



FIFE IAM

Kingdom of Fife Group IAM, helping improve road safety in Fife and beyond.

October 2018

AGM

Its that time of year when we need to do the formalities for the running of the group. Our October event is merged with the AGM so we'll have a presentation as well as the formal meeting. The AGM will take place on 24 October. Find out more on the next page.

Driving updates

There have been quite a lot of changes in the driving world in 2018 and we take a look at a few of them in more detail in this issue of the newsletter.

From driving too close to cyclists, parking on the pavement, new MOT rules, changes to Vehicle Excise Duty, Learners driving on the motorway and suggested new restrictions on eye tests as a result of 'Cassies Law' then there is a lot to take in.

Thankfully KOFG IAM are here to keep you up to date with the changes and why not give us your thoughts on our twitter or Facebook pages.

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Eye tests

You must be able to read a number plate made after 1 September 2001 from 20 metres.

You must wear glasses or contact lenses every time you drive if you need them to meet the 'standards of vision for driving'.

www.gov.uk/driving-eyesight-rules



Some police forces are now carrying out vision tests at roadside & could lose your license if you fail.

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Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by order of the Group Committee that the Annual General Meeting of "Kingdom of Fife Group of Advanced Motorists" will be held at 19:15 Hrs on Wednesday 24th October 2018 at Dunnikier Park Golf Club, Dunnikier Way, Kirkcaldy, KY1 3LP to enable the trustees to present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st July 2018 for the approval of group members and to conduct an election.

A few reason to come along to the AGM:

- Want to join the group
- Find out about how the group is performing
- Meet some like minded individuals
- Listen to a guest speaker
- Have some tea or coffee
- Because we are a friendly bunch

Agenda

1. *Welcome*
2. *Changes to Agenda*
3. *Minutes of 2017 AGM (Resolution No 1.)*
4. *Matters arising from 2017 AGM*
5. *Chairman's Report*
6. *Treasurers Report and Adoption of accounts (Resolution No.2) (Resolution No.3)*
7. *Chief Observers Report—Car*
8. *Chief Observers Report—Motorcycle*
9. *Election of Officers*
10. *Election of Committee*
11. *Address by New Chairman*
12. *AOB*
13. *Guest Speaker*



Is it too early to start talking about Christmas?

Our Christmas lunch is confirmed as taking place in the Dunnikier Park Golf Club (see above) on 2nd December. We had lunch here last year and it was very good and great value for money.

As with most events, friends and family are welcome and we'd love to see you there.

We'll send out more information about how to book shortly but put a note in your diary now and we'll see you on December 2nd.

Still to be confirmed - Our November event may be a quiz night. More info coming soon.

Motorbike section



Well I thought I would write a few lines as the group motorcycle liaison officer. Firstly, welcome all to the group, new associates especially, always good to have new blood in the group.

Our group event at Tesco on Saturday 11th was a success. Thanks to those that attended and those who organised it.

If you do follow us, then you may have read my little rant about the surface dressing carried out on the roads around the Trossachs area. I decided to take it further than a Facebook rant and sent an email into the Scottish Government MSP. I had a reply however not to my satisfaction. Bottom line is surface dressing is an approved method of road repairs. It's still in my opinion a dangerous surface for road users, like riding a bike on the beach, not good. I'm still thinking whether there is anything else I can do with this, but it's used widely nationally so I'm probably on a hiding before I start but that's never stopped me before.

Transport Scotland have recently Tweeted regarding the correct use of the A9000 Forth Road Bridge, transport corridor. They provided a short video of the correct vehicles that can legally use this carriageway. Unfortunately, it was factually incorrect which I raised with them when I replied to their Tweet. Needless to say, I have not had a reply.

As a road safety group, we are doing our best to maintain safe environments on our carriageways but at times like this I feel we are up against authorities that do not understand the full implications of this and that worries me. How many times have you driven down a carriageway and there is so much signage that some of it cannot be read as it is literally blocked out by a sign placed too close to it in front? Why?

Lanes that merge into one, where arrows are painted on the carriageway informing you to merge left or right yet if you read the road these arrows merge you in the wrong direction, i.e. reading the road ahead lane 1 merges with lane 2 and then proceeds ahead yet the signage will merge lane 2 into lane 1 then you have to steer back into what would have been lane 2. Is it just me or do others think that too?

Don't worry though it's not all doom and gloom, we've had a decent bit of weather lately and although I haven't personally got out as much as I would have liked I have been out and about. We recently took a trip to the Glenfinnan Monument. On route, we were lucky to see the Hogwarts Express, see picture above —some would say it was a magical experience (oh dear). Anyway we had fun so why not join us on one of our next ride outs?

Do you have a good route you like to go on? Why not create an event on Facebook with us and lead the ride out? You do not need to be an observer or a committee member to organise it. If you need help get in touch with me. Anyone with suggestion on leading the group forward please let me know we are always looking for fresh ideas. Perhaps you could assist in some way, if so again please let us know.

Ride safe and stick to the black stuff.

KoFG IAM Roadsmart (motorcycle) Group - Twee us @KoFGIAMMC or follow on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/569399193178625/?ref=bookmarks>

Driving News

From June 18, Learner car drivers are allowed on Motorways as part of their structured lessons if their instructor thinks they are capable of doing so. This will not form part of the test. The changes do not apply to learner motorcyclists who are still not allowed on motorways

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Eye tests

On page 1, I gave the requirements from the DVLA on the range that you must legally be able to see when driving. Normally the onus is on the driver to report any issues or changes with their vision to the DVLA. Several English Police Authorities are taking a different view on this, they are piloting roadside tests that could result in a license being immediately revoked if the officers believe the safety of other road users is being put a risk. Find out more at www.brake.org.uk

Driving too close - Cyclists

A call for evidence was requested by the government to protect cyclists on the roads. It is likely that a change to the Highway Code could see a distance, possibly 1.5 metres, as opposed to the current 'leave plenty of room' guidance. It comes after 2016 figures revealed that 102 cyclists were killed and over 8,000 injured. There is also a call for evidence to decide if a 'dangerous riding' charge should also be introduced for cyclists who cause injury or death as a result of their actions.

Road Tax—low emissions

In the year between April 2017-18, DVLA issued fines to over 34 thousand registered keepers for failing to tax their vehicles - however these were drivers of nil-rated vehicles which don't cost anything to tax. Cars with zero or low emissions may be exempt from paying road tax but they still need to be registered of you may be fined.

MOT rules

The [DVSA](#) announced new MOT rules that came into force from May 2018. There are 5 main changes that include the categorization of defects'; stricter rules for diesel cars and some new items that are tested including obviously underinflated tyres, headlight washers and daytime running lights. The other 2 changes see a new-look certificate being used and some vehicles over 40 years old not requiring an MOT. Follow the DVSA link for a full list.

Parking on pavements

The UK as a whole are considering introducing a ban on parking on pavements. Currently this is only illegal in London and comes with a £70 fine. This would rise up to £100 under new plans. In Scotland though Local Authorities will soon be able to fine drivers who inconsiderately park on the pavement making it difficult for users such as wheelchairs or with buggies to pass. Want to know more - visit [here](#)