



# Newsletter ~ February 2023

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



## Welcome

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

A special welcome to Jean Goldstone, Claire Madin, Neil Tayloy, Tavish Cross and Haaris Moynihan who have joined our Winter course.

The Group seems to be getting back on track after the major disruption caused by the Covid pandemic. The majority of Observers have returned to the Group, we have new Observers and a good number of Associates. The Course Introduction, Sunday morning runs and the mid-course classroom session have all been well attended.

We are building a good momentum and I'd like to thank the Observers and Committee members for

their commitment and flexibility over the last 12 months.

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 website). So, tell your family members and friends about our cashbacks.

Electric vehicles are becoming popular among Group members and the general public.

I'd like to put articles on

the Group's website covering purchase considerations, charging, day to day driving and cost savings of members' electric vehicles. Each article to be no more than 500 words so stick to the brief! I'll select a 'judging panel' from the committee and the best written and informative article will feature in the newsletter later in the year. All articles will be posted on the Group website. The deadline for submission is the 24th March.

That's it from me. Safe driving and good observing.

**Mark Farnworth**  
**Group Chairman**

Official Provider

St. Helens Group website

[www.shgam.org.uk](http://www.shgam.org.uk)

### Contacts:

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07849 674393 (after 6pm)

editorshgam@gmail.com

### More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

## Keeping Motoring Costs Down - IAMRS Blog 30/01/23

With the cost-of-living crisis impacting many of us, IAM RoadSmart is looking at ways motorists can keep costs down without compromising on safety. Making small changes to the way we drive or ride and look after our vehicles can add up to big savings.

### Shop around for insurance

Car and motorbike insurance can be one of the biggest costs when it comes to driving and riding. Many of us will automatically receive a renewal quote from our

current provider but it's always worth shopping around. IAM RoadSmart has been working hard with Cornmarket to give members more opportunities to get a competitive insurance [quote online](#).

### Prices at the pump

The cheapest fuel prices are typically found on supermarket forecourts, especially wholesalers like Costco. Some newer cars allow you to see the price of fuel on your infotainment screen. But if this isn't the case then websites like [Confused.com](#) can be useful to find

the best prices locally.

### Wasting pounds on parking

The amount motorists pay to park tends to increase year after year. So maybe it's time to check before you travel. Look at different apps, like [JustPark](#). Which claims to make searching, booking and paying for parking stress-free.

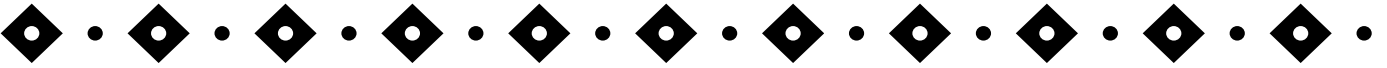
### Preventative maintenance checks

Almost half of all MOT test failures that occur could be avoided, according to the DVSA.

Motorists could be saving themselves a small fortune by carrying out regular maintenance checks at home. See [IAMRS video](#).

### Drive gently when the car is cold

Did you know cars are the least efficient when they're cold? If you drive quickly straight from start-up, you are increasing the wasted fuel and wearing the engine more in the process. However, newer engines are designed to operate from the moment they're needed so warming the engine isn't required.



## IAMRS News Releases

### 40 years of one of the greatest safety devices ever created - the seat belt

**25th Jan 2023**

Controversy was stirred recently when UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak appeared in a video, posted on social media, where he was seen in the back seat of a moving vehicle without his seat belt fastened. Car occupants have been legally required to wear a seat belt in a moving vehicle for 40 years. The seat belt was originally invented in Sweden and first adopted by Volvo. The invention's proven track record of saving lives has led to it becoming as familiar and ubiquitous as the steering wheel.

#### **IAM RoadSmart's policy on seat belt use is straightforward...**

Seat belts have saved countless lives – plausibly numbering in the millions – since their introduction. The risk of death or severe injury in a collision increases dramatically for anyone not wearing their seat belt. That's why it's critical for drivers and passengers alike to

ensure that their seat belts are fastened.

As we all know, nobody is exempt from the danger that is present when driving or travelling as a passenger in a moving vehicle. The Prime Minister has reportedly been issued a conditional offer of a fixed penalty for the offence. This will cost him £100, which could increase up to £500 if the matter ends up going to court.

#### **What are the statistics on people wearing seat belts?**

In 2021, of all car occupant fatalities, 34% of males and 20% of females were not wearing seat belts. 17-29-year-olds were the worst offenders with 40% of fatalities not wearing a seat belt. Of all fatalities that occurred between 6pm and 8am, 47% were not wearing a seat belt.

When we compare these figures to the far smaller portion of car occupants who are observed not wearing seat belts (usually between 10% and 5%), it becomes clear how real the danger is of travelling without a seat belt, in the event of a collision, and is an issue we must all take seriously.

### Cat hit-and-runs must stop, warns road safety charity

**31st Jan 2023**

Feline hit-and-runs could soon become a thing of the past if a new law were to be introduced, says the UK's leading road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart. The new law would mandate motorists that run over a cat on Britain's roads to stop, report the incident to the police and seek help from a vet. Currently, under the Road Traffic Act (1988), drivers are required to report collisions involving animals such as dogs, horses, pigs and sheep. Cats are not protected under the same regulations, and collisions do not need to be reported. IAM RoadSmart supports parity of treatment for cats, by ensuring that they are also recognised under legislation.

IAM RoadSmart's plea comes in the wake of MPs also speaking in support of the appeal at a Petitions Committee debate on 9 January, which was prompted after an e-petition amassed 102,436 signatures.

## Notice Board

### AGM

Wednesday 7th June 2023

8pm St. Helens Town Hall

### Next Advanced Driver Course

Thursday  
4th May  
Course Introduction

8pm Mercure Hotel  
Linkway East  
St. Helens Town Centre

### IAM RoadSmart welcomes back Skills Days for 2023

IAM RoadSmart will be hosting 13 events from April to September, across four of the best UK circuits, from Thruxton, Mallory Park and Croft, to Blyton Park.

These sessions are open to both IAM RoadSmart members and the public, giving everyone the opportunity to learn new skills that will give them more enjoyment on public roads, whilst providing expert knowledge to help keep them safe on the road.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Thruxton – Car  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Croft – Car  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Aug – Blyton Park – Car  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept– Thruxton – Car

IAM RoadSmart Motorcycle Skills Days are £215 each (full day), Car Skills Days £175 each (half day).

### **Annual Competitions**

The Group's Annual Competitions have started.

The Driver of the Year Competition is open to any full member of the Group, whilst the Observer of the Year Competition is clearly for Observers only and the Associate of the Year is for Associates only. The respective judges are Mark Farnworth, Phil Sharples and Alan Prescott

The winners of the competitions will be announced at the AGM in June

### **The new Highway code is online**

**Click [here](#)**

Best wishes to Andrew Farrimond, Garry Maddocks and Mark Hemans for their National Observer tests at the end of the month.



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

**to be held at 8pm on Wednesday 7th June 2023  
St. Helens Town Hall, Victoria Square. Prompt start**

**Guest Speaker: Constable Mark Hemans, MCSFS  
Forensic Collision Investigator, Merseyside Police**

Constable Hemans will talk about how forensic investigations are structured, who gets involved, and how his work links with that of other Police investigators. 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 2023/2024 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)      **Seconder** (full name in capitals)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)      \_\_\_\_\_



**St. Helens Group Annual General Meeting**  
Town Hall, Victoria Square, St. Helens, WA10 1HP



**NOMINATION FOR 2023/2024 ST HELENS GROUP COMMITTEE**

N.B. The Nominee, Proposer and Seconder must be **full** members of the St Helens Group.

Nominations **must** be **submitted** to the Group Secretary, Mr Chris Bradley by **Wednesday 24th May 2023**

Please send an email to register your Nomination via the following email address

editorshgam@gmail.com

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