**St Helens and District Group of Advanced Motorists**

**St. Helens Group website**

[**www.shgam.org.uk**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam)

**Social Media**

The Group is on Twitter (@StHelensIAM) and has a Facebook page. You are invited to ‘like’ our page so that you can receive our posts and keep up to date with what the Group and IAM RoadSmart are doing and see some general motoring posts.

<https://www.facebook.com/StHelensIAM>

or click the Facebook icon. below.

#### **More Information**

##### **(click links)**

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[**Group Membership**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/Group-Subscriptions-Gift-Aid-Easy-Fund-Raising)

[**Associate documents and videos**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/associate-documents)

[**Course dates**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/our-courses/course-dates)

[**Up and coming events**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/events)

[**SHGAM News**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/news)

[**SHGAM Driving Tips**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/shgam-tips)

**[Data Protection](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/Group-Subscriptions-Gift-Aid-Easy-Fund-Raising/group-required-contract-statement)**

**[Statement](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/Group-Subscriptions-Gift-Aid-Easy-Fund-Raising/group-required-contract-statement)**

[**Notice Board**](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/notice-board)

Working to make our roads safer every day...

Dear xxxxx, welcome to the St. Helens and District Group of Advanced Motorists

 - your first step to becoming a better, safer and more confident driver. You will find

on this page some useful information about the St. Helens Group and how we run

the IAM RoadSmart Advanced Driver Course. I wish you well and above all else

- enjoy!

***Mark Farnworth, Group Chairman***

## **Group history and course operation**

The Group is a charity with the aims of promoting road safety and preparing members

 of the public to take the IAM RoadSmart (formerly the Institute of Advanced

Motorists) advanced driving test. The Group was founded in December 1985 and

over the last 30+ years has helped approximately 600 local people to prepare for

the advanced driving test with a pass rate of approximately 90%. The Group runs

three IAM RoadSmart Advanced Driver Courses per year starting in January, May

and September.

##  **Course documents**

You should have received or will shortly receive the IAM RoadSmart Associate booklet.

Bring this with you everytime you have an observed run. Take a look at the

[Associate Documents and Videos page](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/associate-documents) on the website. Before commencing the course

 you will need to complete the [Documents Declaration](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/associate-documents/documents-declaration) and [Pre-Course Questionnaire](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/about-us/our-community/associate-documents/pre-course-questionnaire).

## **Associate co-ordinator**

Our Associate co-ordinator is Alan Prescot and he is your main point of contact

throughout the time that you are an Associate. Should you have any difficulties

then speak to Alan in the first instance

**Alan Prescott Tel: 01744 756298**

 **e-mail:** alanprescott3@googlemail.com

If you need to contact any other group official then use the [Contact Us](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/groups/sthelensam/contact-us) button on the

website. The Membership Secretary is Anita Clift (membership@shgam.org.uk) and

the Treasurer is Stephen Dumont (Treasurer@shgam.org.uk)

## **Classroom sessions and Observed Runs**

The observed runs will be conducted from the St. Helens Community Fire station,

St. Helens Town Centre on Sunday mornings starting promptly at 10am. If Sunday

 mornings are inconvenient then let us know. The classroom sessions (System

 presentation and Meet an Examiner) will also be held at the Fire Station. Observers

are Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) and Driving Standard Agency (DSA) approved.

Please make every effort to attend these classroom sessions. See our [website](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/our-courses) for

more information.

**OBSERVED RUNS**

The Observed runs are designed to take you from having little or no knowledge of advanced driving to a full understanding at the end of your course. Each observed run has a [theme](https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/sthelensam/our-courses/course-dates) that corresponds to chapters in your IAM RoadSmart Associate booklet. When we meet at the St. Helens fire station on Sunday mornings, the first 30 minutes is used to introduce you to the mornings theme. We usually show a [Reg Local YouTube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yPReVqR4dI&list=PLTpqGstmcT4mBXqadgamkgJmLoEbUeVbO) followed by discussion.

**IS YOUR CAR SAFE AND LEGAL?**

As the driver ***you*** are responsible for the legal roadworthiness of your vehicle, the control over that vehicle, and the safety of passengers in your vehicle. It is for these reasons there should be daily checks of:

* Vehicle readiness for the road **(POWDERY)**
* Cockpit and brake checks

**P - PETROL**

**O - OIL**

**W - WATER**

**D - DAMAGE**

**E - ELECTRICS**

**R - RUBBER**

**Y - YOURSELF**

**COCKPIT DRILL (guide only)**

* All doors secure
* Handbrake is on
* Gear in neutral
* Seat and mirrors adjusted
* Ignition on, panel check
* Depress clutch
* Start engine, panel check
* Static brake test
* Seat belts fastened
* Vehicle ready for the road, carry out a moving brake test when safe.

**MOVING BRAKE TEST**

To ensure the vehicle pulls up straight during braking. The test should be carried out as soon as it is safe, without inconvenience to other road users; ideally at 30mph in fourth gear, but use whatever speed and gear is appropriate. Warn your passengers,

**‘STAND BY FOR MOVING BRAKE CHECK’**

Then, **‘BRAKING NOW’**

Use one firm application of the brakes to reduce the speed to about 10mph. If the test is satisfactory, announce, **‘THE BRAKES ARE PULLING EVENLY’**