

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

April 2022

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Foxton Locks Leicestershire

Foxton Locks on the Grand Union Canal near Market Harborough in Leicestershire is the longest and steepest staircase flight of locks in Britain. It's also the site of the remains of an inclined plane built in 1900 used by canal boats as an alternative to the locks but it was not a commercial success and closed after 10 years of operation.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Sunday 3rd April 9:30am	Associates Training Meeting (see page 14)	Car Park behind Home Bargains, Main Street Garforth LS25 2EB
Monday 4th April 8pm	My Life with Trams Tony Young	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW
Monday 9th May 8pm	MYAM AGM and buffet	Carlton Social Club

Everyone is welcome at these events and they are an ideal opportunity to meet new people socially, find out about what is going on within the Group and listen to interesting talks on a variety of topics, sharing our skills with other serious drivers and keeping up-to-date on club and driving matters.

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

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April Meeting

My Life with Trams Tony Young

Most small boys want a train set for their birthday. Tony Young was a little different, he wanted a tram set. He had to wait until his 50th birthday before he got one. But then it was not 00 gauge, it was full size!

He will describe his interest in tramways from an early age through his career in transport and his role in bringing trams back to Manchester. He continued his tramway interests through consultancy work in the UK and abroad, participation in European tramway organisations, and finally as a tramway author. It may even include a bit of driving!

From the Editor

How will the rising cost of fuel affect your motoring? I recently filled up at a local supermarket and the price I paid made the £1.53 per litre I paid last September at a motorway service station look reasonable. The 5p cut in fuel duty may go some way to help but I fear we have to be resigned to higher energy prices for some time to come. I have to admit that since I retired my annual mileage has dropped significantly from around 13,000 to under 5,000 miles per year which has helped reduce my motoring costs. However many of us have no option but to use our cars and will have to put up with the increased costs.

I read that the increase in fuel prices has increased the uptake of electric cars but electricity costs have also increased so increasing the cost of charging.

No doubt we will have to practice economy driving to get the best mileage from our cars, but with the warmer weather we should get better fuel consumption.

Those of you who were at our March social meeting will have heard that David Stringer is temporarily taking over the reins as our Chairman while Janice recovers from her medical treatment. All being well Janice will be back with us for the May AGM.

You would also have heard that the closure of the Skipton and Craven group is more or less complete and we welcome former members of the group into MYAM.

Speaking of the AGM, this month's newsletter is accompanied by a committee nomination form. We have vacancies on the committee so if you wish to join us in running the group please fill out the form and send it to Paul our secretary. Being on the committee is not an arduous task, I've been on the committee of two groups, Leicester and MYAM, for about half of the time I've been a member of the IAM and it doesn't take up much of my spare time probably a few hours a month. Looking after grandchildren is a far more difficult task!

Keith

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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

Thomas Waller Webber

We also welcome former members of the Skipton and Craven group to the
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists group

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Eric Vernon - Observer Lesley Pollard

Hedley Price - Observer Ken Newton

On passing Fellow Requalification with a F1RST

Dawn Leggott

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.

Paying for Fuel

I have a card that I use to refuel my car. I can drive to virtually any filling station, fill up with fuel and pay for it using this card. I do not need to create accounts with the individual filling station owners and I do not need an app on my phone to use it or to fill up. I can pay at the pump or in the kiosk where I can talk to a real human being. When I fill up the nozzles for the fuel are compatible with my car whether it is petrol or diesel.

What is this wonder card that makes refuelling so simple? It's my credit card. I can also use cash if I wish to. It'll never catch on!

Keith

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.

Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)

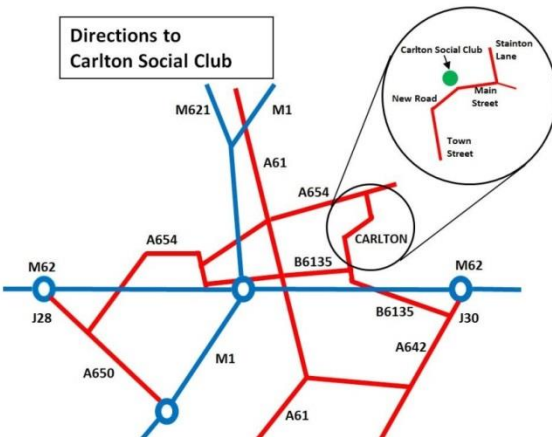
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

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

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

March Meeting - Bridging the Gap

We've all used them, often without noticing them, bridges of all shapes and sizes. Paul Heyward, our speaker, has travelled the world photographing bridges and showed us examples of the various styles. Starting with a Beam bridge where at its simplest a log is used to cross a stream, Paul showed us examples of Arch, Truss, Suspension, Cantilever and Cable Stay bridges.

Many of the early bridges were built of wood or stone depending on what was available locally but in the late 18th century a significant bridge was built across the river Severn at Ironbridge using iron.



Ironbridge across the River Severn

The designers of many of the early bridges often had restrictions placed on the design by the navy who insisted that their sailing ships had to be able to pass under the bridge. This affected Thomas Telford's suspension bridge across the Menai Straits which suspended the roadway from iron chains. Later suspension bridges used steel chains comprising of many hundreds of strands of steel wire instead of chains.

Other bridges had a different approach to allowing ships to pass underneath. One famous example is Tower Bridge, a bascule bridge, which raises the two sections of the roadway when a ship needs to pass. The Steel Bridge in Portland raises the entire roadway when a ship needs to pass.

One of Paul's pictures showed how the railroad builders in the USA used local materials in the form of thousands of wooden logs to construct bridges across gorges. It all looked very Heath Robinson but it is an example of making use of what was available at the time.

Suspension bridges have their problems as witnessed by the Tacoma Narrows bridge whose roadway collapsed 4 months after it was opened when the wind caused it to oscillate violently. This caused a redesign to minimise the effect of the wind which has been applied to subsequent designs

All in all an interesting talk on a subject most of us take for granted.

Keith

From our President

As many of you will know, our Chairman, Janice Haigh, is not too well at present and is taking a break to facilitate her recovery. I have agreed to chair the Group temporarily until the AGM in May. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well and hoping she will soon be feeling better and back amongst us.

The closure of Skipton Group is almost complete, which carries the boundaries of MYAM far up the dales as we welcome them to our group. They bring with them a number of Observers whom we welcome to the MYAM team.

In the meantime, there is much to do getting MYAM working normally again as we (hopefully) put the pandemic behind us. We have a serious backlog of Associates awaiting training and the committee and the Chief Observer are as one in their efforts to restore our previous service levels. IAM RoadSmart have been very helpful in assisting us in that direction by transferring some of the load to surrounding groups and identifying Observers from other groups to assist us.

We remain, however, desperately short of Observers of our own to cover the now extensive area we have to service. Think of it as the entire county of West Yorkshire, with the addition of a significant slice of North Yorkshire to the north and the north west. It is almost Goole to Giggleswick, Holmfirth to beyond Harrogate. Broad acres indeed! So if you feel you could pass your knowledge of Advanced Driving on to others by joining the Observer team, please get in touch. It doesn't demand too much time, perhaps an hour or so a week, and you get to meet and work with like minded enthusiasts. Above all, observing gives you a strong sense of pride and achievement. There is no greater pay back than the pleasure of hearing the words 'I passed'. And the peripheral reward is that it will keep your driving standards at their peak. This is particularly important for those of you who have Fellow membership of RoadSmart. The group will always offer you guidance before you take your triennial retest, but if you observe, you will not need that because you will be steeped in good driving practice, and thereby save the group's most precious resource – observer expertise.

Get in touch if you can help. Contact me (call 07768 620208) or e-mail the Chief Observer, Chris Marrison (myam.chiefobserver@outlook.com) and we will explain more and help you get started.

David Stringer.



Mid Yorkshire Group of Advanced Motorists (MYAM)
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, 9th May 2022, at 20.00 hrs.

Venue: 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, 2022, for approval by the Group Full Members and 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.

Current Officers:

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

Chairman	Janice N. Haigh	Will stand
Secretary	Paul Macro	Will stand
Treasurer	Rosemary Bricis	Will stand

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

We do need new and 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.

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

N.B. All Committee Nomination Forms must reach the Group Secretary at least 7 days prior to the AGM (preferably by Friday, 29th April 2022).

Only paid up Members of IAM RoadSmart and of MYAM 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 Group 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

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists

The current details of the Committee are as follows: -

Position	Currently held by	Status
Chairman	Janice N. 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
Events Co-ordinator	Alan Jones	Due to stand for re-election 2023
Newsletter Editor	Keith Wevill	Offering to stand for re-election
Membership Secretary	Graham Crawshaw	Due to stand for re-election 2023
Speaker Secretary	Position vacant	Position vacant
Youth Liaison	Position vacant	Position vacant

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 are circulated with this notice.

A light buffet will be provided and everyone is invited to stay.

Potholes more than just a bump in the road for UK motorists

New research conducted by the UK's leading independent road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart, has revealed that motorists still see potholes as the biggest safety issue on Britain's roads even compared to speeding, road rage, congestion or drink and drug driving.

IAM RoadSmart's latest annual Safety Culture Report, which has monitored drivers' changing attitudes to key road safety issues since 2015, discovered that nearly four in five drivers (79 per cent) perceive potholes to be a bigger issue for them than they were three years ago. Meanwhile, only five per cent of respondents saw potholes as a smaller problem compared to last year.

The report gathers responses from over 2,000 motorists, and found that 90 per cent of them had been affected by potholes in the past year, with 32 per cent stating they had even changed route to avoid them. A further 16 per cent of those surveyed stated that they have reported a pothole to the authorities.

Neil Greig, Director of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart, commented: "The fact that motorists perceive potholes to be a bigger issue compared to drink driving and speeding, which cause more deaths, goes to show how much of a problem the pothole crisis continues to be.

"Not only is damage to vehicles caused by potholes expensive and inconvenient, but it is also a major safety concern affecting all road users. In particular, potholes pose a serious risk of injury to those on two wheels, as well as potentially causing drivers to swerve into oncoming traffic."

It is currently estimated that there are some 42,675 miles of UK roads classed as being in POOR structural condition, costing an estimated £11.14 billion to bring them up to a level which they could be maintained cost effectively going forward, according to Asphalt Industry Alliance.

These figures are also reflected by the attitudes shared in IAM RoadSmart's Safety Culture Report, with over eight in ten motorists in the North West and South West sharing the opinion that potholes are a bigger problem compared to three years ago

(83 per cent and 82 per cent respectively). Meanwhile, only 69 per cent of Londoners thought potholes were a bigger problem compared to three years ago.

Neil concluded: “Drivers are suffering from potholes problems every day and it is adding to the stress and cost of running a car. No one can enjoy their motoring anymore if the roads are in such poor condition. The government must deliver on its promise to provide long term ring fenced funding for road maintenance so that the backlog can be eliminated in the foreseeable future. It is clear that such a policy would be very popular with millions of drivers across the UK.”

Perceptions of issues on roads compared to 3 years ago – How much of a problem are potholes compared to three years ago?

Region	Percentage
Wales	84%
North West	83%
South West	82%
East Midlands	82%
West Midlands	81%
North East	81%
Yorkshire & Humber	81%
Scotland / Northern Ireland	80%
South East	79%
East of England	78%
London	69%

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Repairs or Art Installation?

I’ve just noticed that someone has been marking potholes in roads near us with a white spray. Does this mean they are going to actually repair them? The cynic in me thinks it could just be an art installation!

A few days later I noticed that the potholes had been filled with tarmac. Not sure how good a job they did but I wouldn’t mind betting that the potholes will be back within a couple of years.

Associates' Corner

By now, all MYAM Associates still awaiting an Observer allocation should have received an e-mail from the President and Acting Chairman, David Stringer, explaining the delays to Advanced Driver Training that have been caused by the pandemic. It also highlighted the first of the regular Sunday morning meetings that were planned for the particular interest to Associates in that position. The meeting is in the Car Park behind the Home Bargains store in Main Street, Garforth (LS25 2EB), at 9.30am on Sunday, 3rd April. If you would like to attend, please confirm either by calling David (07768 620208) or e-mail the Chief Observer, Chris Marrison (myam.chiefobserver@outlook.com).

These meets on Sundays will be reserved for unallocated Associates for the time being, until we can reduce waiting times to an acceptable level. Dates and venues will be advertised well in advance and the programme will build up over the coming weeks. We are presently searching for suitable venues, but rest assured there should be one convenient for you. The intention is that we will be able to offer some of the initial stages of the Advanced Driving Course which you will be able to practice whilst waiting for your dedicated Observer, who will then help you to perfect the basics and introduce you to some of the more subtle points we advocate. It's all in your Course Handbook, so you can always read that in conjunction with the Sunday meets and begin to develop your technique that way. The Observer team are always there to help you in any way they can.

Later on, we may consider similar evening meetings in the long summer days, which some people may find more suitable. It depends on the progress we have been able to make and the demand we have to satisfy.

The other new option we are offering is an intensive course, delivered over two or three days. This will not suit everyone, but if you are able to schedule the time, and the concept appeals to you, please let us know (contact details above) and we will see what we can arrange. We shall try to arrange for the course to end with the Advanced Driving Test as an integral part, but that depends on examiner availability.

We are determined to get back to normal working as soon as we can, to keep in contact with you all, and get you up to advanced standard. All we ask of you in return is that you bear with us, and keep us informed of your needs and any changes in your circumstances that impact your ability to continue.

Next month Associates Corner will cover some initial practical aspects of the course, centred around the System of Car Control, 'IPSGA'. It's there in the handbook. Have a look and see if you can put it into practice.

And Finally.....

HAYNES MANUAL - THE REAL MEANINGS part 4

Haynes: Compress...

Translation: Squeeze with all your might, jump up and down on, swear at, throw at the garage wall, then search for it in the dark corner of the garage whilst muttering "bugger" repeatedly under your breath.

Haynes: Inspect...

Translation: Squint at really hard and pretend you know what you are looking at, then declare in a loud knowing voice to your wife "Yep, as I thought, it's going to need a new one"!

Haynes: Carefully...

Translation: You are about to cut yourself!

Haynes: Retaining nut...

Translation: Yes, that's it, that big spherical blob of rust.

Haynes: Get an assistant...

Translation: Prepare to humiliate yourself in front of someone you know.

Haynes: Turning the engine will be easier with the spark plugs removed.

Translation: However, starting the engine afterwards will be much harder. Once that sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach has subsided, you can start to feel deeply ashamed as you gingerly refit the spark plugs.

Haynes: Refitting is the reverse sequence to removal.

Translation: But you swear in different places.

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This Month's Teaser

When was the first Haynes Manual published and what car was it for?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "How many cities are there in Yorkshire and can you name them? There are seven, Bradford, Kingston upon Hull, Leeds, Ripon, Sheffield, Ripon, Wakefield and York.

Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Paul Macro		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis	07579 965029	myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Graham Crawshaw	0113 314 9969	myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Youth Liaison	Position vacant		
Speaker Secretary	Position vacant		
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	Chris Marrison	07798 822935	myam.chiefobserver(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

We are in need of Speaker secretary and 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.