

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

December 2020



Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Halifax Library

Following a move from the old library site the new library in Halifax opened in September 2017. The building cleverly incorporates the spire and rose window from the old Square church and is linked to the refurbished Piece Hall with the Calderdale Industrial museum to one side and the Square Chapel on the other side.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Because of the current Covid-19 situation the committee is following government guidelines and has cancelled the Skill check meetings, the social meetings and the committee meetings at the Carlton Club. As you will see the 2020 AGM was held by means of a video conference.

The committee is currently working on dates for the meetings for next year in preparation for the lifting of restrictions including the 2021 AGM which will be held, circumstances permitting, in May 2021.

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



We wish all our members

**A Merry Christmas
And
A Happy New Year**



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COVID-19 update from IAM RoadSmart

Further to our notification earlier this week, following the Government announcement of further restrictions in England and the ongoing restrictions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, we have taken the difficult decision to temporarily suspend all our car and motorcycle on-road training, testing, observing and any in-person group activities across the UK from Thursday 5 November 2020.

This decision has not been made lightly. However, the IAM RoadSmart Trustees and Senior Management Team believe these steps are in the best long-term interests of our charity and our mission to reduce the number of people who are killed and injured on the UK's roads.

It also ensures everyone at IAM RoadSmart – our colleagues, examiners, trainers, groups, members and customers – plays their part in minimising the spread of the virus. We believe this is the responsible thing to do.

For further information please visit our [website](#) or contact your ASDM.

From the Editor

What a year we've just had. All our plans for the year have had to be either cancelled or significantly modified, not only MYAM events but our own personal plans. Caroline and I have had to postpone a couple of breaks but are hoping that the situation will have improved next year so we can have a much anticipated holiday. We have had both bad and good news this year we lost our much loved dog in April but our second grandson was born in October. We are looking for a new dog but, as you have probably heard, there has been a huge increase in demand for pets. Hopefully we'll find a suitable dog and also be able to see more of both our grandsons soon.

With almost weekly announcements of successes in developing a Covid-19 vaccine we have to be hopeful that once mass vaccination starts things will slowly get back to near normal. We shall have to wait and see how it all pans out. I think once a vaccine is approved I'll take advantage of the vaccination programme.

You may notice that there is no IAM RoadSmart Tips page this month. I had a page all set up but just before I was ready to release it, Paul sent me the Amazon Smile item. Hopefully this will allow those of you who take it up to make a small, but welcome, addition to our finances during your Christmas shopping.

I normally try to release the newsletter around a week to 10 days before the next social meeting, or the theoretical date in the current circumstances. This means the January issue would be sent out around Christmas Day. It also means the printed version would be delayed due to Christmas holidays at the printers. As there is no social meeting in January I will be sending out the January issue during the first week in January. This also means those of you who receive a postal copy will get your copy shortly after the email recipients.

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.

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

Jason Gomersall

Congratulations

No tests this month.

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Letters to the Editor

Hi Keith,

Great magazine as usual.

On the section about Bike Thefts people may like to know about immobilise.com a website where you can list your valuables along with photographs, serial numbers and any other identifying marks. Should they be lost or stolen and you mark them as such, and should the Police recover property, for example from a "fence", immobilise.com is one of the first places they search to find the original owner. Not only may it help get your goods back, but it helps identify goods as stolen, where the Police have suspicions but no definite provenance on any items.

Thanks once again for all the hard work you and the committee put in for us.

Kindest regards

Brian Davison

Thanks for that information Brian. For those who are interested here's a link to the immobilise website.

<https://www.immobilise.com>

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)

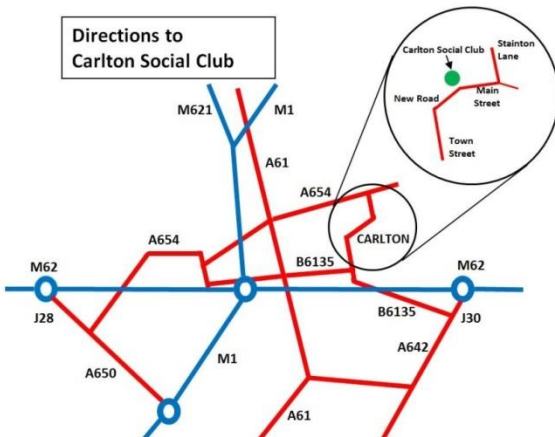
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

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

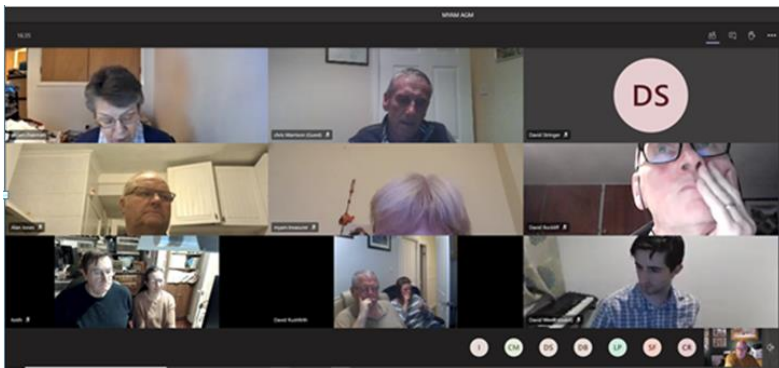
Take the next right, B6135, towards Lofthouse. Follow the B6135 under the M62 onto Ouzlewell Green towards Carlton and Rothwell. Follow the road past Carlton Primary School and the Social Club is on the left just before the Unicorn pub.

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



2020 AGM

This year's AGM was a little different to any of our previous AGMs, for one thing there was no buffet! However the main difference was that it was a virtual AGM held online through the medium of Teams with 18 members



A snapshot of the virtual AGM on Teams

attending. Despite a few initial technical difficulties the AGM was completed successfully.

Please note that the statements and figures mentioned here are as of 2nd May 2020.

If you'd like a copy of the audited accounts, please email Rosie at the address on the newsletter committee page and a copy will be forwarded to you.



Mid Yorkshire Group of Advanced Motorists
Registered Charity Number: 1053843



Chairman's Report 2020

This AGM is taking place six months later than usual, owing to the Covid-19 situation. However, having checked with the Charities Commission, we are just within the time period allowed and we therefore meet all the legal requirements.

First of all, I would like to thank all of you taking part in this virtual meeting for your interest in the Group and for helping us to meet the requirements for the quorum. You are very welcome, and I am only sorry we are having to meet in such strange circumstances.

Until 23rd March, MYAM was having a successful 2019/20 year, and I will leave it to Rosie Bricis (our Treasurer), Paul Macro (our Secretary), and David Rushfirth (our Chief Observer) to give you all the facts and figures. I will just say that last year we attended at least ten car rallies and other events to publicise MYAM, and although it is almost impossible to quantify the number of

new Members we get as a result of such events, attendance at them is vital to “spread the word”.

In addition, I continue to sit on the Wakefield Safer Roads Committee, the WY Police Scrutiny Committee, and the WY Police Independent Advisory Group, so that MYAM is well known and recognised in and around the area. The meetings are, of course, currently being held by video conferencing, but we are still receiving and exchanging information.

As a result, I can say that, even though the normal routine of the Group has been severely disrupted by the current situation - no Skill Check drives, no monthly social speaker meetings, no classic car events, etc. - there is still plenty going on behind the scenes. Our monthly newsletter still goes out on time (thanks to Keith Wevill and David Rockliff), monthly committee meetings are still held on line (thanks to David Rushfirth), all aspects of governance and Gift Aid are still maintained (thanks to Paul Macro), accounts are kept up to date (thanks to Rosie Bricis), and contact is still maintained with our Members, Associates, Observers, and with Head Office.

I am therefore saying a very big thank you to all the MYAM Committee, who make all of this possible; and a big thank you to you, the Members, for your loyalty and support.

I hope you find the AGM interesting, and, should you have any questions, please do ask

Stay safe; keep well; and we hope we will be able to meet in person again before too long.

Janice N. Haigh - Chairman



Secretary's Report



- 9 Committee Meetings
- Changes to Rules of Group
- Direct Debits
 - 90 members signed up at end of year / 123 now
- Gift Aid
 - 92 members signed up at end of year / 106 now
- Gift Aid reclaim
 - £275
- New Group Savings account opened
 - Yorkshire Bank

Paul Macro - Secretary

Treasurers Report

A brief summary of our accounts for the year April 2019 to March 2020.

First of all, a very big thank you to David Stringer, who checks our accounts to ensure that they are compliant.

As with previous years, MYAM has spent a bit more money than it received: our income was £3,968 and our spend was £4,093. However, we do have some money in reserve for when we need to replace the caravan and this helps tide us over.

The income we received from subscriptions increased from the previous year. But we had fewer payments from IAM head office for new Associates: the last payment was in February as, shortly after, we had the Covid-19 lockdown.

The largest amounts of money were spent on:

The monthly group meetings and the committee meetings, which was just under £1K, and included hire of the room for all of our meetings and also two buffets: one for last year's AGM and for one for last year's Xmas quiz night.

Costs for the caravan (a major asset!) were just under £900 and this included parking fees, service and mileage to the monthly skill-check meetings and events like the various car rallies and shows.

Stationery and printing were also quite big expenses, just over £700, which is why we prefer to send out our monthly newsletter by email, rather than printing and sending in the post.

We spent just over £300 on books for Observers and Associates, such as Highway Codes, and Observer road books; and also on a microphone system for our monthly meetings.

And another £300 on training, which included refreshments for the Sunday morning training sessions and room hire for Observer training.

Thank you to everyone who is paying their subscriptions via GoCardless, this is a great help to the Group. However, please do check that, if you do, that you've cancelled any previous standing orders – we have a few refunds to sort out for people who have paid their subscriptions twice.

And, if you can, please do sign up for Gift Aid for your subscription, as any money we can recover is a help to us too.

Rosie Bricis - Treasurer

Membership Secretary's Report

Looking back at the year it has been a little challenging. In particular a new membership database has made the compliance with IAM RS membership rules easier to manage but has cost us in membership numbers, down 25 from 282 to 257.

This was mainly due to the IAM Membership rule requiring membership of the IAM before membership of MYAM can be renewed. The application of this rule also saw the loss of 10 honorary members.

As part of the rule update we have had to remove the Friends and Guests membership categories from the Group, which resulted in a further loss of 3 non-paying members. We managed to retain most of those by creating a new "Newsletter Receiver" category. Those members do not however gain benefit from our Observers and training.

Chief Observers Report

The number of Associates remains steady with the same number as last year of 44. We had an intake of 52 Associates over the 12 months against a total of 58 in the previous year. We would have been on the same target had it not been for the lockdown impacting the figures for March and April this year.

Associate training remains consistent with the average number of runs to test being 13. During the 12 month period we had 33 test passes with 10 of those being Firsts. We did have 2 test fails although one of those went on to pass on the second attempt. Some Associates decided not to take the test, being happy with the training they received. A big thank you to all the Observers for the efforts in training these Associates.

Associate recruitment and public awareness events were well received with 14 events attended, most as full day sessions at various car shows where the Group caravan was put to very good use. We had to replace our aging generator at the beginning of the year with a new one kindly donated to us by Isinglass Consulting. Thank you to Paul Macro for arranging this.

The Skill Check sessions are still as popular as ever with 72 individual runs being provided from Leeds and 107 from Castleford. Our thanks go to both McDonalds in Leeds and Sigma in Castleford for the free use of their car parks for these sessions.

Lockdown has forced us to cease all Associate training. All Advanced driving tests have also ceased. When we can restart is currently unknown.

The number of Observers remains relatively stable at 29, increasing by one this year and currently includes 3 trainee Observers. We do still need Observers so that we can continue to provide training and reduce the waiting time for Associates. We need to improve our coverage to Bradford, Mirfield and Harrogate. If anyone is interested for any area, please get in touch.

Observer training went well with a day's session in September concentrating on Roundabouts, Cornering and parallel parking an expertly delivered by David Stringer. We also held some Observer Training at the Castleford Skill check session. We will be arranging further training days covering different subjects.

That's it from me for now and what the next 12 months will bring is anybody's guess.

David Rushfirth – Membership Secretary and Chief Observer

Amazon Smile – Raise Funds for MYAM



Online shopping has grown significantly in recent years and more so during this year of restrictions and lockdowns. But did you know that when shopping with Amazon, you can also help raise funds for charities such as MYAM? If purchases are made from Amazon Smile rather than the normal Amazon site, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to your chosen charity at no cost to you or MYAM.

The Amazon Smile site looks exactly like the main Amazon site and has the same extensive product range at the same prices. All you have to do is shop at:

smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1053843-0

or go to smile.amazon.co.uk and search for “mid Yorkshire”.

Once you've selected MYAM as your chosen charity, simply bookmark the home page to replace any existing Amazon bookmark that you may have and simply shop as normal. Amazon will then make their 0.5% donation direction to MYAM without you having to do anything and without it costing you a penny.

If you shop on the Amazon mobile APP, just search in it for Amazon Smile and click on the Amazon Smile banner, search for “mid Yorkshire”, select MYAM and you can help raise funds for MYAM this too.

If you have any questions or problems with this, then please let know– just contact me at MYAM.secretary@outlook.com

Paul Macro
MYAM Secretary

Are You Opinionated?

I am pretty sure that MYAM members enjoy a day at the seaside as much as anyone, and there will be few who have not visited the Yorkshire coast. Indeed, I would guess it was as likely a destination as any when we began to regain some freedom in this most peculiar of summers.

It has a drawback. It's known as the A64. One of the prime routes to the coast. It's a road I am very familiar with, and have been for many years, as my wife's family originate from Malton. Once astride the A64, the town now enjoys a bypass, much to the relief of the residents. For those of you old enough to remember the days when the A64 went through the very centre of Malton, you will probably remember the horrendous traffic queues, particularly on Bank Holidays. And that in the days when there was far less traffic on the roads. However I recall my father in law, who was in the motor trade, rubbing his hands together in anticipation at the breakdowns, as many aging cars struggled to reach Scarborough in such conditions. It's an ill wind, as they say.

These days the by-pass has the problem, caused by being book ended by single carriageway stretches of road. Late afternoon at the west end of the bypass can be particularly entertaining as the ambling holiday traffic does battle with the rushing commuter traffic as everyone heads home.

The west end of the Malton bypass dual carriageway is approached round a very long, sweeping left hand curve, which is followed by a straight length well signed to move traffic into a single lane where the road out of Malton slips in from the left at the start of the single carriageway to Crambeck. When the traffic gets heavy, a queue tends to form. In the left hand lane. It cannot normally be seen until you are relatively close, but soon enough to brake safely from the 70 mph limit. In the event you are with the rushing commuter traffic overtaking the ambling holiday traffic, the notion of coming down from, say, 70 mph to 50 mph or so, changing lanes at the same time and then coming to an orderly stop at the end of a single queue is, to say the least, imaginative. It is simply dangerous, so a certain amount of traffic inevitably finishes up in the outer lane rolling past the long queue on the left.

Now being advanced drivers we all follow the rules and guidance of the Highway Code. We do, don't we? Or do we just think we do? So why then do so many people get quite so worked up when a situation such as I have just described arises? If you are in the

outer lane you get glowered at, drivers intentionally close up so there is no room for you to merge into the queue, others pull out to block your lane and stop your progress. Now here is where you have to get opinionated.

In such circumstances, where two lanes need to merge into one, should we stick to good old polite British reserve and form one orderly queue immediately, leaving a whole lane empty, or fill both lanes equally and merge in turn at the very front? After all, we pay enough to use the road, so does it not follow that we should use all of it if it is safe to do so? As Yorkshiremen (pure bred or adopted) we appreciate value for money. Think of Arkwright in Open All Hours. “ ‘Ow much??’ “

Before you reach for your Highway Code, I'll tell you the relevant paragraph is best described as a 'grey area', although there is good reason for what it says. So whichever view you hold may be tenable. Try to work out which approach is safer, both from the view of those who edit the guidance in the Highway Code, and our view as advanced drivers. Now read Rule 134.

It is the concept of braking fairly heavily and changing lanes at some speed that causes the advice in this case to read as it does. If the traffic forms two queues and vehicles politely merge in turn it is done at much lower speed, possibly at mere walking pace from a standstill. The result is far safer and causes fewer accidents. Clearly there can be different road circumstances where the end of the queue is more visible but the west end of Malton bypass really does make the point that two queues and zip merging is the safer method. A few miles further along towards York, the end of the next length of dual carriageway reinforces the point. Here the road bends left rising to a crest, and a single queue on the following long straight towards the head can be very, very close to that crest. Braking from 70 mph here can be challenging and it can be safer to go out into the empty outer lane. Surely two queues half the length would obviously be wiser. Both would be visible with adequate braking distance.

I remain neutral. You could say I duck out. Opinions in writing, please, to the editor!
Mallard.

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Words of Wisdom

Never take a laxative and sleeping tablet at the same time!

And Finally.....



Spotted on the A64 by David Stringer

This Month's Teaser

A Christmas themed question this month. Approximately how many Christmas cards are sent in the UK each year?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "Which was the longest road in Britain built by the Romans? The answer is the 220 mile Fosse Way from Lincoln to Exeter. The route encompasses the A46 from Lincoln to Leicester, the B4455 from High Cross to Halford, the A429 from Halford to Cirencester and the A37 from Shepton Mallet to Ilchester.

Your Committee

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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
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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.