



Newsletter ~ December 2024

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

Welcome

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

Winter has arrived and so this is the time of year to take extra special care when we drive due to darker days and inclement weather.

Our Winter Advanced Driver course starts in January and in the last weeks we have had two Associate sign-ups for this course. This is good news since for the six months prior to this we had only one new Associate sign up! Across Merseyside Associate recruitment has been challenging so its even more important that both the Committee and the membership look for ways to raise awareness of what we do.

Remember that we are offering a [£100 cashback](#) for any driver aged under 30.

We must not lose sight of what our purpose is - to help reduce death and injury on our roads. We do this by both raising awareness of what we do and helping people to become more confident, skillful and safer drivers and riders through our well organised courses.

As members or friends of the Group are you also members of hobby groups, societies or other groups where people come together on a regular basis? Do you have invited speakers at your meetings? I'll be happy to give a presentation entitled 'Surviving while driving' to any group of people. This is not an

advanced driving presentation (I don't mention the System of Car Control!). Rather, its an interactive presentation where I provide hints and tips for drivers to keep safe on urban, rural and major roads. I gave the presentation to Pilkington employees on its safety day in October. It went down very well. Please let me know if you a member of a group that may be interested.

Finally, the IAM is supporting the Christmas Challenge campaign as detailed on page 3. I know that the Christmas season can be an expensive time of year but Im sure any amount of donation would be much appreciated.

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](#)

Mastering the Maze of Christmas Shopping Parking - IAM News 3rd Dec

Most of us are deep into the Christmas shopping frenzy by now, and for those braving the bustling, festive streets, it can be "snow joke" trying to find a parking spot in a busy shopping centre or street. IAM RoadSmart has some top tips to help your journey go smoothly.

Stay Up to Date

Firstly, is it safe to drive? Check the weather report for your area before you set off. If conditions are severe, heed police advice and avoid travelling. However,

if you must go out, drive safely with extra caution on icy roads.

Can I park here?

Choose the most suitable car park and parking bay to ensure safety for you and your vehicle. If possible, reverse into a parking bay so you can drive out easily. This is safer for you and everyone around you. If you must drive in, take extra care when turning out.

Parallel parking

When parallel parking, select a space large enough for you to ma-

noeuvre in and out of comfortably. A space one and a half times your vehicle's length should suffice. Adjusting your nearside mirror downwards will help you monitor the kerb but remember to adjust it back afterwards.

Managing on the Road

If you need to turn your vehicle around, try going around the block or to the next roundabout. This minimises disruption to other vehicles and is safer for you and other road users. If you must reverse on the main road

or into a side road, look and listen very carefully throughout your manoeuvre. If anything is moving, stop and reassess your situation.

Slow Down

Don't rush as you might overlook hazards. Trying to park or manoeuvre in a hurry could mean that you miss the opportunity to see hazards, especially in more dynamic and busy areas such as shopping centre car parks or urban streets.

Richard Gladman,
Chief Examiner,
IAM RoadSmart



IAM RoadSmart launches in-vehicle technology content for drivers and fleet operators—press release 7th November

Drivers and fleet operators will benefit from access to detailed content on driving assistance features. *Course* was developed in partnership with the Hi-Drive project and User Education Campaign led by FIA Region I and implemented by 11 Mobility Clubs in Europe

New advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) education content has been launched today by IAM RoadSmart in collaboration with the Hi-Drive project campaign.

The materials give detailed information about existing and emerging technology in vehicles to help drivers and commercial fleet managers understand how such systems can improve road safety

and mobility. The content is supported by informative Hi-Drive project visuals and videos explaining the different stages of automation.

The initiative seeks to inform the public about the difference between driving aids and semi-autonomous features, thereby increasing awareness and reducing confusion about the capabilities of such systems. Additionally, the content seeks to educate drivers on dashboard warning systems they might see illuminated and actions that should be undertaken to prevent mechanical problems.

IAM RoadSmart has been implementing the Hi-Drive User

Education media campaign to raise awareness about the different driver support features and automated driving functions that exist in today's vehicles on both UK and European roads. The Hi-Drive project is a research project co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme to address the challenges of high automation.

Department for Transport (DfT) data shows that driver and rider error were a contributory factor in 849 fatalities on Britain's roads in 2023. Driver error is the leading cause of fatalities on roads and underlines the need for better awareness and understanding of technology that can assist in reducing potentially lethal mistakes.

Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to Andrew Fletcher and Andrew Mavin who have joined us as Advanced Rider Associates and Stephen Hitchen and Alan Rowan who will join our Winter Advanced Driver Course.

Welcome back

I'm delighted to inform you that long serving Observer Jeff Fishwick who retired from observing in October 2023 has decided to come out of retirement and re-join our Observer team! To maintain our high observing standards Jeff is being given observer refresher training so he can re-take the IAM National Observer Assessment



Best wishes

I'd like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year

Mark Farnworth
Chairman

Events

As we look towards 2025 we would like to hear your views about our Group Events programme. We want to create opportunities for Group members and friends to come together to do a range of interesting activities. We want to hear what you have to say. If you have ideas for Group Events then please contact our Events Organiser Kay Heppinstall events@shgam@gmail.com or call 07849 674939 (after 6pm).

Points of View Corner

Do you have something on your mind concerning any aspect of driving? Why not share your thoughts in the newsletter to stimulate discussion! Jim Cunliffe has submitted the following which, hopefully, will be the first of many.

Speed Cameras

I was recently reading an article about speedometer accuracy and speed camera thresholds, and it got me to thinking.

LGV's and smaller commercial vehicles' such as Transit vans, are more dangerous vehicles on the roads than cars...which is why they have lower speed limits.

So why is it that speed cameras are set to car speed limits? This means that on a single carriageway road a 44 tonne lorry, limited to 50MPH, can travel at 60 MPH with impunity because the camera only fires at 60 MPH.... to trap cars, the safest vehicles!

Similarly, on dual carriageways, lighter goods vehicles such as transits are limited to 60MPH but can travel at 70MPH with impunity because the cameras only fire at that speed...to trap cars!

The safest vehicles are closely controlled, whilst the more dangerous vehicles are left to run riot!

It just confirms what we already knew...speed cameras are less about safety, and more about revenue!

Jim Cunliffe

Christmas Challenge
BigGive

iAM RoadSmart

Drive change this Christmas!

This festive season, IAM RoadSmart is on a mission to empower young drivers and riders across the UK with essential road safety skills through our Youth Empowerment Initiative.
We need your help.

Our Targets

- We want to raise £25,000**
- Fund 60 Skills Day spaces**
- Fund 60 Advanced Courses**
- Educate 120 younger drivers and riders**

Did you know?

- 1 in 5 serious collisions involves a young driver.
- Young drivers are three times more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a collision.
- Young people from lower-income areas are twice as likely to be injured in road incidents compared to those from higher-income areas.

Why get involved?

- Make a lasting impact in the community
- Be recognised as a supporter of road safety
- Show your commitment to youth empowerment and promote safer roads for all

Donate between the 3 - 10 December and every pound you give will be matched by our champions.

Together, we can give young drivers and riders the skills they need to stay safe on the road.