



Newsletter ~ October 2023

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

Welcome

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

Autumn has arrived and the colder weather is coming - at least in theory. (24° forecast for Sat 7th Oct!). What we can't avoid are the darker nights so take extra care when you are out and about. It will well worth the effort of keeping your windscreen, side windows and lights clean so you can see properly and other drivers can see you.

As advanced drivers we should be planning journeys to unfamiliar places rather than typing a post code into our Sat Nav and hoping for the best. As we know, hope is not something we should rely on as drivers. Always better to have the general route written down on paper

should the Sat Nav let you down and you find yourself being directed down a dirt track!

Remember that as a member of the Group you have the option of having your driving looked at by one of our Observers. Bad habits can always find their way into our driving and if nobody tells us about it we just carry on in ignorance until we find ourselves involved in a collision. The offer to look at your driving is there - take us up on it.

The Committee has been discussing publicity and recruitment. The difficulties of the Covid years are behind us. Our Observers have returned and we have some new Observers so we are in a good position to ramp up our recruitment activities.

We would like to set-up a Publicity and Recruitment team to raise public awareness of our Group and what it does. You don't need to be a member of the Committee or an Observer to be on this team. All you need is enthusiasm to 'think out the box'.

Ideas could include but not limited to giving in-person or online presentations to social and charitable groups across St. Helens / Merseyside or us supporting these groups at their events. If you have organisational and networking skills to work alongside our Observers and Committee members then please let me know.

Mark Farnworth
Chairman



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More Information (click links)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

Tips to staying young on the road - IAMRS Blog 12th Sept

American author Mark Twain said it best, "Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." However, as we get older, our eyes and reflexes may not be what they once were.

Getting older doesn't necessarily spell the end of driving, and here at IAM RoadSmart, we're keen on encouraging and empowering older drivers to enjoy the freedom of what driving and riding has to offer for as long as it's safe to do so.

The eyes have it

It's important to get your eyes checked regularly. As we grow older our eyesight can deteriorate or change making it harder to see other road users and road signs. By having regular eye tests, older drivers can ensure that their eyesight stays within the legal limit to drive, which will make spotting hazards easier.

Plan your journey

Before you leave make sure you know which routes you are taking. If you find it difficult to see in the dark, try to avoid driving at night. By planning your driving in good conditions, such as on clear, dry

days, you can cut out some of the unnecessary risks of driving in wet or icy weather. If you're travelling for more than 90 minutes, it's worth planning regular stops as a relaxing planned stop will be much more useful than a rushed comfort break.

Is your car suitable?

If you or someone you know is having difficulty driving, it may simply be that the car is not suitable. You can modify your car to help with any visual or physical ailments, such as fitting auxiliary mirrors to aid all-round vision or

parking sensors. Newer cars come equipped with cameras, which can make parking and reversing easier, as well as other sensors that can alert a driver to a nearby object or vehicle before an accident occurs.

Remove distractions

For older drivers who may have corrected hearing or vision, keeping the vehicle free from distraction is vitally important. Ensuring full concentration on the road and prioritising hazards will result in a calmer and safer drive.

Richard Gladman,
IAMRS Chief Examiner



IAM News Release 28th September 2023

IAMRoadSmart responds to latest DfT figures

Nicholas Lyes, Director of Policy and Standards at IAM RoadSmart, said:

"Today's statistics from the Department for Transport (DfT) are a clear demonstration that the legalisation of e-scooters must be bought forward so we can properly regulate these devices to protect vulnerable road users. The number of e-scooters being involved in collisions is increasing year-on-year, and this isn't going to change until government introduce a legislation and regulation to make a positive difference.

"Overall, the road safety statistics published today paint a depressing

picture of a return to long-term stagnation in progress on reducing death and injury. Another year has passed without any leadership from the DfT in the form of a long-awaited road safety plan for England. The figures for motorcyclists are particularly worrying and that is why IAM RoadSmart has been campaigning for a new approach to motorcycling with a proper strategy and the removal of VAT on key road safety kit."

Reported road casualties Great Britain, annual report: 2022

These are the final statistics on road collisions and casualties for Great Britain in 2022.

Reported road casualties for 2022 show a return towards pre-pandemic trends. As both 2020 and 2021 included periods of national COVID-19 lockdown, this publication compares provisional results

for 2022 to 2019 figures, the most recent equivalent pre-pandemic year. In reported road collisions in Great Britain in 2022, there were an estimated:

- 1,711 fatalities, a decline of 2% compared to 2019
- 29,742 killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties, a decline of 3% compared to 2019
- 135,480 casualties of all severities, a decline of 12% compared to 2019
- 5 road fatalities per billion vehicle miles travelled, up 2% compared to 2019

Alongside the main publication and full set of detailed road safety [statistical tables](#), we have also published a range of [road safety factsheets](#) focussed on specific road users or topics, including the official statistics on [e-scooter](#) collisions and casualties.

GOV.UK

Notice Board

Welcome to

Alison Jones
Who has joined the Autumn
Advanced Driver Course

Congratulations to

Neil Taylor
who has passed the advanced Driving
Test. Well done Neil, all your hard
work has paid off.

Visit to the Lancashire Mining Museum, Astley Green

Higher Green Lane, Astley
Saturday 4th November
1.30am to approx. 3pm

In the heart of the village stands
Astley Green Colliery Museum which
has a unique 3,300 hp twin tandem
compound steam winding engine.
This brought the proposed
demolition to a halt.

Contact Kay Heppenstall if you are
planning to attend.

Family and friends welcome

Newsletter content

Do you read the motoring pages of newspapers either the paper versions or online? Motoring is in the press a lot at the moment from electric cars, Smart Motorways to the increasing use of lower speed limits for rural roads or 20mph zones in urban areas. Do you come across interesting articles which may be of interest to the Group's membership? If you do, then email me links to the online versions or tell me what the article is in your paper version and I'll try and find the online version. I'm happy to put these articles in the Group's newsletter. Just let me know and I'll do the rest.

Mark Farnworth
Newsletter editor

St. Helens Community Fire Station—update

The Fire Station is an exceptional venue for us on Sunday mornings. Since 1985 we have always met at 10am and on 'on the road' by 10.15am. We are now gathering at 9.50am and from 10 to 10.30am we use the IT facilities to give short presentations and show driving videos. This 'warm up' is proving popular for both Associates and Observers.

Farewell to Observer Jeff Fishwick



Stalwart Observer Jeff Fishwick has decided to hang up his clipboard and retire as an Observer. Jeff joined the IAM in August 2014 and in July 2017 became an Observer for the St. Helens Group. Jeff has made a significant contribution to the Group not only as a driver (Winner of the Driver of the year competition 2018) but also as an Observer - honed during his life as a driving instructor for many years. Thank you so much Jeff for what you have brought to the Observer team. You will be missed. I wish you well for the next chapter of your life.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman