



Newsletter ~ June 2023

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

Welcome

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

A special welcome to Joshua Aspinall, Edwin Bannock Michael Lysons and Sally McNally who have joined the Group as Associate members. Best wishes for your Advanced Driver Course.

Well, here we are again, at the end of another Group year with the AGM only days away. I would describe the last 12 months as the first full year of recovery from the turmoil of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused a substantial drop in Group activities; in recruitment, observed runs and events. The majority of our Observers have now returned to observing. Over the last 12 months we have trained

two new Observers. Mark Hemans passed the Local Observer assessment managed by the Group and then Mark and new Observer Garry Maddocks and existing Observer Andrew Farrimond all went on to pass the National Observer Test, conducted by an IAM RoadSmart Examiner. This means that our Observer team (12 Observers) is now only one short of what it was pre-pandemic.

In September last year the Committee took the decision to offer a 100% cashback to any Associate who does eight observed runs or takes the Advanced driving test – irrespective of a pass or fail. We did this for two reasons, to stimulate recruitment / re-energize the Group and to

financially help Associates for the cost of living crisis that was looming and that is still here. This strategy has paid off. The Group is very active now with recruitment high, Observers busy and events being attended. We will continue to review the 100% cashback policy.

Our new meeting venue at the St. Helens Community Fire Station (see page 2) gives a strong sense of a renewal for the Group. A strong Group will help us to do our bit to keep our roads safer.

A big thank you to Observers and Committee members for giving their time to the Group.

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](#)

How changes to the MOT could affect you - IAM Blog 230323

With many people currently struggling with the cost of living the thought of parting with more money can be a painful one. When it comes to our cars the costs are creeping up, everything from petrol prices, road tax, and normal wear, and tear, but could new government legislation on the future of the MOT, help save us money?

The Department for Transport (DfT) has launched a consultation on potential changes to the MOT test. The main proposal includes pushing

back the first test for new cars by one year. As it stands, brand-new cars in the UK require an initial MOT test when it becomes three-years-old, but the DfT launched a public consultation in January, as to whether this should be extended to four years.

The proposed MOT options are:

- 1) No change, vehicles that currently require their first MOT at 3 years will continue to do so.
- 2) Increase the date at which a first MOT is required 3 to 4 years.

- 3) Increase the date at which a first MOT is required from 3 to 5 years.

The government's preference is for option 1.

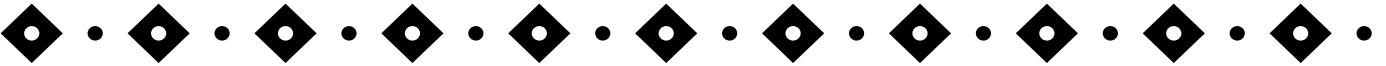
So why the proposed change?

IAM Roadsmart Director of Policy and Research, Neil Greig says: "The DfT's proposed changes seem to be linked to two things, one being Brexit because we can do things our own way now and MOTs was linked to EU Law, but secondly the cost-of-living crisis. The government see this as a

way of saving drivers money because an MOT costs £50 to £60 these days so if you don't have to pay that for an extra year then you have saved a little bit of money.

So, what is the reality of the proposed changes?

"..tens of thousands of vehicles do fail it's MOT at 3 years. That means for an extra year they could be out with illegal tyres, poor brakes, broken lights and unless they are stopped by the police which is increasingly unlikely these days, they won't think about it until the 4th year when they must go for an MOT.



New Sunday morning meeting venue

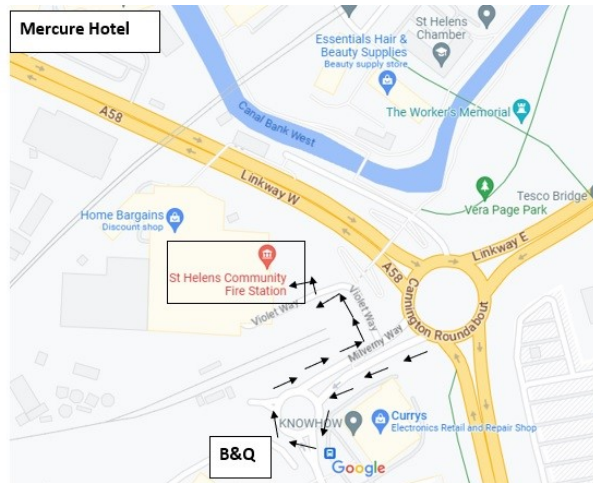
A new Sunday morning meeting venue had to be found urgently due to the Mercure Hotel becoming very busy on Sunday mornings and the hotel asking us to leave. I'm pleased to report that our new Sunday morning venue is the St. Helens Community Fire Station, Violet Way, St. Helens Town Centre, WA9 1HW - only a few hundred metres from the Mercure Hotel.

To get to the fire station we need to turn at the large roundabout that is at the entrance of the Ravenhead Retail Park (the site of the large B&Q Warehouse). After 100m go all the way round the small roundabout (come back on yourself) and Violet Way is on the left just before you get back to the large roundabout. We park on the visitor carpark.

It's a great venue, a modern building, a decent car park, a spacious community meeting room with a large white board and IT capability and even a kitchen that we can use to make hot drinks!

I'd like to thank Merseyside Fire and Rescue for approving our use of the building on Sunday mornings and at other times should we need to.

Mark Farnworth,
Group Chairman



Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to Joshua Aspinall, Edwin Bannock, Michael Lysons and Sally McNally who have joined as Associate members.

Anita Clift, Membership Secretary

Unforgettable Go-Kart Day

On Saturday 27th May we had an unforgettable Go-Kart day in Warrington, Group staff members and guest negotiated their way around a demanding indoor track. Congratulations to Stephen Dumont, our Treasurer, who was the winner of our group closely followed by Observers Mark Hemans and Andrew Farrimond - see website (gallery) and SHGAM Facebook for more details.

Up-coming Events

Group meal at the Stanley Gate, Bickerstaffe, Nr Ormskirk

Thu 22nd June
7pm for a 7.30pm start

Visit to the Old Docks, Liverpool, Maritime Museum Royal Albert Dock

Sat 22nd July 10.30 to 12 noon

Contact Kay Heppenstall if you are planning to attend



Left to right: Observers Mark Farnworth, Andrew Appleton, Andrew Farrimond, Garry Maddocks, Stephen Dumont, Mark Hemans and guest Karl Brown



**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)

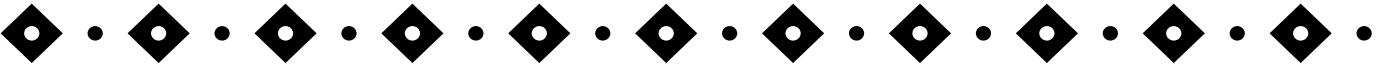
wish to be elected to the following position:-

- *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 Secunder 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

Guest Speaker

Constable Mark Hemans MCSFS has over 29 years experience of operational policing in Merseyside Police, and during that time has served within the Response, CID, Roads Policing and Forensics departments. For the last 8 years he has been a qualified Forensic Collision Investigator, attending the scenes of fatal road traffic collisions and producing expert witness reports of his investigations for the Criminal, Civil and Coronial Courts.

Mark is delighted to have been invited to give an insight into his work as a Forensic Collision Investigator, and his interactive and educational presentation will highlight the work of police FCI's by leading the audience through the activities that took place and the evidence that was uncovered during one of his recent investigations. **Please note** that this presentation will contain details of a fatal road traffic collision, including photographs of damaged vehicles, clothing and street furniture. This presentation does not contain graphic images, however some people may find the topic distressing.