



Newsletter ~ October 2021

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



Chair's Remarks

Hello everyone and welcome to the October edition of the newsletter. Firstly, thanks for all those who attended our online AGM on the 5th September. The meeting was brief since the Group has been essentially 'on hold' for the 2020/21 Group year. Chris Bradley, one of our Observers, was elected onto the Committee at the AGM. Thanks Chris for your support for the Group and I look forward to working with you.

The Group is starting to open up. We have held our first in-person Committee meeting in 18 months, observing is continuing, we are planning an event and we will restart our structured courses in the new year.

Tom Field,
Group Chairman

Advanced Driving Courses resume

The Group has taken the decision to restart Advanced Driver courses starting on the 16th January. The usual course structure of an eight to ten week course with a Course Introduction meeting, a 'System' classroom session, a Meet an Examiner meeting and Sunday morning meetings at the ibis hotel, Haydock will resume.

The learning we have received from Associate training in recent months has been invaluable in terms of course delivery and maximising as far as possible Covid safety. We are sure to embrace new ways of working into our courses going forward e.g. ad-hoc online

meetings. At the moment not all of the Group's Observers have returned to observing and so we are having to limit the number of Associates in training.

We are operating a waiting list 'first come, first served' so that we can continue to balance Observer availability to Associate demand.

Please note that our Young Driver (35 and under) cash back of £89 and our older driver (60+) cash back of £50 are still in place - based on a £149 full payment to IAM RoadSmart.

Best wishes and continue to stay safe.

Mark Farnworth,
Vice-Chairman and Chief Observer

Official Provider

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More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

Debunking the myths about electric vehicles - IAMRS Blog

More people are planning to ditch the petrol and diesel engines in favour for an eco-friendlier electric option, yet myths surrounding the technology still exist

Myth 1: Electric vehicles don't have enough range

Although in the past it may have been a legitimate concern, range anxiety is becoming less of a problem as the UK charging infrastructure catches up with demand and battery technology improves.

Myth 2: Electric vehicle batteries don't last long

[An American study](#) found that the average decline in energy storage is 2.3% per year. That means an electric vehicle with a range of 150 miles will lose 17 miles of accessible range after five years - the rate of decline slows down in later years.

Myth 3: Driving an electric vehicle won't save money

It's fair to say that the upfront cost of an electric car can be significantly

higher than an average petrol or diesel vehicle, but there are key savings you can make over time. Electric car drivers can instantly benefit from up to £3,000 in government grants and there are some handy tax breaks.

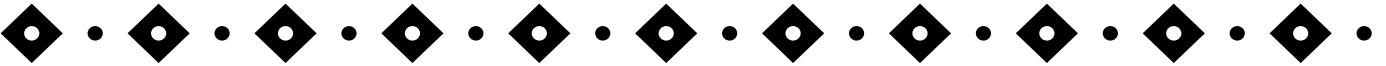
Myth 4: Electric cars are costly to maintain and repair

Just like fuel, servicing costs tend to be cheaper. Electric vehicles generally work out cheaper to service and maintain than the equivalent

petrol and diesel models, mainly because they have fewer moving parts and fewer items prone to wearing out over time. Electric cars don't need oil filters and have no cambelts that can be expensive to replace.

Myth 5: The power grid won't be able to handle it

[If 80% of all passenger cars become electric](#), this would lead to a total increase of 10-15% in electricity consumption. The projected growth in e-mobility will not drive an immediate or substantial increase in total electrical-grid power demand.



IAM News Release 01/10/21

New crash statistics reveal e-scooter casualties for the first time

The plea comes after Department for Transport's (DfT) latest findings in: Reported Road casualties Great Britain, annual report: 2020 revealed for the first time that there were 484 casualties involving e-scooters, of which one person was killed, 128 were seriously injured and 355 slightly injured.

These findings come after e-scooter firms were given the green light to start trials on UK streets in July 2020, sparking a surge in e-scooter usage. This decision was made in light of COVID-19 and social dis-

tancing regulations, which meant people needed to get around without resorting to buses and trains.

However, the results of these pilot schemes have been delayed again and again, meaning a full review of the status of this new form of transport is yet to be established.

Neil Greig, Director of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart, commented: "By delaying yet again the results of the pilot schemes we have another Christmas looming where people will be buying and using a totally unregulated form of transport in the UK.

"The pilots were launched in July 2020 and are now not due to finish

until March 2022, plus the time required after that for analysis and legislation – this has taken far too long in our opinion. In the meantime, the police should make it absolutely clear that anyone caught riding an e-scooter outside private land or a trial area will have their vehicle seized immediately.

"E-scooters may have a role to play in the future transport mix, but this can only happen once their legal status has been made completely clear and that cannot happen soon enough."

The need to clarify their legal status is further stressed by safety concerns revealed in a recent survey by IAM RoadSmart which received over 1,850 responses.

Notice Board

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael Hill for passing the Advanced Driver Test and achieving a First.

Well done Michael, this is a fantastic achievement. All your hard and perseverance has paid off.

Group Events

Due to the Covid pandemic the Group has not held any events over the last 18 months. Although restrictions have largely been removed we still need to remain vigilant. Please let me know your views on attending Group social events as well as your ideas for such events.

*Kay Heppenstall
Events Organiser
events@shgam.org.uk*

New Committee Member



Observer Chris Bradley joined the Committee at the Group's AGM on the 5th September.

Covid Safety for Associates and Observers

As a Group, whilst we are aware that we cannot request people to disclose their vaccination status, our preference would be for anyone attending any Group activity (observed run, training session, Group event etc) to be fully vaccinated. This is due to a number of our Group being more vulnerable or at risk. Therefore, if you are not currently fully vaccinated, we politely request you do not attend until you are so. We have to try to keep everyone safe.

Please note, if you display any Covid, cold or flu symptoms, we ask that you refrain from attending any Group activity. We request that you get a PCR Test and only return to any Group activity if that test is negative, or you have carried out the self-isolation period currently specified by the Government.

Please also note, if you do develop symptoms after any Group activity, we would request that you get a PCR Test and also inform our Associate Coordinator. We will then liaise with those members of the Group you've come into contact with as necessary. As above, we request that you do not return to any Group activity unless you have a negative test result or until you have been through the currently mandated self-isolation period