

Newsletter ~ October 2026

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

Welcome

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

I have a couple of good news stories to share with you.

Firstly, over the summer months there has been a surge of activity on the riding side of the Group. The list on page 2 shows the rider Associates who have joined us since the August newsletter and there were more rider Associates before that. Credit for much of this success has to be given to our lead rider Observer Alan Douglas for his enthusiasm and commitment to engage with the rider community. Over the last couple of years he has trained / been involved with the training of rider Observers in addition to Associate training. We

now have three qualified rider National Observers and one in training. Adding advanced rider training was kindled some two and a half years ago. We knew at the time that success was not guaranteed and that only through hard work, determination and patience that success could be possible. All of this has been achieved and there are good signs that we are now reaping the rewards.

Another piece of good news is that Wayne Chalkey has kindly taken on the role of our Publicity and Recruitment Officer. Over the last 12 months driver Associate recruitment has been in the doldrums and so Wayne's involvement in this role is timely and much needed. We cannot just sit back and wait for driver refer-

als from IAM RoadSmart. We need to be proactive with recruitment but also recognising that this will take time and patience to develop our networks in our community. Ultimately, the more people that know who we are and what we do the more opportunities there are for recruitment for both our driving and riding elements. We have a large number of high quality leaflets and business cards that promote IAM RoadSmart and the St. Helens Group. Please get in touch if you would like some of these for your community notice boards or to give out to members of other organisation that you may be involved with.

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)

[SHGAM News](#)

[IAM News Releases](#)

[SHGAM Driving Tips](#)

[IAM News Archive](#)

[Our Courses](#)

[Course dates](#)

IAM Reactions to various topical issues - [IAM News](#)

New data revealing road collisions cost Britain more than £50bn a year.

Aside from the emotional devastation caused by road collisions, the cost to Britain in terms of lost output, insurance, damage, and medical costs is estimated to be more than £50bn a year. We call on the Government to be ambitious as it implements its road safety strategy as these figures show why investment in measures that to prevent collisions and improve driving standards should

be seen not simply as a road safety priority, but as an economic one too."

On the Reported road casualties in GB, final results, 2025.

"These figures show a lost decade in terms of reducing the number of serious casualties and highlights the urgency of implementing measures to improve road safety. An overall increase in the number of killed and seriously injured in 2025 is troubling and we are deeply concerned by the increase in

motorcyclist fatalities. Those using two wheels are among the most vulnerable road users and we need a concerted effort to bring these numbers down by reforming licensing and training.

The UK Government's strategy will undoubtedly address some of these issues, but it must be backed by clear timelines, proper funding, and decisive action if we are to meet the ambitious targets the strategy sets out."

Introduction of Graduated Licensing in Northern Ireland

The introduction of Graduated Driver Licensing in Northern Ireland represents an important step towards making our roads safer and, most importantly, preventing the loss of life. Every person killed or seriously injured on our roads is a tragedy for their family, friends and community. These reforms are about giving new drivers the time, experience and support they need to develop safer habits and reduce the risk of serious collisions.



Passenger restrictions top wish list of measures to improve young driver

IAM News Release - 7th Sept

- More than half (57%) of drivers back nighttime passenger restrictions for newly qualified drivers
- A third (32%) of those aged 17-24 support this measure but prefer additional training options

More than half of drivers (57%) would back introducing nighttime restrictions on newly qualified drivers carrying similar aged passengers to improve road safety, including a third (32%) of those aged 17-24, according to new research published today.

A survey of 1,045 motorists undertaken by road safety charity IAM RoadSmart found that night restrictions were among the most popular measures. Almost half (44%) of motorists would back a curfew on nighttime driving for new drivers between midnight and 5am, though far fewer (21%) of those aged 17-24 would support this.

Other supported measures included mandatory telematics insurance,

backed by 29% of all respondents. Mandatory training after passing their test - similar to schemes such as the DVSA's Pass Plus or IAM RoadSmart's Young Driver Assessment - is endorsed by a pragmatic 44% of drivers. Moreover, this option is the most popular policy among 17-24 year-olds, favoured by 42% of this age group.

The UK Government's preferred policy of introducing a mandatory learning period for novice drivers, as outlined in the road safety strategy was backed by over a third (36%) of respondents and crucially was one of the more favoured options among younger motorists (34% of younger drivers backed this).

Overall, just under one in ten (8%) of drivers of all ages said they wouldn't endorse any of the measures put forward, indicating strong public support for improving the current approach to learning how to drive.

The research also showed that most felt that, apart from younger drivers themselves, parents and guardians had the biggest influence on helping to reduce serious collisions among this age group, a view championed by 53% of motorists. Meanwhile, more than half of drivers (59%) would support exempting Insurance Premium Tax (IPT), levied at a standard rate of 12% on all policies, for those taking up telematics products in their first year.

Young drivers (17-24) make up around 6% of all licence holders but are involved in around a quarter (24%) of all fatal and serious collisions.

Recent coverage of social media content has also shone a light on dangerous driving trends, again highlighting safety culture among some younger drivers. IAM RoadSmart's 2025 Road Safety Report found that one in seven (15%) of drivers aged 17-24 were recording videos or taking pictures with phones while driving.

Notice Board

Welcome

Welcome to the following Associates.

Stuart Campbell (rider)
Nicholas Topping (rider)
Colin Rudkin (rider)
Simon Matthews (rider)
Michael Davies (driver)
Sean Graham (rider)
Stephen Butler-Boycott (rider)

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Associates on passing the Advanced Rider / Driver tests.

Wayne Chalkey (driver)
Donald Lawrence Edwards (rider)
Eliel Aldred (rider)
Steve Baxter (driver)

Well done to you all. All your hard work has paid off.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman

New Committee Member / Observer



I'd like to welcome Wayne Chalkey as our newest Committee member. Wayne was co-opted onto the Committee at the September Committee Meeting - only a few days after he passed the Advanced Driver Test! Wayne will take on the role of Publicity and Recruitment Officer and will also undergo training to become an Observer.

Thank you very much Wayne for supporting the Group.

Mark Farnworth
Group Chairman

Meal at the Stanley Arms

Gillars Lane, Eccleston, St Helens, WA10 5PT,

Thursday 22nd October
6:45pm for a 7:00 pm start.

You are cordially invited to join us for a meal at the Eccleston Arms. Family and friends are more than welcome to join us too.

Can you let me know by Thursday 15th October if you are planning to attend so I can book tables for the number expected.

Kay Heppenstall
Events Co-ordinator

eventsshgam@gmail.com

Next Advanced Driver Course

Starts Sunday 10th January