



# Newsletter ~ October 2019

**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.

It only seems like two minutes ago since we were in the height(!) of summer and yet we're now heading well into autumn, with the clocks going back very shortly (and no, I'm not going to mention Christmas, it's far too early!). This time of year leads to some of the most challenging driving conditions, such is the variety, but a careful application of the system should see most drivers get through safely.

Our Autumn/Winter course is now well underway. A big welcome to all the new and returning Associates; I hope that you get to

grips with our course and achieve what you set out to achieve. We are here to support you every step of the way.

On the topic of new courses, we are still offering our wonderful discounts for drivers aged 17-35 and drivers aged 60+. If you know anyone who would be interested in taking part in our next course please put them in touch with us and we will be happy to provide more information.

That's all from me, I hope you and your families enjoy the end of your year.

Here's to your continued safe, systematic driving.

**Tom Field,**  
**Group Chairman**

### Message from IAM RoadSmart

We would like to thank all our members for your support and dedication in helping us make our roads a safer place.

As a valued member who has already experienced the benefits of our Advanced Driver or Rider Course, we would like you to spread the word amongst your family and friends.

All your family or friends need to do is to quote your membership number when buying one of our advanced courses to benefit from a £20 saving.

This offer is for telephone only orders on 0300 303 1134.



St. Helens Group website

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

#### Contacts:

contact@shgam.org.uk  
07849 674393 (after 6pm)

editor@shgam.org.uk

#### **More Information** (click links)

[Autumn Course Dates](#)

[Up and coming events](#)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM RoadSmart Advice](#)

## Driving through autumn - IAM RoadSmart tips

It's now officially autumn so we're going to take a look at some of the hazards you may come across.

- Check your battery before the winter arrives. In winter we often place a strain on the battery with lights, heated screens, seats and the air conditioner to demist and keep us warm.
- Prepare for darker mornings and evenings. You'll be doing a lot more driving in the dark when autumn hits, so ensure you're confident whilst driving in the dark.
- The low winter sun can

be an issue so keep a pair of sunglasses in the car and also make use of the sun visor too.

- Check your antifreeze levels. The good thing about antifreeze is that it contains additives that prevent corrosion and rust, and during the summer it helps keep the engine from overheating.
- Top up the windscreen washer with de-icing additive - the colder it gets the stronger the solution needs to be
- Check your windscreen wipers. If they begin to blur the front/rear window or begin making an awful

squeaking noise, it's time to replace them with new ones.

- Have a look at your car headlights. It is dangerous for you and for the other road users if your lights do not work properly.
- Leaves or pine needles on the road can turn into a mushy film which obscures potholes, road markings and increases stopping distance.
- Watch out for animals. October through to December is considered the highest risk of deer collisions in the UK, so take notice of any wildlife

signs that you come across and take extra care.

- There may be more distractions over the next few months with events taking place, such as Guy Fawkes night. There may be fireworks going off so ensure you're alert for any scared animals that may run into the road. Also, Halloween is approaching, so you'll have some ghouls and ghosts walking the streets so be sure to look out for them.

**Richard Gladman, head of driving and riding standards, IAM RoadSmart**



## Associate Coordinator's Corner

Congratulations to Rozanna Whiteley (First), José Cabrita (First), Nigel Morley and Sophie Fairhurst on their recent Test Passes.

Welcome to Mark Armstrong, Stephen Daveys, Lucy Hickey, Steven Walker and Ian Templeton who have recently joined the Group.

Welcome also to those who have returned from the previous Course to complete this one.

I hope everyone enjoys the Course and I wish you every success. If your Test Drive is safe, systematic, smooth and progressive, then you will pass.

The biggest single cause of Test Failure during the last twelve months has been breaking the speed limit. We cannot stress too much that when it comes to the Law of the Land, there is no leeway.

There have been a variety of reasons as to why the speed limit has been broken on Test. A common one has been missing the sign when turning on to a new road; another is just before or after a roundabout when there is a lot happening. Whenever you are asked to turn on to a new road, ask yourself "Is there a new speed limit?" Another cause is allowing the car to creep over the limit when going

down a steep hill. Make sure it doesn't happen to you.

Really, it is all down to observation. You must concentrate fully for every minute of the Test. It really is a case of putting into practice what you have been taught each week. If you can produce that standard on the day of the Test, you will pass.

To end on a positive note; our Pass Rate over the years since the Group began is 91%.

Good luck on your Test.

**Alan Prescott**  
**Associate Co-ordinator**

## Notice Board

### Afternoon tea

Sat 26th October

Venue and time to be confirmed.

### Stargazing night

Jodrell Back, Macclesfield  
7 to 10pm

£9.50 per person

Indoor / outdoor options depending on weather

### **Congratulations to:**

Rozanna Whiteley,  
José Cabrita,  
Nigel Morley  
Sophie Fairhurst

on their recent Test passes.

### Social Event Organiser

Kay Heppenstall  
events@shgam.org.uk  
Tel: 07849 674939 (after 6pm)

**IAM RoadSmart concerned that government disruption has forced road safety down the political agenda as new report show practically no change in casualty figures**

**Posted 26th September 2019**

IAM RoadSmart is increasingly concerned that disruption to government, in part caused by Brexit, has forced road deaths down the political agenda.

It has expressed disappointment that there has been practically no headway made in six years in the levels of those killed in road crashes on our roads.

There were 1,784 reported road deaths in 2018, compared to 1,793 reported in 2017 – which, although being 1% down over the previous period, is in real terms only a disappointingly marginal reduction.

There were 25,511 people seriously injured in reported road traffic accidents in 2018, compared to 24,831 in 2017 – a very discouraging 3% increase over 12 months

### **Double F1RST success**



Congratulations to Rozana Whiteley and José Cabrita on passing the Advanced Driving Test and both achieving a F1rst. Said Rozana 'We decided to do the course as a couple to learn and help each other along the way, which we feel was a good decision! We are now more aware of ourselves, other road users and feel like much safer drivers'.