



Newsletter ~ June 2026

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.

As I write this piece I feel Summer has finally arrived with temperatures in the mid 20Cs. Remember that hot weather brings its own driving challenges, not least staying hydrated during day trips and trips to holiday destinations and keeping calm during busy traffic periods, particularly during hold-ups where patience can be tested. Try to uphold the main advanced driving tenets of discipline, being systematic and focus.

I have some pieces of information to share with you.

Firstly, our Associate Co-ordinator, Alan Prescott, has decided to hang up his clipboard at the AGM after

32 years diligently carrying out this role.



Every Associate joining the Group over the last 32 years would have come across Alan at some point. We owe Alan a huge gratitude for his service to the Group not only as Associate Co-ordinator but also as a dedicated Observer having joined the Observer team in 1989 and retiring as an Observer a few years ago. Thank you Alan.

I'd also like to thank our Vice-Chairman Phil Sharples who has decided to step down from this role at the AGM. Phil is also another dedicated

member and Observer of many years.

Volunteering to support any cause can be very rewarding both personally and for the cause. It's worthwhile reminding ourselves periodically of why we exist and what we contribute to society. Our mission, highlight, in the tag line above '*Working to make our roads safer everyday*' is not just a sentence, but our passion. We aim to reduce death and injury on our roads by equipping drivers to be more confident, more skilful and safer. We are on the look out for Observers to join our team following a significant reduction in recent years. If you are interested then get in touch.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman

St. Helens Group website
www.shgam.org.uk

Contacts:

contactshgam@gmail.com
07849 674393 (after 6pm)
editorshgam@gmail.com

More Information (click links)

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[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

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IAM RoadSmart calls for 'cheese cutter' cable barriers to be replaced with a more motorcyclist friendly option Press release 12th May 2026



The road safety charity has launched a petition calling for Highways Authorities across the UK to commit to their decommissioning by the end of the decade.

New figures show that almost 150 miles of cable barriers – which pose a safety threat to motorcy-

clists – remain on England's roads. The cable barriers are known for their 'cheese cutter' effect on bikers unlucky enough to hit them on collision while any unprotected posts that hold the wires in place can cause major trauma to those who hit them at high speed.

Road safety charity IAM RoadSmart is calling for them to be scrapped and replaced with a safer alternative by the end of the decade. Barriers, which can be constructed of ca-

ble, concrete and steel, can be found alongside roads or constituting the central reservation. They account for three quarters (76%) of fatalities or serious injuries when impacted by those on two wheels. This compares to just 16 percent of other road users, demonstrating the risk barriers in general pose. Motorcycles are also 33 times more likely to become involved in a fatal single barrier incident than cars. When cable barriers come into play, the risk is magnified.

A Parliamentary question dated February 26 found that 143 miles (230 kms) of cable barriers are present on motorways and on the wider strategic network in England. These barriers are also present on roads in Wales, and Scotland, however they are being removed in Northern Ireland. Cable barriers present an issue for motorcyclists because of their upright posts, whereas a standard guard-rail has no protruding parts. These posts are more likely to seriously injure (jagged edges) or kill a motorcyclist, sometimes by decapitation.



Number of drivers given points for speeding at its highest in four years

- IAM Press Release 8th April

- DVLA data reveals a 32 percent increase in the number of drivers who were given points between 2022 and 2025

- Campaigners call out a "culture of speeding" in the UK and say a shift in mindset, as well as stronger enforcement, is needed to tackle the issue.

The number of drivers caught speeding in England, Scotland and Wales is at its highest in four years, according to new data. A freedom of information (FOI) request by road safety charity IAM RoadSmart to the DVLA revealed that there was a 32% increase in the number of drivers who were given points between 2022 and 2025.

In 2022, 678,367 drivers were given an SP30 endorsement, the code for exceeding the statutory limit on a public road (excluding motorways which has a separate offence code). This compares to 939,519 drivers in 2025.

By comparison, 216,141 drivers were caught speeding on the motorway in 2025, a six percent decrease from the previous year, but a 29 percent increase since 2022.

Separate research from IAM RoadSmart showed that many more drivers are admitting to breaking the speed limit. In the last 12 months alone, more than half of Brits (61%)

confessed to breaking the 30mph speed limit.

Shockingly, a small minority (1%) confessed to doing more than 70mph in a 30mph zone and almost half (48%) said they had driven between 31-40mph.

The road safety charity surveyed 2,053 motorists in the UK for its 2025 Road Safety Report on their driving habits over the past year and found that speeding was commonplace.

Speeding is one of the most common causes of fatal and serious road collisions, contributing to almost half (40%) of all collisions in 2024 according to Government data.

The minimum penalty for speeding is a £100 fine and three penalty points. Motorists could be disqualified from driving if they build up 12 or more points within a period of three years. Motorists caught exceeding the speed limit by a considerable amount may face a fine of 125-175 percent of their weekly income, along with six penalty points or a driving ban.

Depending on the severity of the offence, it may result in a dangerous driving charge that can result in imprisonment.

IAM RoadSmart Policy and Standards Director Nicholas Lyes said:

"The fact that more people are getting points on their licence for speeding is incredibly concerning considering it can lead to life-changing consequences.

"It's particularly worrying that so many people are breaking the law where 30mph limits apply, as these are populated with more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. What's more, potentially millions more are admitting to speeding, but may be getting away with it.

"Speeding is one of the leading factors in the most serious collisions on our roads. Speeding contributed to 40 percent of all collisions in 2024. Inappropriate or illegal speed not only increases risk, it also means the driver is not fully in control of their vehicle. "While police cannot be expected to be everywhere, new ways to enforce limits should be considered – whether through average or fixed position cameras or alternative means.

Re-scheduled visit to the World Museum, Liverpool is on Saturday 27th June, 11am arrival.

Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to the following Associates.

Donald Larence Edwards (rider)
Wayne Chalkey (driver)
Lee Yates (rider)
Peter Hutcheon (driver)
David Hooley (rider)

Best wishes as you progress through your advanced driver/rider training.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Martin Maunder on passing the Advanced Rider Test and achieving a F1rst and to Jim Mulvaney for passing the Advanced Driver Test. Well done to you both. All your hard work has paid off.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman

New Rider Observers

Welcome to Steve Baxter and Andrew Simkin who have joined our rider Observer team.



Steve Baxter

Qualified Rider
National Observer



Andrew Simkin

Trainee Rider
National Observer

Treasure Hunt

Sunday 26th July

We are pleased to let you know that we will be arranging a Car Treasure Hunt. A car treasure hunt is a non-competitive motoring event in which participants follow a set route, solving clues and answering questions as they go. This year's route will take in some of our most beautiful countryside and should take around three hours to complete. We plan to finish at a local eatery for a late lunch.

We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable and sociable event.

For further details contact eventsshgam@gmail.com

Simon Brook—organiser



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

**to be held at 8pm on Thursday 11th June 2026
Ibis Hotel, Haydock, WA11 0GR.**

**Guest Speaker: Barry Foster
North West Blood Bikes Lancs and Lakes**

The North West Blood Bike Charity are a group of volunteers who respond to calls from the hospitals and dispatch motorcycle riders and car drivers to collect and deliver urgently needed items for NHS hospitals, normally during out of hours. This saves money, otherwise spent on taxis deliveries. These items include blood, platelets, samples for analysis, medication and more.

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 2026/2027 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)

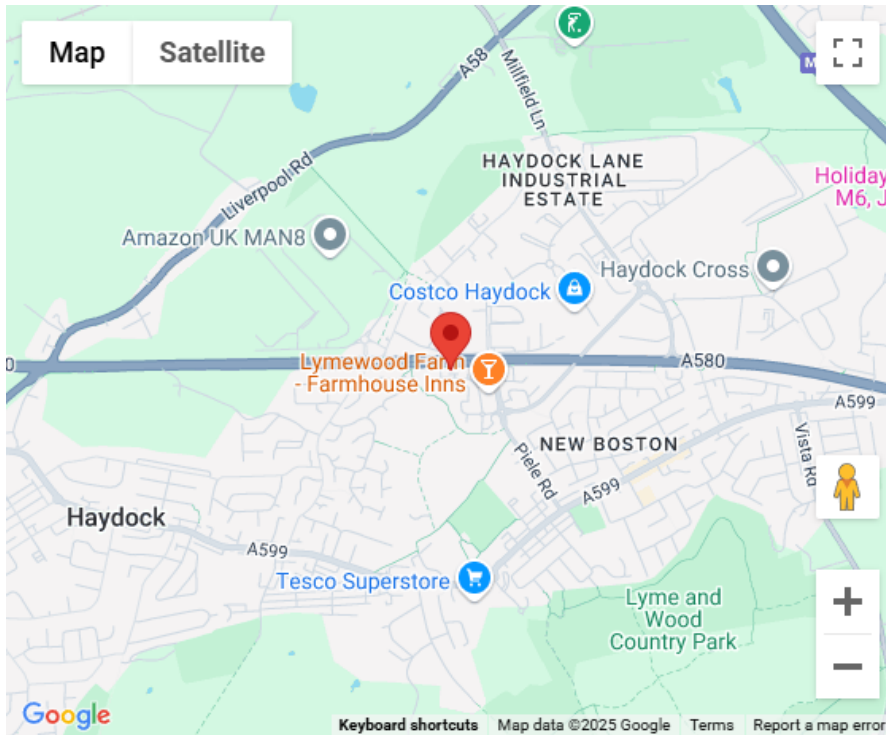
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Proposer (full name in capitals) **Seconder** (full name in capitals)

_____ (signature) _____



St. Helens Group Annual General Meeting Ibis Hotel, Haydock, WA11 0GR



NOMINATION FOR 2025/2026 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 **Thursday 28th May 2026**

Please send an email to register your Nomination via the
following email address
editorshgam@gmail.com

