



FORTH VALLEY GROUP
OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS



IAM Group 6168

Scottish Charity SC023512

NEWSLETTER 2022

Issue 40

GROUP NEWS

Proposed Member Meetings to be held as follows:

Winter Meeting Dates 2022 (tbc in next Newsletter):

06/10/22

10/11/22

Topic of each meeting tbc, and format, i.e. whether being held on Zoom or at a venue, to be discussed by the Committee. Members are welcome to give a talk on a subject of their interest, or suggest ideas for future meeting topics. Please contact any committee member if you can assist.

Facebook:

We are also on Facebook, and our membership continues to grow. Please follow us to keep informed of wider events, announcements and just good old chat with others!

Congratulations to the following people who have passed their IAM Test:

Associate	Observer
Livio Di Mascio (bike) 21/02/2022 First	Dave Allan
Andrew Stevenson (bike) 22/01/2022 First	Ronnie McLean

Your Current Committee

Chair	Dave Allan	07877279120	chair@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Secretary	Belinda Macdonald		secretary@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Treasurer	Lindsay Pyall		treasurer@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Membership/Liaison Secretary	Mark Elder	07973217256	membership@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Kenneth Grant	01324228126	newsletter@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Motorcycle Chief Observer	Fiona Robertson		chief_observer_bikes@forthvalleyiam.org.uk
Committee Member	Brian Hambly		
Committee Member	Dave Allan		
Committee Member	Robin Mair		
Committee Member	Roy Robertson		
Committee Member	Craig McCall		
Committee Member	Peter Woollven		

Forth Valley Group website: www.forthvalleyiam.org.uk/

Enquiries to Membership tel: 07973217256

CAR / MOTORCYCLE SECTION

Bring Back The Tax Disc

A few months ago I had a narrow escape from a speeding driver in a narrow residential street. I managed to note the registration and on checking, surprise, surprise, his car was untaxed since December 2020. I reported it that day through Gov.uk and again when I spotted it a week later. Today I checked the car's status and, this time no surprise – it's still untaxed. This situation is replicated throughout the UK, where car tax evasion has hit a record high since 2014, when paper discs were axed. (Source Department of Transport). Some number crunching. One in 50 vehicles are untaxed, costing the UK £119m a year. Scotland has the second highest rate of evasion, second only to Northern Ireland. These figures also take into consideration that estimates for motorcycles have, for the first time, been omitted from the statistics due to "insufficient sample size", though the DfT believes that the impact is "very small" on overall compliance rates. Some 1.9% of all vehicles on UK roads are untaxed – almost 720,000, up from 1.6% in 2019, the last time evasion levels were analysed. Vehicle tax dodging is more than three times higher than under paper discs. The DfT claims to have a range of comprehensive enforcement measures, including penalties and prosecutions, through to the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, wheel-clamping and the removal of untaxed vehicles. Yet, incredibly, and as my own experience showed, 13% of the untaxed have been so for more than a year. Draw your own conclusion.

With such staggering evasion rates there's a real concern that other drivers will think "Why should I pay?" and even more revenue, which could be used to improve the road network, will be lost. While it's virtually unheard of for Governments to admit that they made a mistake, motorists and their organisations should be lobbying politicians to restore the tax disc. Simple, cheap to administer and, for those which require one, an instant visual proof of a vehicle's status.



Kathryn Grant

Postscript: Just witnessed another speeder, this time when I checked him out the vehicle was SORNed. Polite words fail me.

Thanks to Kathryn Grant (an external contributor)

NATIONAL NEWS

Infotainment safety concerns

IAM RoadSmart research show that the latest in-vehicle infotainment systems impair reactions times behind the wheel more than alcohol and cannabis use.

IAM RoadSmart is now calling for urgent action, stating that updated, consistent standards are required to minimise driver distraction.

[RoadSafe: Infotainment safety concerns](#)

Speed cameras should be checking your tax, insurance, and MOT according to 89% of motorists

IAM RoadSmart is highlighting to the police, councils and safety partnerships that the overwhelming majority of UK motorists support the use of safety camera technology to check for insurance, MOT and road tax offences.



[Speed cameras should be checking your tax, insurance, and MOT according to 89% of motorists \(iamroadsmart.com\)](#)

A gear shift for driving test processes?

Changes could be on their way to not only improve much-needed driving test availability, but also safety. If they go ahead, these will be the most significant changes since 2017 when new elements were introduced to the test itself, including learning to follow satnav instructions, testing different manoeuvres, such as driving into and reversing out of a parking space learning how to park and pull away facing oncoming traffic.

[A gear shift for driving test processes? \(iamroadsmart.com\)](#)

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 on Zoom on Thursday, 19 May 2022 at 7.30p.m.

to enable the Trustees of the Group to present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended March 2022 for approval by Group Members.

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 below 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

Chair	Dave Allan	Willing to stand for re-election
Secretary	Belinda Macdonald	Willing to stand for re-election
Treasurer	Lindsay Pyall	Willing to stand for re-election

OTHER POSITIONS AND COMMITTEE

Membership/Liaison Secretary	Mark Elder	Willing to stand for re-election
Newsletter Editor	Kenneth Grant	Willing to stand for re-election
Chief Observer Motorcycle	Fiona Robertson	Willing to stand for re-election
Committee Member	Brian Hambly	Willing to stand for re-election
Committee Member	Robin Mair	Willing to stand for re-election
Committee Member	Roy Robertson	Stepping down
Committee Member	Craig McCall	Willing to stand for re-election
Committee Member	Peter Woollven	Willing to stand for re-election

Virtual Meeting Details:

Zoom login details will be emailed to members. The Zoom session will open at 7:25pm.

