



FIFE IAM

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

November 2021

Annual General Meeting

On 27 October, we held our annual general meeting through Zoom. We re-appointed the committee and it's as follows:

- Chairperson—Paul Doherty
- Treasurer—Scott Armstrong
- Secretary—Fred Davidson
- Chief Motorcycle Observer—Mark Ellis
- Chief Car Observer—Gary Lawson / Gary Daly
- Committee members: Eric Hill; Jim Lunsden;

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Isabel MacGregor for her contribution to the group. Isabel is retiring as Chief Car Observer and we'd just like to thank her for everything she has done in that role over the years. We don't need to worry too much though as Isabel will still remain involved in the group as an observer.

As a result of Isabel leaving, we are taking the opportunity to revamp the Chief Observer role slightly. Gary Daly will become the Chief Training Officer whilst Gary Lawson will become the Chief Observer. This is a new way of looking at the structure of the car section but we hope it will provide additional benefits to our associates.

We want to engage better

As we change the structure of the car section slightly, we also want to change the way we engage and hope to achieve better interaction with our members and achieve wider engagement with others outwith the core committee members.

A key thing to remember is that you can be involved in areas that interest you without becoming an observer. I'll be in touch about this with more detail shortly.

Life's not a competition but we've got one anyway.

We've had a very kind donation from one of our members to focus on younger drivers / riders. As a result, we are offering up to six fully funded advanced driver / rider courses to those 26 or under.

If you know of anyone that might be interested, direct them to our channels below.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

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Meet a committee member

I thought it would be useful to find out what one of our committee members does and find out a little more about why they volunteer. In this edition of the newsletter, we meet Eric Hill who joined the committee in 2020.

Tell us a little about you?

I've been an IAM member since I was 25 (a long time ago now). For many years I was heavily involved as an Observer, Senior Observer, Group Chairman and Regional Forum Chairman.

I took a step back from committee work due to work and family commitments but came back in 2020 to hopefully get more involved again. I admit my timing wasn't great...

My day job is in road safety engineering and I'm currently involved in a range of projects (big and small) across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

My passion is driving and thoroughly enjoy roadtrips and outings in my Smart Roadster.

What is your role in the group?

Committee Member, with aspirations to assist with training and events.

Why did you join the group?

As mentioned above, I've had a break from it and now that my kids have grown up and flown the nest I wish to get involved again to improve driving standards by promoting advanced driving.

On average, how much time are you putting into the group each month?

In the current circumstances only a handful of hours.

What do you get out of it?

I'm very selfish and I won't lie, but the more people who do something to improve their driving, the less chance they will collide with me, a member of my family or friend.

Would you recommend getting involved to others and why?

By getting involved you can bring new ideas to help promote better driving/riding which improves your own on road experience and that of others.

If people become more active in the group, more events can be held, others will be encouraged to join in and ultimately we'll see more better drivers/riders on our roads.

Volunteering brings lots of benefits to both you and the group. Some of these include:

- *Gaining new skills - Experience of volunteering and other transferrable skills.*
- *Meeting new people - Some of our work is still virtual just now but the observing is in person.*
- *Make a difference in the local area - Just like Eric, we are looking to protect road users and members of the public in Fife and beyond.*

It's their way or the highway.

The highway code has been updated in 2021 and we are here to keep you right on what those updates mean. I've taken this information from the Highway Code consultation and you can find the link [here](#).

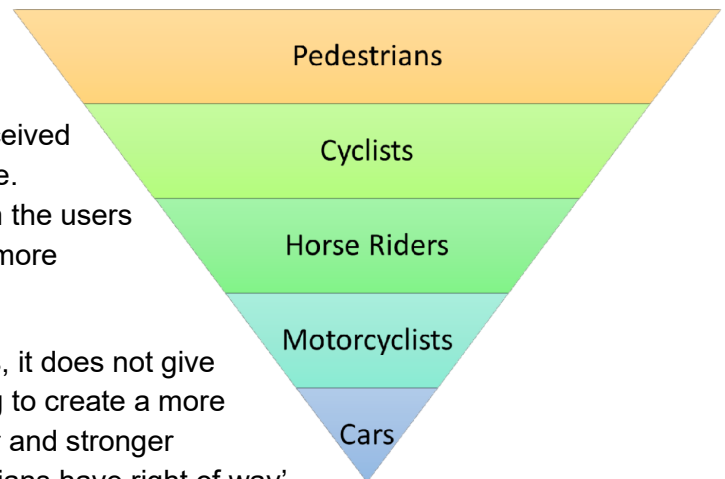
Earlier this year, the government consulted on changes to the highway code. I'm going to try and summarise them here but as you can imagine, there is a lot of detail and the link above is the best place to find out more.

Hierarchy of road users

The Hierarchy of road users is probably what's received the most notice in this revision of the highway code.

The idea of this hierarchy is that it puts an onus on the users that can do the most harm (cars) to protect those more vulnerable road users.

Contrary to what has been reported in some areas, it does not give pedestrians priority in every situation but is looking to create a more considerate culture all round. It will 'create clearer and stronger priorities for pedestrians and clarify where pedestrians have right of way'.



There are also benefits for cyclists too and a new rule places a requirement on drivers to give priority to cyclists turning at a junction or changing direction or lane, just as they would other motor vehicles. The 'provide cyclists a safe distance when passing' has also been updated to specify that vehicles must leave a minimum distance of 1.5 metres must be left when overtaking at speeds under 30mph and at least 2 metres over 30mph.

Another element, which the IAM polled members on earlier this year is the introduction of the [Dutch Reach](#) approach. 85% of IAM members were unsure what the Dutch Reach was but it is being included in the new highway code. In summary, its an approach to open your car door more safely that helps you pay attention to upcoming traffic and in particular cyclists.

Instead of opening the door with your right hand, the driver reaches across the body with the left and opens it using that hand. Why do that? Well for two reasons really; firstly as you lean across with your left, your body naturally turns allowing you to get a better view of traffic coming alongside you. Secondly, as you are reaching across, you are unable to open the door fully and therefore less likely to strike someone as you open the door.

The highway code does place some responsibility on cyclists though including advising them to pass parked cars with at least 0.5 metre distance from the car to reduce the risk of 'dooring' and to not travel too close to vehicles in front in case they stop suddenly. Unfortunately, wearing helmets and hi-vis is only advised and not a mandatory requirement.

Staying with the more vulnerable road users, its worth noting the position on roundabout use. Rule 186 states: 'Cyclists, horse riders and horse drawn vehicles may stay in the left-hand lane when they intend to continue across or around the roundabout.' Therefore these road users may stay in the left hand lane all the way round a roundabout and other vehicles should not cut across them.

Communication is going to be key to these Highway Code updates but apparently there are plans for a campaign to keep everyone right. In the meantime, I recommend you have a quick look at the link above.

Fuel prices

It all seems to be going a bit wrong at the moment. Energy bills are going up as are fuel prices. Apparently fuel prices are reaching the highest they have ever been. There has been lots of news around this and with a litre of Diesel costing around £1.46 its not surprise people are starting to notice.

[Confused.com](https://www.confused.com) is currently (30 October) showing an Audi A4 filled with Diesel would cost around £82.

It seems like this is a result of soaring energy prices and supply issues so it is something that will continue to get worse and if it does, will it increase the speed with which people take up electric cars?

We will take a look at this on the next page.

Second hand

Speaking of supply issues, it appears that the car market is experiencing some challenging times too.

This report by [Cap HPI](https://www.cap.hpi.com) shows that used car values are higher now than even some of their list price values.

That's crazy right? If you have been looking for a new car recently you'll have noticed that your trade in value is very generous but similarly, the cost of a 'nearly new' car is also rather high. A 1 year old, 1 litre golf is currently only one thousand pounds cheaper than list price.

This is as a result of several factors; firstly the supply of semi conductors making it more difficult to manufacture new cars is apparently going to cost the car industry over \$200 billion dollars in lost revenue. These semi conductors assist with Electric Vehicles but are also required for things like airbags, cruise control, and connectivity within the car. Without these parts, manufacturers are not able to produce as many new vehicles which is driving the demand in the second hand market.

Other issues are contributing to the rise in price also, Steel is in short supply again making it more difficult to produce new cars. At one point, the cost of steel more than doubled so as well as being difficult to source, the cost for doing so was much more expensive which is again driving up the second hand market.

Finally, lockdown contributed several factors to the lack of second hand cars. Firstly, all the garages were closed so even if you had wanted to purchase a car, you couldn't. Secondly, with a lot less car movements, as we saw in one of our previous newsletters, the fleet market has been holding on to their cars as the mileage is currently lower than expected. This all contributes to less cars available in the second hand market.

The good news is that it won't last forever but in the short term, they do expect prices to remain high and whilst they may drop, they may never come back down to what they once were.

COP a load of this

As I write this article, COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties—currently in its 26th year) is about to start in Glasgow. From an environmental point of view, we are at a tipping point and this conference looks to the world leaders to make decisions to help alleviate the impacts that climate change will have on the world.



At a local level we all have choices to make in our daily lives that contribute to climate change and our choice of vehicle is one of those decisions.

The MET and Police Scotland and considering their options.

[AutoExpress](#) highlighted that both Police Scotland and the MET are interested in the new Ford Mustang Mach E as a police vehicle. Ford have produced a concept car, which is an absolute beauty and as well as looking good, it should have the performance too. As well as being zero emissions, the car will have a range of 250 miles and produce the equivalent of 265bhp. There will also be another version that can deliver 380 miles whilst delivering 290bhp.

I'm not able to include a picture here but I highly recommend following the link to the Auto Express site and take a look at the images for yourself. I admit the Mustang is always one of my favourite cars to look at but I think this looks pretty good for a police vehicle.

No(r)way more than half the vehicles sold are electric!

Its true, staying with [Auto Express](#), this article informs us that Norway is doing a pretty good job with the conversion to electric vehicles. Norway aims to ban petrol and diesel vehicles by 2025 and as a result, just over 80% of all vehicles sold last year were fully electric or plug in variants, although PHEVs only made up a quarter of this number.

Petrol and diesel cars are heavily taxed in Norway with VAT, whereas electric cars are exempt from VAT which means that the price of an electric car is similar to any other car. That's not quite the situation within the UK with an electric vehicle potentially costing around £10k more than its petrol counterpart. For example the VW ID.3 costs around £32k to buy new whereas a 1litre Golf new is £23k. If the prices were similar, it may lead to more people opting for the Electric version, particularly with fuel costs around 66-75% more expensive than electric costs.

Norwegians in electric vehicles also get cheaper parking, road and ferry tolls and the ability to drive in bus lanes.

There are still a range of issues though!

Its not all roses within the EV world though. This article from [This Is Money](#) shows that the quoted range from the electric vehicle may not always be what it seems. Ten popular EVs were tested and we'll start with the sensational result that one cars range was short of the quoted range by 29% - nearly a third less than advertised. That was the Fiat 500 42kWh. Topping the table with only 3%, 7% and 8.5% range drop was the Porsche Taycan, the Mazda MX-30 and the Kia e-Niro respectively.

One other element to consider is the colder weather. We've only just entered November however my range (e-Niro) has dropped by 10% due to less efficient battery charge in the cold and it projecting usage such as heating and lights.

COP26 will hopefully bring some large scale change and obviously we can all do a little bit more to help the climate but the wide scale transition to zero-emission vehicles still seems a way off. There are definitely more of them around though and as they become more common, I expect more people will have confidence in the technology and how to operate them. As a final aside, my last service was only £63 due to the less complicated nature of an EV!

Christmas toy run

I am pleased to announce that the Christmas Toy Run to Victoria Hospital Children's ward will be going ahead this year on Sunday 19th December. It will be a 12:00 hours meet at the car park at North Queensferry under the Bridge for a photo shoot then moving off shortly afterwards to the Children's ward.

We will have a cut off date of 11th December for donations to allow time to go shopping and donations can be made as follows :

- Cash – in person to any committee member.
- Paypal – to “treasurer@kofgiam.org.uk”.
- Bank Transfer – to sort code 09-01-54 / account number 6277 6085
Account Name “K O F G INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS”, Account type : Business
- Cheque (payable to “KOFG IAM”) posted to “Scott Armour (KOFG Treasurer), Mill House, 4 Burnside, Auchtermuchty, Fife,
KY14 7AJ”



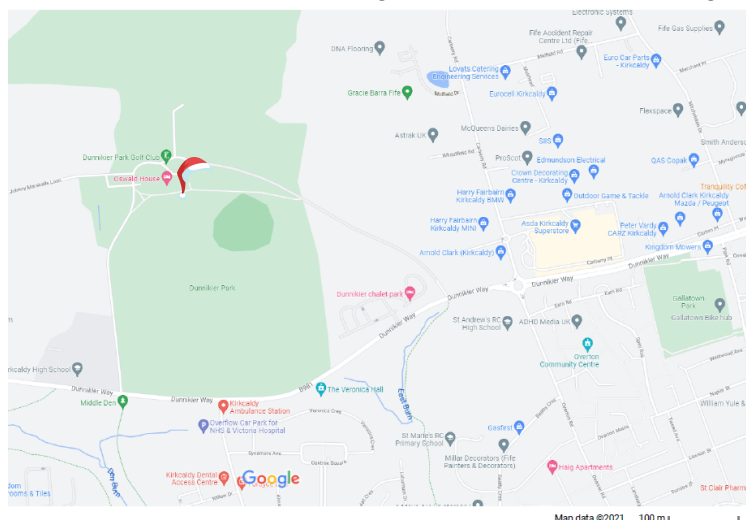
Christmas Lunch

Whilst we haven't had many events this year, we do feel that it would be good to meet up with the group over a bite of lunch in early December.

Christmas lunch will be in the Dunnikier Park Golf Club Clubhouse at 1pm on Sunday 5 December.

We'll send out an email with more information but hopefully you are able to make it.

We've had Christmas lunch in the clubhouse for a few years now and the staff are very friendly and accommodating so even if you don't want the 'traditional' Christmas dinner, they are normally willing and able to conjure up something else.



A few of us also bring our kids, whatever age they may be at, and it is a time when we normally involve more than just the advanced drivers of the group but we'll make you welcome whether its just yourself or a troupe comparable to the Waltons.

If you don't know where the Clubhouse is, its located at the Santa hat on the map. Turn up the side of the high school (signposted for Dunnikier Country Park) and just follow the road up to the top and there is plenty of parking between the golf club and Oswald Hotel.

We choose Kirkcaldy because it's the fairly central for the majority of our members and the golf club is only a few minutes off the A92 at the top of the town so reduces the need to travel through town.

If you have other locations that you'd like to see our events held at, just get in touch with us and let us know.

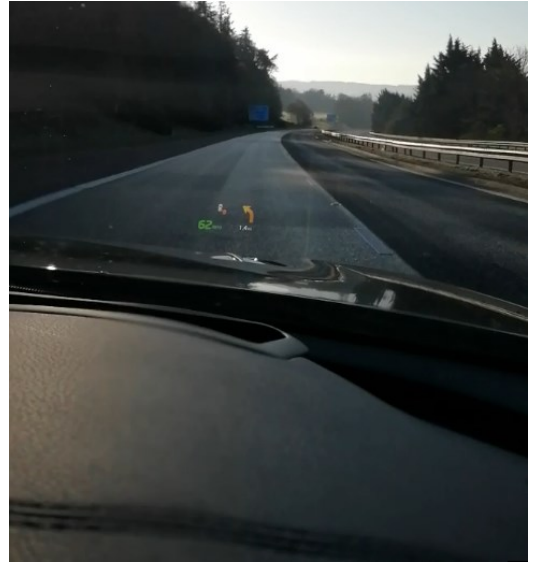
With the move to online, a number of our events will be available online too to help encourage participation without the need to travel.

Just giving you a heads up - display that is.

As we look again at technology in vehicles, this time our Treasurer Scott tells us about Head Up Display units and the benefits they bring. I did hire a BMW with this feature in it last year and it was very useful. It provides you with some key information whilst keeping your eyes on the road.

Over the past couple of issues of this Newsletter we have been looking at different forms of technology now being added to more and more vehicles. We first discussed Lane Assist, and in the more recent Newsletter also looked at Active Bonnet systems. For various reasons, neither of these articles were particularly positive so I felt it was time to try to redress this in case everyone thought we were just a bunch of moaning old gits who would much rather return to driving how it was 20-30 years ago.

One piece of technology being fitted to more and more vehicles (but again here we will be focussing in particular on Kia's version) is HUD, or "Head Up Display". This is information projected up from the dashboard so that it appears to be hovering outside the car just above the bonnet, so there is no need to take your eyes off the road ahead to be able to see it. This information includes things such as current speed, Sat Nav directions, warning messages and blindspot notifications.



As with a lot of things, it was apparently first used in the military before becoming more mainstream. Over 20 years ago, the Chrysler had a heads up display however it is slowly becoming more common in UK cars. You'll find it in the Ford Focus, BMW models such as the 3 Series and many other models. In fact you can find it in over 70 UK models just now.

It may not seem like this would make much of a difference, and to be honest I wasn't too sure about it before trying it out, but at 70mph your vehicles travels 31.5m (104ft) every second, so anything that reduces how often you take your eyes off the road has to be positive.

Kia also offer the ability to customise the display, so you can alter what information is or is not shown as well as altering the size, position and colour.



In summary, unlike Lane Assist and Active Bonnet Systems, Head Up Display is definitely one new feature that is worth having in your vehicle if you get the chance.

As with each of these Newsletter articles, this is just the opinion of one or two people who have had input into the writing of the article. If you have a different view or other opinion on this or anything else linked to vehicle technology then please let us know by replying to newsletter@kofgiam.org.uk.

Keep in touch

Don't forget, if you want to get in touch with us to share thoughts or ask a question you can do so by:

- www.kofgiam.org.uk
- [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) or email newsletter@kofgiam.org.uk