



# NEWSLETTER 2018- Issue 28

## Chairman's Chat

As we now enter spring the weather is still reminding us that winter is still not totally away and with more snow forecast as I write this we all have to take care whilst driving in wintry conditions.

The group observers have met recently to brush up on the skills required to pass on to our associates the required standard that is required when going to test.

Our Area Service Manager Scott Tulip chaired this session and we hope that his input will serve us well in going forward this year. Our local examiners Lee Fisher and Graeme Ferguson also joined us for the presentation and I am grateful to them for giving us their time.

I am also pleased to say that we have another two members (David McCall & Alistair Turner) who have commenced their local observer training which will enhance our team even further this summer.

Please note that we have had to re-arrange the date of our AGM this year. It will now take place on Thursday 3 May instead of the original date of 10 May. The venue will be the Smith Museum Dumbarton Rd Stirling at 1930hrs.

**Angus Maciver**  
Chairman

# GROUP NEWS

Dates for your Diary:-

Group meetings - 7.30pm

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 (AGM)</b>	<b>Smith Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2RQ</b>
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**Congratulations to the following people who have passed their IAM Test:**

<b>Associate</b>		<b>Observer</b>
Liam Balfour (car)	22/03/2018	Amanda Aikman

## Your Committee 2017/18

Chairman	Angus Maciver	07801951508	chairman@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Secretary	David Allan		secretary@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Treasurer	Lindsay Pyall		
Membership/Liaison Secretary	Mark Elder	07973217256	membership@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Kenneth Grant	01324228126	newsletter@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Motorcycle Chief Observer	Lindsay Pyall		

Forth Valley Group website: [www.forthvalleyiam.org.uk/](http://www.forthvalleyiam.org.uk/)

Enquiries to Membership tel: 07973217256

# CAR / MOTORCYCLE SECTION

## THE DRIVERLESS CAR DEBATE

Whilst IAM Roadsmart's founding principles of achieving reduced road casualties and promoting better driving standards still hold true today, there is no question that the debate of a future with self-driving vehicles (also referred to as "driverless") will take more and more centre-stage. This issue of the newsletter features an article outlining plans to conduct further tests in the UK, with safety the focus given the recent tragic incident in the USA in which an autonomous car killed a female pedestrian as she crossed its path walking her bike across the road. Uber, the global transportation network company behind the development of the driverless car, has since suspended testing in the USA.

In terms of the safety argument for moving towards self-driving vehicles, I hesitate to suggest that this will reduce the possibility for human error to occur, and so for accidents to be significantly cut, or eliminated altogether. Surely if we as human beings are by nature fallible then the technology we are designing will also have the potential for malfunctioning, and we would have to intervene to avoid a serious incident. I also don't feel comfortable with the image of millions of these machines travelling independently on our roads with the occupants inside watching films, reading, browsing social media and engaging in various leisure activities with no regard to the outside environment and its myriad hazards. Maybe some technologies have their place (I wouldn't rule out investing in a robot to do the household chores one day!), but at this stage visualizing a world with nobody having to physically "drive" a vehicle any more seems a step too far down the road of convenience. Whatever happened to the sheer pleasure of driving for its own sake?

Please remember I'm setting out my own opinions, and I would not claim to object to further progress being made until more research and evidence is produced. Perhaps readers would be keen to contribute to the debate through this newsletter; your thoughts are most welcome!

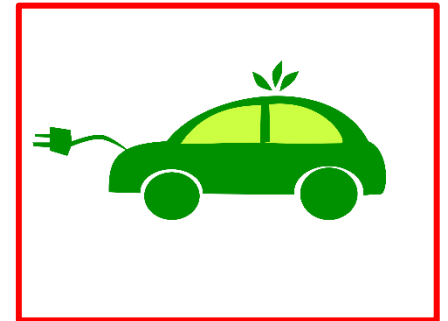
**Kenneth Grant**

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **UK Government remains committed to developing self-driving vehicles on British roads**

The UK Department for Transport (DfT) told Fleet News that safety remained paramount to UK tests which is why it said it was investing more than £250 million to support the industry with “full and proper trials and safe testing environments”.

<http://www.roadsafe.com/ukgovernmentremainscommittedtodevelopingselfdrivingvehiclesonbritishroads>



### **Fleets reminded of MOT rule changes to take effect from May**

The MOT test will change on May 20th in England, Scotland and Wales, with new defect types, stricter rules for diesel car emissions, and some vehicles over 40 years old becoming exempt. The changes will affect cars, vans, motorcycles and other light passenger vehicles.

<http://www.roadsafe.com/fleetsremindedofmotrulechangestotakeeffectfrommay>

### **International Road Federation World Road Statistics 2017 now available**

<http://www.roadsafe.com/internationalroadfederationworldroadstatistics2017nowavailable>

Notice is hereby given by order of the Group Committee that the

## **Annual General Meeting of Forth Valley Group of Advanced Motorists**

**will be held at**

**The Smith Museum, Stirling on**

**Thursday, 3 May 2018 at 7.30 p.m.**

to enable the Trustees of the Group to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended March 2018 for approval by Group Members and to conduct an election.

**David Allan, Group Secretary**

All Members, Associates and Friends are invited to attend but only Fully Paid-up Members of the IAM and the Group may vote. A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote in his or her stead.

A proxy need not be a Full Member of the Group. Nominations are invited from Full Members to stand for Committee. Any nomination must be on the form overleaf and must reach the Secretary at least seven days before the election.

### **CURRENT COMMITTEE**

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election. One third of the Committee (excluding Officers) must retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election.

### **OFFICERS**

Chairman (Acting)	Angus Maciver	Vacant
Vice Chairman		Vacant
Secretary	David Allan	Willing to stand for re-election
Treasurer	Lindsay Pyall	Willing to stand for re-election

### **MEMBERS**

Membership / Liaison Secretary	Mark Elder	Willing to stand for re-election
Newsletter Editor	Kenneth Grant	Willing to stand for re-election

