



Newsletter ~ December 2022

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

Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to the December newsletter.

With the dark nights and winter upon us we need to be even more vigilant as we drive for work, home or social events. Take a look at the tips below to help you think about your driving.

The cost of living crisis is now biting for many individuals and families and the Group Committee is mindful that, at this time, paying for an Advanced Driver course is low priority and the cost out of reach for many. Our aim is not to let the financial cost be a burden to those who want to improve their driving skills. There is also a need for recruitment of Associates to keep our Observers busy and the

Group moving forward.

As a consequence, the Group continues to offer a 100% cashback on any money that a private individual pays to IAMRS to pay for an Advanced Driver Course provided that person does at least eight observed runs with the Group or does the advanced driving test irrespective of a test pass or fail. We are able to do this from generous donations provided to the Group over recent years. (see full [T&Cs](#) on web-site).

As a Group, we have always been more concerned with people becoming better and safer drivers rather than passing the advanced driving test. A test failure is not necessarily a negative for an individual or the Group

provided that individual learns from the overall experience and is a safer driver for both themselves and others.

Our Winter Advanced Driving Course starts on the 5th January so tell your family and friends about the course and the cashback. I'm pleased to say that Associates are waiting to start the Winter course to join existing Associates who will be getting close to test.

It only remains for me to say that I wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman



St. Helens Group website

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More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

Darker Evenings: How to be prepared for night driving

Use your lights appropriately:

Never worry about being the first person to put your lights on! Being visible and being able to see is key. Checking your lights are in full working order should become part of your routine vehicle checks. Knowing how to use your lights correctly is important to your safety and the safety others. If visibility is reducing check the light switch, a modern car with illuminated dash and daylight running lights can appear to have the lights on when they are not.

Keep windows and mirrors clean:

Ensure the vehicle's windscreen, windows and mirrors are clean and clear inside and out. Whilst a dirty windscreen may not be noticeable during the day, at night this can impair visibility and increase the glare from oncoming vehicles.

Check your tyres:

At least 153 people are killed or seriously injured every year because of defective tyres. As we approach the winter months, road conditions are inherently worse, tread depth is

very important in being able to push the surface water away and help stop the car from aquaplaning. Before travelling, check that your tyres are inflated to the correct pressure, with no obvious damage and have a tread depth of at least 1.6mm.

Take regular breaks:

We know from research that that 37% of respondents have continued to drive whilst overtired. We all know the tell-tale signs and how important it is we take notice of these and stop and take a break from

driving every 100 miles or every 2 hours, whichever is sooner. Driving when tired slows your reaction time and puts you, your passengers and other road users in danger.

Increase the distance between cars:

Keeping a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front is important at any time of day. Remember in wet weather the Highway Code suggests we double the two second rule to allow at least four seconds in bad weather, up to 10 seconds in snow and icy conditions.

IAMRS Blog 26th Oct



IAMRoadSmart announces major updates to accelerate mission to bring road deaths down to zero

**News Release
24th November 2022**

IAM RoadSmart, is announcing key organisational changes to prepare for advances in vehicle technology and accelerate its mission to reduce road deaths to zero.

IAM RoadSmart will continue working with the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) to rollout one National Observer qualification across the UK.

The refocus on working with the community, as well as welcoming new trustees, will put the charity in a strong position to drive change in road safety regulation from 2023 and beyond. The UK's leading road safety charity, IAM

RoadSmart, is announcing key organisational changes to get ready for modern challenges on the road and accelerate its mission to reduce road deaths to zero.

The charity has been engaging and listening with members of its 174 groups around the UK at its Autumn Forums to share its plans for 2023 and remind people of its charitable purpose to make UK roads safer for all.

IAM RoadSmart will continue working with the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) to create one National Observer qualification standard. The charity will also be working with key academic partners to research new automotive technologies and the impact on driver behaviours. In 2021 there were over 1500 deaths in road incidents in the UK* – and with new automotive advancements, such as autonomous technology and e-scooters, which are currently unregulated on most UK roads, urgent change is needed to drastically bring the number of incidents down. Antony Kildare, CEO at IAM

RoadSmart, said: "We are taking the opportunity to refocus our charity on how we can work with our local communities to accelerate road safety. I am amazed and humbled at the wonderful work that our groups, members, partners, and volunteers do to improve driver and rider skills and knowledge and communicate IAM RoadSmart's mission to bring road deaths down to zero.

"We want to work with Government to build a future-fit and safer road network that actively reduces harm, urging them to act now to create safe and much-needed regulation around new mobility developments, such as electric vehicles, autonomous technologies, and decarbonisation strategies.

"New partnerships will help us adapt how our charity operates in a changing road safety landscape to be equipped for the future. We must adapt to meet changes in technology and infrastructure – keeping road safety our number one priority."

Notice Board

Welcome to

Claire Maddin
Neil Taylor

who will join our Winter Advanced Driver Course

Best wishes to you both. I'm sure you will enjoy the course.

**Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman**

Congratulations

to Mark Hemans who has become an Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) IAM Local Observer



Observer Meeting

Thursday 5th January
7pm to 8.00pm, Mercure Hotel
Discussion of coaching and the IMI Local Observer qualification

Congratulations

to Garry Wilson who has passed the Advanced Driving Test and achieved a F1RST. Well done Garry, all your hard work has paid off. This is a fantastic achievement

**Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman**

Winter Advanced Driver Course Introduction

Thursday 5th January
8pm to 9.30pm
Mercure Hotel,
St. Helens Town Centre,
WA10 1NG

100% cashback to any driver

(T&Cs apply)

**Tell your family
and friends**

Group Meal

Thursday 19th January
7pm for a 7.30pm start
Lymewood Farm
2 Galway Crescent, Piele Road,
Haydock, Merseyside, WA11 0GR

All welcome

Can you let me know if you are planning to attend.

**Kay Heppenstall
Events Organiser**

IMI Local Observer Qualification being phased out.

The Local Observed qualification will cease in March 2025 and all Group Local Observers will be required to transition to the National Observer status. Both qualifications are at essentially the same standard - it is only the method of assessment that is different.