

# ARE WE THERE YET?



**MEETINGS CANCELLED**  
see page 3

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

April 2020



Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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### **Cover Photo – Shibden Hall Halifax**



Just outside Halifax is Shibden Hall, the home of Anne Lister who was the subject of the TV drama Gentleman Jack. Following the broadcasting of the series the number of visitors to this Grade 2 listed building, which originally dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, tripled. The site also houses the West Yorkshire Folk Museum in the adjoining barn and farm buildings.

# FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

## MEETINGS CANCELLED

Because of the current Coronavirus outbreak the committee has decided to follow government guidelines and has cancelled the Skill check meetings, the social meetings and the committee meetings for April and May. We will be reviewing the situation in May and hope to resume the regular meetings as soon as possible following the review.

The preparation of the audited accounts and reports will continue as if the AGM were to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> but will be presented to the members as soon as possible following the review. We would hope the AGM would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The deadline for nominations to the committee has been extended to Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We apologise for this action but feel that in the current circumstances we have to place the health and wellbeing of our members above the requirement to hold the AGM on a specific date.

We will inform members of the resumption of the social and skill check meetings via the newsletter, and our Facebook and website pages.

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire/news/news-story/2020/03/14/urgent-message-re-the-coronavirus>

Those of you who receive an email copy of the newsletter should have received an email regarding the invitation to the Skipton and Craven meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> March. Unfortunately there was an error in the postcode, it should have been BD23 1ER.

The speaker, Reg Local, visited us in 2017 and gave us an entertaining talk on Advanced Driving.

At the time of writing we do not know if this meeting will go ahead but will be contacting the Skipton group for more information. If you were planning to go to this meeting and have not heard whether it will go ahead please contact me by email nearer the day for confirmation.

## FROM THE EDITOR

I'm sure that by now you are aware of the effect Coronavirus is having on the country and the number of events that are being cancelled or severely curtailed. MYAM is no exception as you can see from the notice on page 3.

We still have to have, according to our rules, an AGM so this will take place as soon as our social meetings resume. In the meantime the committee have made arrangements to conduct our meetings online.

Many of the outings and visits that Caroline and I had planned are now either cancelled or having to be postponed. We have had to move a holiday planned to celebrate our wedding anniversary and it looks like our schoolteacher daughter will be having more time off as the school where she teaches will probably be closing soon and the company David works for is preparing for home working.

We have already seen empty shelves in the supermarket but, at the time of writing, we do not know how this will affect our weekly shop. It does make me wonder what people who have been panic buying will do with all the toilet rolls etc. once the "panic" is over and how much fresh fruit and veg will be thrown away. The supermarkets appear to have their supply chains well under control so in reality we should take Corporal Jones advice and "Don't Panic"!

I am reminded of the fuel shortage about 20 years ago when there were long queues at petrol stations and over the course of the week there were fewer cars on the roads. I was working in Coventry at the time a daily return journey of around 56 miles. I was fortunate to have a full tank at the start of the week and by practising economical driving managed to get to and from work without problems and once the panic was over I managed to fill both our cars with fuel although there was a limit of £20 per customer. This equated to about 25 litres (5½ gallons) as petrol was only 80p per litre back then.

Let's hope that all the measures put in place will allow us to return to normal soon.

### Keith

Will any Member wishing to have an item, article or picture included in the newsletter please submit it to the editor no later than the 15th of the month, these may be edited to save space. Thank you.

## GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

# Welcome to the Group

**New Associates**

**Emily Brundle,  
Lynne Farr, Philip Nicholson**

**Apologies to Lynne who should have been mentioned in last months  
newsletter**

# Congratulations

**On passing the Advanced Test**

**Trevor Bryan - Observer Mick Coley  
Ian Dransfield - Observer Nigel Butterfield  
Peter McDonald - Observer Christian Pithers  
Peter Romanec - Observer George Tickle  
Gurpreet Tatla - Observer Andy Brown  
George Taylor - Observer Charles Holland-Keen  
Trevor and Ian passed with a F1rst**

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## ***A REMINDER***

We would like to remind our members that the MYAM annual subscription is now £10 for all members as we have received a number of renewals for the previous subscription of £8.

If you have a Standing Order set up for your subscription you will need to amend it for the new amount. Alternatively you can set up a Direct Debit for your subscription by contacting our membership secretary David Rushfirth. Once you've set up your Direct Debit don't forget to cancel your Standing Order, we wouldn't want you to pay twice!

If you are a UK taxpayer we would ask you to Gift Aid your subscription. This costs you nothing but allows the group to claim back the tax which can make a significant difference to the group.

# MYAM Online



**WEB SITE** Our website is packed full of information and is the go to place for everything you need to know about our events, courses, meetings and news about us as a Group. How about copies of the newsletter going back a few years.

Need to know who the Committee are or see our Observer team? We are all on there.

See us at [www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire)

We are adding to the content all the time so keep dropping in to see what we are doing.



**FACEBOOK** provides details of events and local news. Go and visit [www.facebook.com/midyorkshireiam](http://www.facebook.com/midyorkshireiam) and like our page.

How about inviting a few of your Facebook friends to like our page too. It helps getting our name out there.

**The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969**

## **Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)**

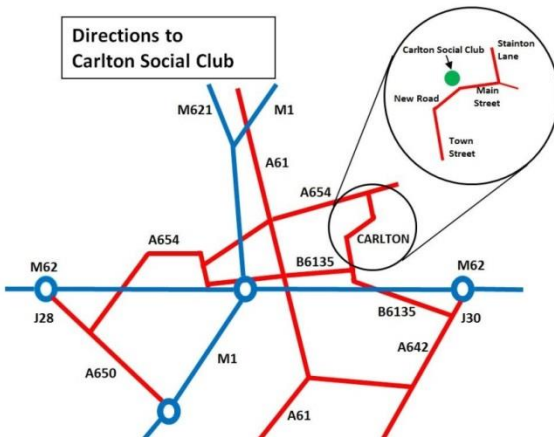
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

MYAM has a legitimate interest in keeping sufficient personal information to communicate with its members and other local people with an interest in road safety, and to permit the renewal of subscriptions. A member can ask to see a copy of their personal information, correct any errors and ask for all or part of it to be deleted.

MYAM is affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and will use a member's information to support them if and when they are assessed by IAM. MYAM will also ensure that any data shared with IAM is accurate. We will not share your details with anybody else.

# Directions to the Carlton Social Club

Main Street, Carlton, Wakefield WF3 3RW



From the M62 West leave at Junction 28 and take the A650 towards Wakefield. At the next set of traffic lights turn left onto the A654 toward Rothwell. Follow the A654, turning left in Thorpe on the Hill. Cross the A61 and continue into Carlton. Turn right into Stainton Lane then turn right into Main Street. The Social Club is on the right immediately after the Unicorn pub.

Take the next right, B6135, towards Lofthouse. Follow the B6135 under the M62 onto Ouzlewell Green towards Carlton and Rothwell. Follow the road past Carlton Primary School and the Social Club is on the left just before the Unicorn pub.

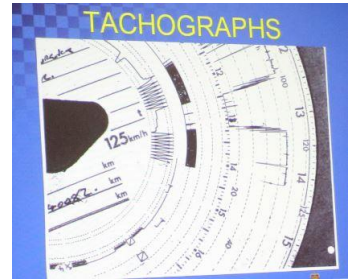
From the M62 East leave at junction 30 and take the A642 towards Wakefield.

There is a car park with overspill parking available on the grass area opposite the club.

# March Meeting - Collision Investigation

Following on from last months meeting we had a return visit from Keith Reyner to continue his talk on collision investigation.

When investigating incidents involving lorries one important aspect is the tachograph. The original versions used a paper disc fitted in the back of the speedo and could be easily read at the scene. The example shown shows the driver had been travelling at a fairly constant speed with a break but came to a sudden stop. It is also possible to work out the probable route the vehicle took from the tachograph trace.



Now tachographs are going digital which makes the job more difficult as it requires the use of a computer to interrogate the system which cannot always be done at the scene.

One incident left parts at the scene and it was possible to trace the vehicle by checking the parts supplies for replacement part orders.

Keith moved on to seat belts explaining they are designed to stretch to slow your body down in a collision and must be replaced if the vehicle is repaired after the collision. They are incredibly strong and can support a weight of up to 3 tons before breaking. It is also important to ensure any rear seat passengers wear seat belts as front seat passengers can be injured in a collision by an unrestrained rear passenger hitting the front seats. Also ensure that the belts are worn correctly passing over the shoulder rather than under the arm.

Airbags are also designed to inflate rapidly then cushion any forward movement by deflating as you hit them. It is also important not to sit too close to the steering wheel as this could cause injury as the airbag inflates. In incidents where an airbag has deployed and the driver has run off it is often possible to obtain DNA evidence from the airbag.

Examining bulbs carefully can indicate if they were on at the time. If the filament is elongated it was probably on at the time of the collision but if it is broken it was probably off. Some modern cars pose difficulties as HID (Xenon) and LED headlights do not have filaments.

Tyres if run flat can look OK from the outside but can be severely internally damaged. Keith also mentioned winter tyres. If you use them and change between Summer and Winter tyres he said all four tyres must be changed together to maintain traction.

Overall a very interesting and informative couple of meetings.





Mid Yorkshire Group of Advanced Motorists  
Registered Charity Number: 1053843



## Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given by order of the Group Committee that the  
Annual General Meeting  
of  
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists  
will be held on  
Monday, 4th May, 2020, at 20:00 hrs.  
at the  
Carlton Social Club, Main Street, Carlton, Wakefield WF3 3RW

The Trustees of the Group (Registered Charity No. 1053843) will present the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2020, for approval by the Group Full Members and to conduct an election.

All Group Full Members, Associates, and Friends are invited to attend, but only Group Full Members may vote.

A Member entitled to vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to vote in his/her stead. A proxy need not be a Group Full Member.

**POSTPONED**

### Current Officers:

All Officers retire annually and may offer themselves for re-election. The current Officers are:

<b>Chairman</b>	Janice N. Haigh	Will stand
<b>Secretary</b>	Paul Macro	Will stand
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rosemary Bricis	Will stand

**Please do come along to the AGM**, show your support to your Committee, and let us know your views.

We are always keen to welcome additional Members to the Committee to support the Group. If you are interested and wish to be nominated for the Committee or any position, please use the Committee Nomination Form.

**N.B. All Committee Nomination Forms must reach the Group Chairman by Friday 18th April, 2020. (Rule 3.5)**

Please remember you can also offer yourself to join the Committee at the AGM.

Only paid up Members of IAM RoadSmart and of the Group may either nominate Committee Members, be nominated to the Committee, or as an Officer, or vote at the AGM. **You may not stand if the law debar you from being a Charity Trustee.**

**Members who receive the newsletter via the post: –**

You will have been sent a Committee Nomination Form with the newsletter. Please complete and return to the Group Secretary.

**Members who receive the newsletter via e-mail: –**

Attached to the e-mail containing your newsletter will be a Committee Nomination Form. Please print, fill in, complete, and return to the Secretary.

Address details for the Group Secretary are on the Nomination Form.

If you have not received your Committee Nomination Form, please inform the Group Secretary, Paul Macro

E-mail: myam.secretary @outlook.com

Telephone:

## Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists

The current details of the Committee are as follows: -

Position	Currently held by	Status
Chairman	Janice W. Haigh	Offering to stand for re-election
Secretary	Paul Macro	Offering to stand for re-election
Treasurer	Rosemary Bricis	Offering to stand for re-election
Membership Secretary and Web Site Editor	David Rushfirth	Offering to stand for re-election
Events Co-ordinator	Alan Jones	Offering to stand for re-election
GDPR Officer	David Rockliff	Due to stand for re-election 2022
Newsletter Editor	Keith Wevill	Due to stand for re-election 2022
Speaker Secretary	David Speight	Due to stand for re-election 2022
Youth Liaison	Position vacant	Position vacant
Committee		

N.B. In addition to the Officers, at least one third of the remaining Committee must be offered for re-election even if they were for re-election the following year.

Copies of the minutes from the previous year's AGM and the Group accounts will be available at the meeting.

**After the AGM, a light buffet will be provided. Everyone is invited to stay.**

## Long Live the Spare Wheel

Many car manufacturers do not fit a spare wheel, replacing it with a “tyre repair kit” comprising a can of sealant and a pump. This saves weight which can improve fuel consumption and emissions and potentially reduce the car tax band. However these tyre repair kits are not suitable for all punctures. They can fill small holes but any punctures resulting in larger holes cannot be repaired.

Like most motorists I’ve had a few punctures and have always managed to get going again by fitting the spare wheel. Last month I experienced a puncture which vindicated my decision to have a spare wheel fitted when I bought the car. We were returning from visiting our daughter, who lives about 5 miles away, and shortly after leaving her house found a pothole resulting in a loud “thump” followed by a noise which suggested not all was right with the car. The steering was pulling slightly to the left so I slowed down and finally made it home. A quick look showed the front nearside tyre was very flat. As it was dark and raining heavily at the time I left it until the morning to change the wheel. As you can see from the picture the tyre was a write off, no amount of sealant would seal those holes.



Many people may not realise their new car doesn’t have a spare wheel only finding out when they have a puncture. There are other factors associated with the repair kits, the sealant has a limited life and needs to be replaced at regular intervals even if it isn’t used. Many garages do not like dealing with tyres which have had the sealant used but could otherwise be repaired, as the tyre has to be cleaned before they repair it. They would much rather sell you a new tyre!

If you do have a spare wheel, be aware that it will probably be different to the other wheels. Cars fitted with alloy wheels often have a steel spare. The tyres on my car are 17 inch wheels with 50% profile but the steel spare is a 16 inch wheel with a 60% profile which gives approximately the same circumference, but being different it is restricted to 50mph. Other cars have a “skinny” spare which should only be used to get you to a place where the damaged tyre can be replaced. One other thing to be aware of is that any wheel/tyre combination must be type approved for use on the car. Using a non-approved wheel and tyre could invalidate your insurance.

## Potholes Are a Top Safety Risk For Riders

Following the research that showed riders and cyclists are 34 times more likely than car drivers to be killed on UK roads (reference 1), it's an increasing concern that potholes and poor road surfaces are topping the list of risks to road users.

It's recently been announced that local councils will be raising council tax in 2020, so us road users are hoping these increases will cover the repairs of the dreaded potholes.

I regularly drive between Yorkshire and Hertfordshire for work, covering hundreds of miles every week. It's safe to say I would think twice about taking my motorbike on many of these roads, often choosing a different route for comfort and safety.

In this age of improving technology, why is it that pothole repairs are at the very best temporary? Surely, we can figure out how to make it last?

Hertfordshire announced this year the council received record numbers of compensation claims due to pothole damage - 2,190 in total and paid around £158,777 in compensation (reference 2).

This puts Hertfordshire at number six in the top ten list of councils in England who have paid out the highest amount of compensation claims in 2019/20.

Potholes are a plague on the roads. What is simply uncomfortable for a car driver and unnoticeable to a lorry driver can cause a motorcyclist serious harm.

With fewer wintery days and more spring sunshine, myself and many other motorcyclists are more likely to dig out the leathers and head out for a ride.

To support our motorcyclists on the roads it's important that if you spot a pothole to report it to your local council - it only takes a few minutes.

It's also good to remember when you are about to overtake a cyclist they may need to avoid a pothole, so give them as much space as you would a car and help keep everyone safe.

**By Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart head of driving and riding standards**

Reference 1: Transport Network

Reference 2: Hertfordshire County Council

## Ireland's Electric Future

One of the radio stations I listen to regularly is RTE Radio 1 which I find has a more varied content than other stations. Recently there was a news item which said Ireland wanted to achieve 1 million electric cars on the road by the end of the decade compared to the 9000 currently on the in use.

One of the reporters had been loaned an electric car for a week and detailed her experiences of driving from a Kilkenny to Dublin a distance of around 80 miles or about an hour and a half. The first thing she was told was to turn off the heater as she wouldn't reach Dublin with it on. This meant wrapping up well to avoid freezing in the winter weather. She noted that as she drove off the charge indicator started dropping quite quickly and decided to charge it en-route at a garage but the charge point didn't work. Another driver who pulled up to use the charger had the same experience and said "get used to it". A second charge point also didn't work. Arriving at work the charge point was occupied. This continued for the week. At the weekend a medical problem with one of her children meant a trip to the doctors with a possible transfer to a hospital many miles away. The uncertainty of being able to get there and back with the electric car meant she used her other diesel car.

Another contributor commenting on her journey said her daily commute was not typical for an electric car user with the average commute being around 30 minutes. The conclusions the reporter came to, following the week, were that the infrastructure to support electric cars is not currently in place, especially in the more rural areas, making running an electric car more difficult. It was also suggested that families could have two cars, an electric one for local journeys and a petrol or diesel for longer journeys. Doesn't this defeat the point of going electric?

I suspect this lack of infrastructure to support electric vehicles is also the case in the UK and this could hinder the desire to go electric for many people. I heard one claim for an electric car is it can travel from Newcastle to Birmingham on a single charge but there is no mention of being able to get back without recharging. It's all very well being able to charge a car at home but if you go to an unfamiliar area the problem is finding a charge point to be able get back home.

I think that currently (pun intended) the availability and compatibility of charging points is one barrier to the more widespread take up of electric vehicles.

## March Presentations



**Here we see Janice presenting certificates to**

**Bob Moorhouse, seen with his observer David Stringer.**

**Peter McDonald, seen with his observer Christian Pithers.**

**David Eyre, whose observer was Lesley Pollard, joins the ranks of those who passed with a F1rst.**

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Seen written on the back of a van.....

"No tools are kept in this van overnight, nor toilet rolls."

# And Finally.....

## You Couldn't Make It Up

We are all familiar with the concept of a 'black box' in the car to monitor driving. It is a useful way for younger drivers to establish their credentials to the insurer in the pursuit of more advantageous premiums. Inevitably, I suppose, someone would eventually think this could be more economically achieved by a mobile phone app.

It was recently reported in the press that this is now happening, with some wonderful results. The app basically works by transmitting GPS information to the insurer through the app when the phone connects to the car through Bluetooth. Except that nobody thought that the app might transmit information whenever the phone connects using Bluetooth.

Perhaps the most comical result was the driver who was reported as speeding at 125mph. He was comfortably seated on an intercity train.

## Mallard

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## This Month's Teaser

The world famous Crufts dog show takes place at the NEC every March but what cash prize do the Best in Show winners receive?

## Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked. Starting with a single letter can you add one letter at a time to make a sequence of seven words? There are probably many answers but here are a couple.

A, AN, PAN, PLAN, PLANT, PLANET, PLANETS.

A, AN, RAN, RANG, RANGE, ORANGE, ORANGES.

## Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Paul Macro		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis	0113 2534528	myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
Membership Secretary	David Rushfirth	01924 211510 07966 134045 Contact after 5pm	myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Youth Liaison	David Speight		
Speaker Secretary	David Speight		
Events Manager	Alan Jones	07714 444595	alan.j909(at)btinternet.com
Website	David Rushfirth	See above	myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Keith Wevill	01274 815281	myam.newsletter(at)outlook.com
Chief Observer	David Rushfirth	See above	myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		

Due to computer hacking and high levels of spamming we have had to remove the hyperlinks to our e-mail addresses and have replaced the @ symbol with (at) so you will need to retype the address in the correct e-mail format, i.e. replace (at) with @, with no spaces.

## URGENT REQUEST

**David Speight has taken on the role of Speaker Secretary but we still need a minutes secretary for our committee meetings. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested this position.**