

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

December 2021

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Beacon Hill Halifax

Overlooking Halifax is Beacon Hill. On the site is a beacon, the original of which was one of a chain of beacons around the country used to warn of the threat of invasion from the Spanish Armada or Napoleons attempt to invade Britain. More recently it has been lit to mark royal jubilees and coronations and the end of WW1 and WW2.

Photo taken by David Wevill

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 6th
December
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
Christmas Quiz, Raffle
and Buffet

Carlton Social Club
Main Street
Carlton WF3 3RW

As an additional "attraction" at the Christmas meeting I'll have a reaction timer that I built for an event when we were members of the Leicester group. So an ideal opportunity to see how fast your reaction time is.

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 an interesting talk on a variety of topics, sharing our skills with other serious drivers and keeping up-to-date on club and driving matters.

If you are planning to attend the Christmas meeting can you let Janice know and if you are bringing a guest. This will allow us to arrange the catering to suit the number of attendees.

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

We are still working on the events diary for next year and the social meeting dates will be published in next month's newsletter. In the meantime if you have any suggestions for speakers, or would like to take on the role of speaker secretary, please let Janice know at the email address on the Committee page.

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MYAM Trophy



You may remember that a few years ago we introduced the MYAM Trophy which is presented at the Christmas social event to the member 'who has gone above and beyond' for their commitment to our group.

It was last presented at our Christmas 2019 meeting to Hanni Kaye but for obvious reasons we were unable to present it last year. As you might expect we are also unable to present it this year but hopefully as the Covid situation improves we hope to be able to present it at the 2022 Christmas social meeting.

From the Editor

It's been an interesting 12 months as the year started with the release of several Covid vaccines and the announcement of the UK vaccination programme. By all accounts our government actually had the right idea of ordering the vaccine early, meaning we appear to be ahead of many countries in vaccinating our population. The restrictions have been slowly lifted meaning life is on the way to getting back to some form of normality. However Covid will be with us for a long time and I'd guess regular booster vaccinations will be the order of the day until, probably in a generation or two's time, most people will have some form of resistance to the virus.

Another success was the return of our social meetings which so far have been well attended. Let's hope this continues throughout next year.

Of course the pandemic has significantly affected our associate training but we are working hard to reduce the backlog of associates. To this end, from next month there will be a section in the newsletter specifically for our associates to keep them informed of the current situation relating to observed runs etc.

One other major event this year was the expansion of the MYAM area to include the Skipton and Craven group. This is still in progress but we have to wait until the Skipton group is formally wound up before the MYAM expansion is complete. As you will have seen from the map in last month's newsletter the area we will be covering has increased by around half but, as Bob Rowles said at the EGM, most of the Skipton area is inhabited by sheep!

Because of the number of associates we now have we are urgently seeking members to train as Observers. If you feel you can help by becoming an Observer please contact Chris our chief observer.

We are also looking for volunteer(s) to pull the caravan to events/rallies during next summer. Please contact Janice if you can help.

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

David Johnson, Faye Oldroyd

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Harriet Wheat - Observer Andy Monks

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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.



We wish all our members

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



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)

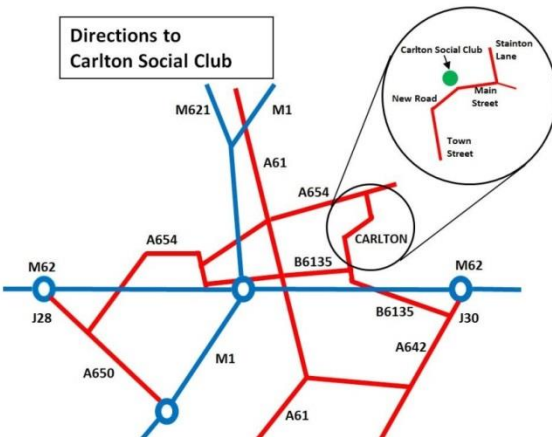
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

Associates' Special Corner

I am very pleased to say that MYAM is beginning to recover slowly from the problems caused by the Covid-19 lockdown and other regulations. However, we are still experiencing quite a number of difficulties, and I am sure you will understand that it will take some time to get back to something like "order".

With regard to your Associate membership of both IAMRoadsmart and MYAM, I am pleased to confirm that IAMR have agreed to continue to extend your membership to the end of December 2021. Of course, MYAM will also extend your Group membership in line. All you have to do is contact IAMR Customer Support on 0300 313 1134, and they will be only too pleased to help you. Please let our Membership Secretary, Graham Crawshaw, know when you have contacted Customer Support.

Unfortunately, a number of our Observers (both Local and National) decided to retire during the lockdown period, and, as a result, this is placing an additional burden on our Chief Observer, Chris Marrison, and our remaining Observers.

Our waiting list of Associates is now longer than at any time in the past, i.e. just over 80 in total, and we are trying to address the situation as quickly as possible. Our main aim is to ensure that our Associates are allocated to an Observer at the earliest possible date, but we are obviously governed by the location of both Associates and Observers. Some areas are better served by Observers than others, and this determines how quickly an Observer can be allocated.

I am therefore asking whether you, our Associates, would be willing to travel a little further, say 30 minutes (60 minutes round trip) to meet with an Observer for your sessions? In addition, if you could be flexible and undertake your observed sessions during the week rather than at weekends, this may enable our Observers to take on more Associates, thus bringing forward the start date of your Advanced Driver Course.

If you are able to offer flexibility during this current difficult time, would you please contact our Chief Observer, Chris Marrison, as soon as possible. His contact details are:

myam.chiefobserver@outlook.com

In the meantime, you are very welcome to attend our meetings at the Carlton Social Club on the first Monday in each month (except January). Our next meeting is on Monday 6th December 2021, and this will be a social evening, and partners and/or guests are very welcome. We will be holding a quiz night, and a free raffle and buffet will be provided.

If you are intending to attend the December event, please let me know and whether you are bringing a guest. My contact details are:

myam.chairman@outlook.com

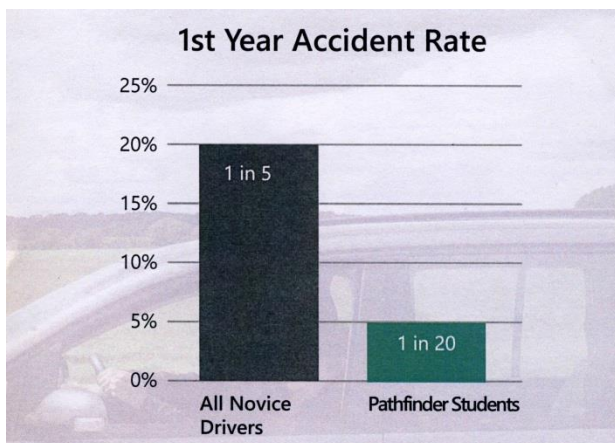
We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Very best regards,

Janice N. Haigh
Chairman

Pathfinder October 2021

Only ten students were enrolled for this October's Pathfinder course but all did themselves proud with what they achieved during the week. All had never sat behind the wheel before and all finished with the highest marks. Hopefully in the future, ten youngsters will venture onto our roads with an awareness of safety, driving responsibly and a taste of advanced driving.



We had visits and input from the Safer Roads Humber team, two officers from North Yorkshire Police Road Safety Team and two officers responsible for Road Safety from North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue.

This course did run at a loss for the charity - the Under17 Car Club. The club are very keen to keep it going and do their best to promote it. But 'word of mouth'

is the best promotion so please spread the word if you are able.

More details are available at www.under17driver.co.uk

The next course will run 19th-23rd April 2022 at Tockwith, Yorkshire.

Thank you

Lesley Pollard

November Meeting - Steve Ellis

On 1st November we held our first social meeting with a guest speaker since March 2020. Our speaker was our new Area Service Delivery Manager Steve Ellis who was formerly with South Yorkshire Police.

Steve spoke on two main subjects, “Smart Motorways” and changes to the Highway Code. He explained that there were three types of Smart motorway:-

Controlled motorway	Three, or more, lanes with variable speed limits with the retention of the hard shoulder for emergency use only.
Dynamic Hard Shoulder	A variable speed limit with a hard shoulder that can be opened to traffic at busy times.
All Lane Running	No hard shoulder but emergency refuge areas at regular intervals.

The aim of a Smart Motorway is to keep the traffic moving more smoothly. They have been designed to be as safe or safer than conventional motorways and by using Dynamic Hard Shoulder and All Lane Running the capacity of a motorway can be increased by 33%.

He explained about the refuge areas and what to do if you break down on a smart motorway and on the question of “Are smart motorways safe” said that there was evidence to indicate that they are helping to improve road safety. However they are still a controversial subject and the Transport Secretary conceded that they should be safer stating that the rollout of stopped vehicle detection technology would be sped up across the whole “smart” motorway network. Radar based stopped vehicle technology is now planned to be installed on all operational All Lane Running motorways by September 2022, six months earlier than originally planned.

Research for the RAC found that 62% of motorists thought that the All Lane Running should be scrapped but 24% supported the policy four permanent running lanes and increasing the number of refuge areas.

Steve then moved onto the changes to the Highway Code introduced in September. There are 33 amendments to existing rules and two new rules (270 & 275).

A major change is a hierarchy of road users to ensure that people who can cause the greatest harm in a collision bear the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger they may pose to others. The order of priority is:-

Pedestrians, cyclists, Horse riders, motorcyclists, cars/taxis, vans/minibuses with large passenger and heavy goods vehicles at the bottom. Pedestrians will also have priority on pavements and at zebra crossings.

Other changes include ensuring you have a valid licence and insurance to drive the vehicle you intend to use. Also ensuring you have planned your route with time for breaks or delays.

There is advice on Stopping distances and tailgating to allow at least a two second gap to the vehicle in front, doubling on wet roads and up to ten times on icy roads.

Rule 253 now states provisional car licence holders can only drive on the motorway when they are accompanied by an approved driving instructor and are driving a car displaying red L plates (or D plates in Wales) with dual controls.

Images, as shown below, have been added to help understand the rules



We have been informed that printed copies of the latest Highway Code will not be available until February/March 2020. We will try to get copies for Associates and Members, but we do not as yet have a price.

In the meantime, the latest information can be found on-line at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/updates>

Avoid any horror breakdowns

Breaking down can be dangerous and incredibly inconvenient, particularly if you're travelling for a family getaway this October half-term. But with 488 miles of England's motorway network made up of smart motorways and their hard shoulder becoming another lane to ease traffic flow, it's more important than ever to ensure you can prevent avoidable breakdowns.

By simply carrying out regular checks on your car, listening out for spooky sounds, or taking note of any lights that appear on your dashboard can significantly reduce your chances of breaking down.

Richard Gladman, Head of Driving and Riding Standards at IAM RoadSmart, is on hand to give expert advice on what all drivers (and riders) can do to prevent any avoidable breakdowns.

Keep your engine oil topped up

Engine oil is vital for keeping your car working properly. It stops heat and friction building up within your engine and allows all the moving parts to work properly. Before your engine oil light comes on, we'd always advise checking and topping it up before it ever runs out. You can check the level by either using the dipstick (*remember: wipe, dip and check*), whilst the engine is cold. It's also worth noting that some vehicles have onboard computers that recommend a car being run for a period before the computer gives an accurate oil reading, if this is the case then it would be worth moving your oil check to your return journey.

If you see liquid dripping down, this is likely to be oil and you must not carry-on driving. If there is no leakage, go to your closest garage for advice – it might just be a case of buying some engine oil and top it up immediately.

Don't miss a service

Regularly servicing can make the difference between your car running smoothly and fuel efficiently, and the risk of it breaking down and incurring an expensive and unexpected repair. Missing regular car servicing could mean costly major repairs and replacements, instead of wear and tear requiring minor maintenance.

Practice good driving habits

Our driving habits have a direct impact on the health of our vehicles and the parts which are essential for driving. For example, if you rev your engine from cold it will cause rapid

temperature changes within your engine, premature wear, and possible damage to components.

Drivers should try to avoid harsh braking because the brake pads and discs will wear down more quickly, and instead apply the brakes smoothly and progressively when coming to a halt. It's also important to avoid riding your clutch as this will wear the release bearing and the friction material both of which are essential for keeping your clutch working properly.

Don't ignore warning lights or strange noises

When you start your engine a multitude of dashboard lights will come on and, after a few seconds, go off again... except that sometimes they don't. Each car has different gadgets but there's a core set of warning lights that are common to all car manufacturers. Some of them are gentle reminders of things you need to attend to, some of them are there for information only and some are serious and will require you to act straight away.

So which is which, and do you really know what they all mean? If you're unsure then always check your car manual first, or you can find a full list [here](#).

Are you fit to drive?

The other key component to operate your vehicle is you. Whether that's a car or a bike, if you're too tired, or stressed, under the influence of alcohol or seasonal medication (Cold & Flu etc.) then are you in a fit state to drive? Have you got a back up driver to share the miles? Don't forget about stopping for regular breaks and planning your journey properly.

If you get into trouble on a motorway – go left says Highways England

If your vehicle has a problem, or you get into trouble on a motorway, stay calm and try to exit at the next junction or motorway service area. If that's not possible:

1. Put your left indicators on.
2. Move into the left lane.
3. Enter the next emergency area, or hard shoulder.
4. Put your hazard lights on.
5. Get behind a safety barrier where there is one - keep well away from moving traffic.
6. Call Highways England on 0300 123 5000, then a breakdown provider for help.

If you are unable to exit your vehicle and get to a safe place, have stopped in a live traffic lane or feel your life is in danger:

- Stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt and hazard lights on
- Call 999 immediately

Richard Gladman, said: “There are 65,000 breakdowns each year where no fault in the vehicle is found – making driver error the sixth most common cause of call-outs, according to the RAC 70,000 people break down each month by just running out of fuel, this is easily avoidable with just a bit of extra planning. Lack of scheduled maintenance also accounts for a number of drivers being stranded at the side of the road often in a dangerous situation. Check your vehicle regularly and if there is an issue then fix it or take it to a professional and get the repairs done. Breaking down anywhere is an inconvenience on a motorway or around a bend on a country road it could be fatal.”

Beware the Electric Car Battery

On a car forum I am a member of one of the other members is a member of a 4x4 Responder group and had gone on an Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) course. One subject that came up was what to do if you encounter an RTA involving an electric car?

The answer was “Do nothing, don't touch it, don't go near it, call the emergency services. With the high voltages involved and the absence of automatic battery isolators it is far too dangerous. There is also the danger of extinguished battery fires re-igniting.” A typical EV battery is around 300V and capable of delivering several hundred amps and, being DC, this can be fatal if you touch it.

At least since electric cars can have a green number plate it should be easier to identify them in an RTA. As hybrid cars also have batteries these should be treated the same as full electric cars in the event of an accident.

There was an instance of an RTA involving a transporter carrying electric vehicles that took the fire service ages to sort out. One vehicle had to be transported to its depot with the fire service following the recovery vehicle where the EV was lifted into a skip full of water.

In factories producing electric cars the general rule if a car is incomplete or partially dismantled nobody touches it unless they have either received the training, or have permission from the vehicle "owner" (who will know if the HV system has been disturbed).

There is another aspect of EV ownership that hasn't often been mentioned. What to do with batteries removed from electric vehicles that have been scrapped or where the batteries have failed. The batteries are often quoted as having a life of several years often exceeding the life of the car but they will inevitably have to be scrapped. If these are not recycled then many of the “green” credentials of electric vehicles will be lost. By recycling the old batteries the lithium and other metals can be reused in new batteries thus reducing the need to mine new materials which can have a significant environmental impact.

And Finally.....

Norma and Sonia were talking about their grandchildren after the holidays. Norma said, "My daughter-in-law stopped making my grandchildren send their 'thank you' notes. Each year I sent the grandchildren a card with a generous cheque inside. I always received a lovely 'thank you' note. However, since my daughter-in-law stopped making the grandkids send thank you notes, I never hear from them."

Sonia said, "My daughter-in-law never made the grandchildren send 'thank you' notes. I too send them a very generous cheque. However, for the past several years, I hear from them within a week after they receive it. In fact, they each pay me a personal visit."

"Wow," remarked Norma. "I wish mine would do that."

"You can, Norma, you can."

"How?" Norma asked.

"Simple. Do what I do. Don't sign the cheque."

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Countdown

Do you watch Countdown on Channel 4? If you do, make a note to watch, or record, the programme on Thursday 13th January, with Prue Leith as the dictionary corner guest, as there will be a MYAM member as one of the contestants (not me I hasten to add). It was apparently a high scoring close run contest.

This Month's Teaser

Countdown was the first programme to be broadcast on Channel 4 but on what date did Channel 4 start broadcasting?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "What does LED stand for?" The answer is Light Emitting Diode.

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.