

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

April 2021



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Cover Photo – Lions Gate Bridge Vancouver

Officially known as the First Narrows Bridge this suspension bridge, opened in 1938, crosses the narrows of Burrard inlet connecting the city of Vancouver to the District of North Vancouver. In 2005 it was designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

Photo taken by David Wevill

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Because of the current Covid-19 situation the committee is following government guidelines and has cancelled the skill check meetings, and the social and committee meetings at the Carlton Club.

We were planning to hold the AGM in May, but at the recent committee meeting it was decided to postpone it until later in the year.

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

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It's a Small World

Some time ago I mentioned that an internet search had found one of my work colleagues from a previous work place and recently I've discovered another "blast from the past". My brother mentioned that he'd seen in the Birmingham Police obituaries that our next door neighbour from back in the 1960s had died so I looked him up. His name was Gordon Russell and once you disregard all the references to the furniture designer of the same name there is a story that made headlines back in 1963.

The Beatles were playing the Hippodrome in Birmingham and as expected there were hoards of fans waiting outside which presented them with the problem of how to get in without being mobbed. Someone came up with the idea of disguising them as policemen so four helmets were used to get them into the theatre and the helmet that John Lennon used belonged to Gordon Russell. The internet search also revealed that his daughters had taken the helmet to the Antiques Roadshow where they told the story and were told that the helmet, with its Beatle connection, was worth between 5 and 8 thousand pounds. They had hoped to bring their father along to tell the story but sadly he had died earlier that year. I watched the programme, which was originally broadcast on 4th January this year, on IPlayer but have to admit I wouldn't have recognised either of his daughters but it was around 50 years since we last met!

Whilst looking through the obituaries I also noticed that the examiner that took me for my IAM test back in 1986 had also died. He also knew my father and my brother went out with his daughter for a while!

From the Editor

We are now on our collective way to the easing of the lockdown regulations. I've had my first vaccination and by the time you read this Caroline will have had hers. Once we've both had our second vaccinations we're looking forward to getting out and about to make up for last year. We've also had to reschedule a couple of trips that had been planned for last year. Fingers crossed we'll finally be able to take them soon.

One consequence of not being able to travel is a lack of pictures for the front cover so I'm having to look back through my photo collection for suitable pictures. If you have any pictures suitable for the front cover, please send them to me.

We've also both had to renew our driving licences as we've now been living in Yorkshire for 20 years. This time we did it online using our passports for the photo. It didn't take long and the new licences arrived within a few days. I looked through my files and found I still have my original red driving licence, albeit only a provisional one. I remember the first time I renewed it having to take it into the licencing office in Birmingham, paying my pound and walking out with a new licence within 5 minutes. The second renewal took a little longer – ten minutes!

Now to get to grips with the Census form!

Keith

Social Media

Do you use social media on a regular basis? Are you familiar with setting up and running social media accounts? If so you could be just the person we are looking for. As you may know MYAM has a presence on Facebook and we are looking for someone to look after our account and to keep our website up to date. If you think you can help us please let either our chairman Janice or secretary Paul know at the addresses on page 16.

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.

Disclaimer

The items contained in this newsletter are the views of the Members who contribute and not necessarily the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (I.A.M.) or MYAM.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Jonathan Diskin, Angus Glassford

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Is this a Scam?

“Hello this is your Internet Service Provider calling. Your account has been compromised and will be shut down in 24 hours. Press 1 to speak to our technical department.”

I’m sure we’ve all had calls like this claiming to have detected some unusual activity on our internet account or our phone or they have detected a problem on our computer but they are almost certainly scam callers who are just after access to our bank accounts. The best advice is to ignore them and put the phone down. There are a few indicators that the calls are not genuine. Having been in contact with Microsoft over an issue I had with one of my email accounts I can tell you that Microsoft will not phone you, their preferred method is by email. Also anyone claiming to be from BT Openreach is lying. Openreach **do not** talk directly to the customer. It is also useful to have a phone that can display the number of the caller (Caller Line Identity - CLI) and, although the number is often spoofed to make it appear to be a UK number, I’ve had numerous calls all claiming to be from the same source but with different numbers and often with a mobile number (beginning 07xxxx). Why would a company like Amazon call me on a mobile number to say my iPhone 7 will be delivered when the current model is iPhone12?

Hacking into an email account is also common. You may have recently received an email from a member of MYAM asking for a favour on an Amazon account. Further enquiries revealed that his account had been hacked but there were several giveaways to indicate it was not genuine. The language was not right with two words with incorrect capitalisation. The address also had errors in it, the “signature” was not the usual one and it was not addressed to anyone in particular just “Good afternoon”. If you have received this email please do not respond to it and delete it. This goes for any email you are uncertain about.

The following link is one way to deal with scam calls, if you’ve got the nerve to do it.

[How to deal with a Telemarketer by Tom Mabe - YouTube](#)

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

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 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)

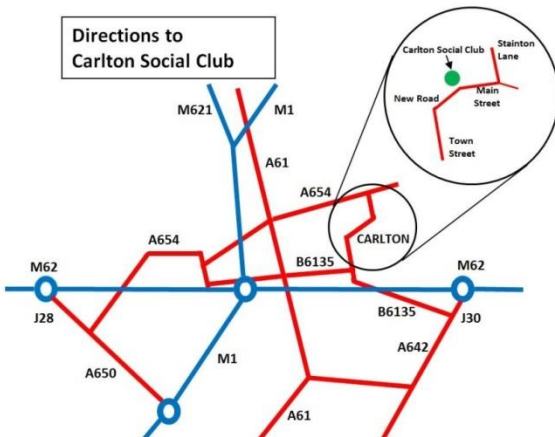
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

Road Use 2010 - 2019

The latest update of Asphalt Industry Alliance online hub reveals shifting pattern in road use from 2010 to 2019.

TRAFFIC volumes on Great Britain's roads have increased by more than 50 billion vehicle miles a year – more than 16% – since 2010. Big changes are also being seen in the types of vehicles on the roads, with the number of light commercial vehicles growing at more than double the rate for cars. For the period 2010–2019, the number of licensed cars grew by 12.2%, whilst the growth in light and commercial vehicles was 28.5%.

These data form part of a comprehensive update of publicly available road-related statistics collated on RoadFile, an online hub delivered by the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) using sources such as the Department for Transport (DfT) as well Eurostat for comparison with GB's near neighbours.

The GB data also indicate shifting patterns in the way in which the road network is used, with minor roads showing a more significant increase in traffic volumes than motorways and A roads. Traffic volumes on minor roads grew 25.3% between 2010–2019, in comparison with 11.8% on all major roads.

'Reviewing the collated outputs and data sets alongside each other on RoadFile, gives those of us in the highways sector a lot to think about,' said AIA chair Rick Green.

'For example, the growth in light licensed commercial vehicles and recorded increase in traffic volumes on local roads, may point towards the 'Amazon effect' – emphasizing the increasing importance to our economy, even before the pandemic, of the 'final mile' for deliveries and the importance of our local roads in supporting the UK's digital economy.

'And, when considering the higher growth in traffic volumes on minor roads, compared with motorway and A roads since 2010, it also begs the question of why our vital local road networks still don't receive their fair share of funding. After all, it is generally accepted that local roads make up more than 97% of the total network in length.'

According to DfT figures, annual public expenditure on national roads has increased by more than 96% since 2012, whereas, for local roads, the increase was just 9.7%.

'A good place for the Government to start would be making a five-year commitment to investing in local roads in the upcoming budget and the spending review to follow,' said Mr Green. 'This would allow local highway authorities to plan ahead and allow a more cost-effective whole-life approach to upgrades and maintenance.'

Updated statistics on RoadFile cover the period up to 2019 and are available at: www.roadusers.org.uk

Catalytic Converter Thefts

A catalytic converter helps clean your car's exhaust emissions, it is made up of precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium. The price of some of these metals has risen sharply in recent years and as a result has led to an increase in this type of theft.

Cars that are most often targeted are hybrid vehicles, as these vehicles have two power sources, so the catalytic converter is used less frequently. The metals are less likely to corrode, meaning they are worth more and therefore more attractive to thieves.

Whilst there are many makes of vehicles subject to this type of offence, here in West Yorkshire, the following makes/models are particularly vulnerable.

- Toyota Prius
- Toyota Auris
- Honda Jazz
- Honda CR-V

To reduce the risk of having your catalytic converter stolen, follow the advice below

Park your car in a locked garage where possible, but if this isn't an option, then park it in a well-lit and well-populated area.

Park close to fences, walls or a kerb with the exhaust being closest to the fence, wall or kerb to make the theft more difficult.

Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access the catalytic converter.

If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath.

If parking in a public car park, consider parking alongside other cars and facing you bonnet towards the wall if possible. With the catalytic converter positioned at the front of your vehicle, this will make it harder for thieves to get close enough to steal it.

For thefts occurring on driveways, consider the use of a Secured by Design (SBD) approved driveway alarm and sensor. This may assist in alerting you of a potential intruder entering your driveway or garden.

If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.

Use a security marking kit to register your catalytic converter.

Consider a catalytic converter protection device or shield which locks in around the converter to make it more difficult to remove. Toyota are offering a 'Catloc' for the Prius (3rd generation, 2009-2011 models) and Auris (2nd generation, 2012-2018 models). Contact your Toyota dealership for more information.

Speak to your dealership about the possibility of installing a Thatcham approved alarm and tilt sensor that will activate the alarm should any thief try to jack the vehicle up to steal the converter.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the Police. Obtain as much information as possible, including any vehicle registrations and descriptions of the Offender.

Doesn't This Make You Feel Old?



I came across the picture on the left on an internet forum and it set me thinking that there must be many older technologies that people born in the 50s and 60s that are familiar with and are second nature to them but people born in the 21st century have no idea how to operate them. I can think of many examples such as tuning into a radio station on an older radio, changing channel on a TV without a remote control, playing an LP, sorry "vinyl", on a record player or even tying shoelaces. I watched a video of some teenagers told to dial a number on a phone with a dial and to be honest they hadn't a clue how to do it.

In the USA one way to ensure your car doesn't get stolen is to have a manual gearbox!

I can't help feeling that there is, or appears to be, a general "dumbing down" throughout society where we are relying more and more on modern technology and we are having to adapt to the technology rather than the technology adapting to us.

Having been born in the 1950s I have experienced the steady progress of technology some of which I've embraced (I'm writing this on a PC) and some I haven't as it seems to be technology for the sake of technology. There is also the problem of technology becoming obsolete due to "improvements and updates". The world of PCs is a prime example. You get a new PC then find that your older peripheral devices are incompatible with it. I have a perfectly serviceable scanner but it is incompatible with Windows 10 so I've kept my 7 year old Windows 7 PC going as it can run the scanner and several other devices. Mobile phones are another prime example, as soon as you've bought your all singing all dancing phone, it's obsolete then an update to the software renders it unusable. DAB radios are another example as earlier radios are incompatible with the latest incarnation of the DAB standard. Following the TV digital changeover several years ago many earlier TVs and set top boxes were rendered useless due to changes in the transmission standard.

With all this technology we are in the hands of the people who wrote the software that inevitably controls it and their opinion as to how it should work.

With radio and TV there is also the programme content and again in many cases it does appear to be "dumbed down". I am reminded of conversations I've had with a school friend where in the 1960s we would have loved to have owned tape recorders to record radio programmes, especially the pirate stations. Now we can afford the tape recorders but there are no programmes worth recording!

As I write this there are reports on TV of Amazon's store where TV cameras watch what you pick up and once you leave the store the items are added to your account. This may appeal to some people but, as an engineer, I can see potential problems with it so I doubt I'll be using it. I much prefer the personal approach and will continue to use the manned checkouts at the supermarket.

News from the Chairman

I am delighted to say that Graham, our new Membership Secretary, is doing a great job. However, it will take some time to get to grips with all the paperwork, and I am sure we all want to make his job as easy as possible.

You will remember that the annual Group membership subscription was increased two years ago from £8.00 to £10.00 p.a. This was the first increase since MYAM was formed approximately seven years ago. At the same time, we introduced payment by Direct Debit through GoCardless and requested that all Group Members make the change as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, some Group Members have still not changed from Standing Order to payment by Direct Debit, and they are still paying the previous subscription amount of £8.00 p.a. Changing to Direct Debit is easily done on line, and, if you do not have access to

the internet, someone can do it on your behalf. You do not need to give any confidential information. Cancelling or changing your Standing Order is also done very easily. It can be done by internet or telephone banking or by calling in to your bank. **Please remember that the Group cannot change or cancel a Standing Order; it can only be amended by you, the payer.**

Please make life easier for Graham and Rosie (our hard-working Treasurer) and make the change without delay.

I would also like to stress that your subscription to IAMRoadSmart is separate from your Group subscription, and the amounts are paid independently. Both IAMRoadSmart and Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists are separate charities in their own rights, and they both need your subscriptions in order to continue working for you, the Members. According to the IAMRoadSmart rules, you must be a Member of IAMRoadSmart in order to be a Member of MYAM. In other words, you can be a Member of IAMRoadSmart without being a Member of MYAM, but you cannot be a Member of MYAM without being a Member of IAMRoadSmart.

I know it's not easy to understand, but I'm afraid those are the rules!

Last, but not least, I am also putting in a plea to all you Members of MYAM who are also tax-payers. MYAM is registered with HMRC to claim Gift Aid, and this allows us to claim about £400 per year. This obviously makes a great deal of difference to our annual income and allows us to organise social/speaker events, attend events to publicise IAMR and MYAM, and purchase equipment for the Group. All you have to do is complete the Gift Aid form, which is available on the website. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our Membership Secretary, Graham Crawshaw, on 0113 314 9969 and he will post a form to you.

At first, I thought that I could only Gift Aid to one charity, but I soon found that was not correct. In fact, as long as you pay income tax, you can Gift Aid to all those charities of which you are a member and pay a subscription, e.g. IAMRoadSmart, National Trust, Historic Houses, MYAM, etc.

Please note that Gift Aid does not cost you any extra money; it simply means that you are helping the charity claim an extra 25% of your subscription fees from the Government and allows MYAM to maintain subscription rates at their current level. Everyone wins (except the tax authorities!).

Signing up for Gift Aid, signing up for Direct Debit, and cancelling your Standing Order will take you no more than 45 minutes in total (at the most), so please help your Group and take action as soon as possible.

Thank you! **Janice**

Back to school tips from IAM RoadSmart following Coronavirus lockdown

With a phased return to school for primary school pupils due to begin in England next week, IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest independent road safety charity, is reminding parents, carers, drivers and riders to be on full alert in the vicinity of schools.

With drop-off and collection arrangements likely to be staggered and some people only just returning to driving or riding after an extended period away from the roads, the need for vigilance around schools will be essential over the coming weeks.

While arrangements for the phased re-opening from 8 March in England are being made by individual schools and local authorities, there are plenty of road safety tips that are relevant both to parents and carers driving children to school and those who are driving or riding nearby. Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's Head of Driving and Riding Standards has some advice on how to make sure it's as safe as possible for all road users.

- For parents and carers, take some time to check your vehicle and make sure it's in good order well in advance of that first school run, particularly if it's been stationary for a while during lockdown. Make sure you have enough fuel, check oil and water levels, look for defects, check the engine, rubber (tyres) and, last but not least, you. Watch our basic vehicle checks video [here](#). Make sure you clean your windscreen thoroughly; inactivity can cause a film to build up on it which will not come off with the wipers. Also remember to check your tyres carefully. You need to examine them for cuts or bulges and check the tread and pressure. For guidance on tyre safety, visit the Tyre Safe website [here](#).
- Feeling nervous about being back out on the roads as you begin to drive children to school again after lockdown? Start off slowly to re-familiarise yourself with your vehicle and driving again. Even if it's only been a few weeks since you last drove, you need to remind yourself about the importance of being fully engaged in your driving, vigilant and courteous to other road users.
- Has your usual route changed? With the introduction of pop-up cycle lanes and other initiatives to promote walking and cycling and keep public transport use to a minimum, check before you leave to avoid any difficulty.

- Leave enough time. Setting off for school can be a frustrating and rushed experience at the best of times and your morning routine will almost certainly have been changed by the lockdown arrangements. Allow yourself enough time to get ready in the morning. A half-eaten breakfast and badly combed hair can put both you and your child in the wrong frame of mind for the start of the day.
- Make sure everyone is in the right seat. If you use child or booster seats, make sure they are fit for purpose and correctly secured. Check out Good Egg for some top tips <http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com/>.
- It may have been a while since your children have been out in the car. Pack for success. Dependent on the age of your little ones, take some healthy treats to distract them and keep them engaged, even on a short journey.
- It's not a race. In many areas with local schools the motto is '20's plenty.' Remember that this is the limit, not a target. Always help out the school crossing patrol. You'll probably receive a friendly wave and smile for your assistance.
- Setting a good example while in the driving seat teaches your children important road safety lessons that will stay with them in preparation for when they learn to drive. Make sure you park in a safe place and if you can, walk the last few metres to the school gates. It will not just help with congestion; it will also allow you to teach them the right way to cross a road, looking right and left (then right again for us Green Cross code users). Teaching children to use the road sensibly will save lives.
- The amount of traffic on the road and the mix of road users is likely to be different as a result of the government advice on the use of public transport. There are also likely to be more pedestrians and cyclists than before, so treat them the way you would want to be treated. It is important to give people the time and the space they need to use the road.

Richard said: "Traffic levels will be increasing as children return to schools. Cyclists and pedestrians have no airbags, crumple zones or seatbelts to protect them. By taking time to prepare for your back to school journey and remaining courteous and alert for other road users, you can be an ambassador for safer driving and riding.

"At the same time, all drivers – including those not on the school run - need to be vigilant for children getting out of cars, walking or cycling to school, possibly at unusual and unexpected time. After a longer than usual break from the school run routine, it's more important than ever we all practice safe, courteous driving and riding."

And Finally.....

The World's Easiest Quiz

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Answers next month.

This Month's Teaser

See above

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "What is the name of the building in Brussels featured on the front cover?" The answer is The Atomium.

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	Position vacant		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	Position vacant		myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Keith Wevill	01274 815281	myam.newsletter(at)outlook.com
Chief Observer	Position vacant		
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 and someone to look after the Website. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in any of these positions.