recruitment, Associate and Observer training and Group events since March.

We await a much improved 2021.



## IAM RoadSmart appoints Tony Greenidge as CEO



Tony Greenidge has been appointed as IAM RoadSmart's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Tony joined IAM RoadSmart in 2017 as its Business Development Director before stepping up to become Interim Chief Executive Officer earlier this year.

Since joining, he has overseen the continued year-on-year growth of the charity's drink drive rehabilitation and fleet divisions, while more recently leading the organisation through both coronavirus lockdowns. Chairman, Derek McMullan said: "I am delighted to have been able to appoint Tony as IAM RoadSmart's permanent CEO.

He brings strong leadership and a deep knowledge of IAM RoadSmart's activities in these challenging times, helping to safeguard the future of our charity and driving

forward our work with our group volunteers on a number of UK-wide road safety initiatives. Click [here](#) to read more

## Best wishes

The Chairman and Committee would like to offer best wishes to all Group members and their families for Christmas and the New Year

