

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

December 2022

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Leaning Tower of Pisa

Construction began in the 12th century and due to soft ground unable to support the weight of the tower it began to lean and continued to get worse. The tilt had increased to 5.5 degrees in 1990 and between 1993 and 2001 remedial work reduced the tilt to just under 4 degrees.

Photo taken by David Wevill

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 5th
December
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
Christmas Quiz, Raffle
and Buffet

Birkenshaw Liberal Club
10 Croft Street
Birkenshaw BD11 2HT

**Monday 8th
February 2023
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening

Birkenshaw Liberal Club

Please note there is no social meeting in January. Our 2023 social meetings start on the first Monday in February when we hope to have a speaker talking about car insurance and what modifications can be covered by your insurance. More details in the next newsletter.

Although we have asked for members to let us know if they intend coming to the December social meeting you would still be welcome to come along for the evening to enjoy the quiz and buffet.

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 wish all our members

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



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Seems the AA is forming another breakdown service to support any small electric cars. It will be called the AAA.

From the Editor

What a year 2022 has been. Apart from the war in Ukraine and rapidly rising prices we've had two monarchs and three prime ministers.

Covid seems to have been relegated to a short mention in the news as the vaccination programme has allowed life to return to some form of normality although there are still many cases being reported. It looks like an annual vaccination will become the norm for the foreseeable future.

Our group has resumed social meetings and we have a new venue closer to the geographic centre of our expanded group following the integration of the former Skipton and Craven group and the committee welcomes Sally Lawrence as a co-opted committee member. We will be formally electing Sally to the committee at our AGM in May.

On a personal note Caroline and I finally managed to take a well-earned, but postponed, holiday this year to celebrate our pearl wedding anniversary.

On the motoring front there has also been the recent announcement that at last electric vehicles will be subject to Vehicle Excise Duty. This was only to be expected as the government would be losing millions, if not billions, of pounds not only from VED but also fuel duty from the transition to electric vehicles. However I still feel that this transition will cause many problems in the future unless steps are taken to improve the charging network and the electricity supply.

So as 2022 comes to an end it only remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas (Yule for Janice) and a Happy New Year and hope to see you at our social meetings next year.

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

Lois Bentley

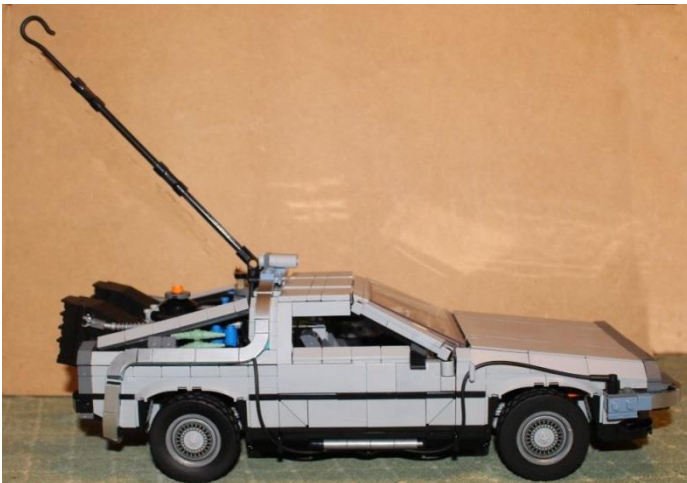
Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

**Faisal Ahmad - Observer Mick Coley
David Chandler - Observer Bob Rowles**

Back to the Future

I recently had my birthday and to celebrate it my son and daughter bought me a new car. The only problem was that I had to build it myself. So I sat down and began to assemble the 1800 or so parts to make a DeLorean. Not just any DeLorean but the one used to take



Marty McFly and Doc Brown through time in the Back to the Future trilogy.

It took about 3 days on and off to build it and to decide which version to build. There are parts to build the car as seen in all three films. As you can see I built the version from the first film.

Now all I need to do is find a source of 1.21GW and get it up to 88mph to go back in time to tell myself that the parts I thought were missing are in the second pack labelled 4!

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.



TWITTER We have our own Twitter account which can be found at twitter.com/MYAM4178

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 Birkenshaw Liberal Club

10 Croft Street, Birkenshaw, Bradford, BD11 2HT



From the M62 West leave at Junction 26 and take the A58 towards Leeds. At the second roundabout turn left into Bradford Road (A651) after about 700yds by the George pub, turn right into Town Street. Croft Street is approximately 60yds from the junction (top photo left) but to avoid the potholes carry on up Town Street and turn right into Old Lane. After approximately 100yds turn right into Croft Street (middle picture left between the car and the house next to it).



From Bradford follow the A650. Turn right onto the A651 at the traffic lights just before Tong Academy. Then just after the George pub turn left into Town Street and follow the previous directions.



From the M62 junction 27, take the A650. Turn left onto the A58. After approximately ½ mile turn right into Old Lane After approximately 550yds turn left into Croft Street (bottom picture left).

There is a large car park and the entrance is down the right hand side of the club as shown in the top picture.

Our meetings are held in the function room.

November Meeting - The AEC Routemaster

We hardly give them any thought but on thinking about it busses must go through similar design procedures as cars. This was the subject of our membership secretary, and bus enthusiast, Graham's talk. At the start he warned us that he could have talked for hours about the design of the Routemaster bus as used around London but had restricted this talk on the Precursors and Prototypes to an hour. Part 2 will follow sometime next year.



An early London bus dating from 1911

The London Transport Executive was formed in 1933 when all the bus companies in London and surrounding areas were nationalised. Following the nationalisation the first bus designed for London Transport was the AEC Regent III but only a few busses were built before the Second World War. Following the war production restarted with a total of 6805 being built. The last

one entering service in 1954. The most famous of these was one used in the film Summer Holiday although there were three busses actually used in the film.

These busses carried fewer passengers per hour than the London trams and as the trams were being withdrawn London Transport drew up a specification for a replacement bus that was to become the famous Routemaster. It had to be lighter and easier to operate than the previous bus.

As with cars several prototypes were built to test the concept. These were subject to many problems including engine overheating, excessive tyre wear and transmission noise. These problems all had to be sorted before the Routemaster entered service in 1958.

These prototype busses were later used for driver training duties but were also subject to several changes until finally being withdrawn from service and eventually being preserved.

One prototype was described as the bus London Transport didn't want as it had a Leyland engine rather than London Transport's favoured supplier AEC. This bus was involved in a heavy collision with a lorry in 1959 but was repaired and was finally withdrawn from service in 1972 and entered preservation at the London Bus Museum at Brooklands in 1974. It was rebuilt in 2004.

A fourth prototype was built as a coach version with fewer seats and intended to be used on Greenline express routes entering service in 1957. With the decline of Greenline travel in the late 60s it was demoted to ordinary bus duties and finally withdrawn from service in 1979. It was later bought by a preservation society and has now been restored to its original condition.



The bus they didn't want - now preserved

Other prototypes were built without full bodies to be used for evaluating engines, gearboxes brakes and other features. Once the evaluations were completed these were rebuilt with bodies and entered service.

We'll have to wait a few months for the next instalment but Graham's talk showed how much is involved in the development of not only cars but busses.

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From the Chairman

This year has seen a determined effort on behalf of your Committee to help the Group to recover from the problems caused by the Covid epidemic and the resultant lock-down. As a result, a few changes have been made.

Earlier this year, as the Group was welcoming new Members following the merger with the Skipton & Craven Group, it was pointed out that Carlton (near Rothwell) is not now the centre of the new expanded territory covered by MYAM. Bob Rowles (the former Chief Observer of Skipton) therefore offered to look into this situation. He subsequently found that the new epicentre is actually in the region of Birkenshaw, and we have therefore moved our social meeting venue to the Liberal Club. The Steward of the club, Ben, and the club committee have made us extremely welcome

As you know, the Group was not able to carry out observed runs, either on a one-to-one basis or at Sunday morning sessions during the Covid "lockdown". This resulted in a considerable waiting list of Associates, and we are now working hard to allocate those Associates to Observers. This will obviously take some time, as it must be borne in mind that all our Observers are volunteers, who give up their own precious time. I am therefore extremely

grateful to all those Observers who are re-commencing runs and to the Associates, who are being very patient.

My thanks also go to our Chief Observer, Chris Marrison, who is working very hard to deal with the waiting list, and to David Stringer and Bob Rowles, who are giving Chris profuse support and advice. If you are interested in becoming an Observer for the Group, please contact Chris Marrison or Bob Rowles, who will give you any information you need.

Unfortunately, as some of you are aware, I have been very ill for 18 months following a very bad reaction to the Astra Zeneca Covid vaccine, which I (much against my better judgement) underwent in April last year. I was forced to step back from the post of Chairman at MYAM, but I am now beginning to feel better, and I am slowly getting back to “active duty”. In the meantime, our President (David Stringer), ably supported by Bob Rowles, the Officers, and the members of the MYAM Committee, have done a wonderful job of keeping the Group running very smoothly. I owe them all a huge “thank you”!

At our last committee meeting, we were very pleased to co-opt Sally Lawrence to the MYAM Committee, and her position will be ratified at the next AGM in May. Sally will be a very valuable asset to the committee and brings the total number to eight (including three ladies). If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Committee.

Unfortunately, a little while ago, the Committee made the decision to sell the Group caravan. It is currently being stored at the Wakefield Metropolitan District Council site at Newton Bar, which is due for closure within the next year. Since the departure of David Rushfirth from the Group, we no longer have a qualified Observer who is able to pull the caravan, and, as we have such a long waiting list of Associates, it has been decided that we should not attend any rallies and similar events for the foreseeable future. If anyone would like any further information regarding the caravan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With regard to 2023, we are currently in the process of preparing the calendar of events and speakers. Please let us know if you would like us to try to find a speaker on a particular subject or, better still, if you know of anyone who would be willing to come along and speak to us. Remember you are valuable Members of this Group, and your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a very happy Yule and/or Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

With very best wishes,

Janice

Darker Evenings: How to be prepared for night driving

On Sunday 30th October the clocks went back - good news for those of us who will enjoy an extra hour in bed! However, it also means we're going to be travelling to and from work in the dark a lot more.

This year, the clock change coincides with the end of the majority of school's half term. Children are our most vulnerable road users and the darker evenings do not help. The trip to and from school after a break can be an exciting time to catch up with friends, however, road safety is not always given a high priority in their minds. The darker evenings and autumn/winter weather conditions means motorists need to keep vigilant and consider that children may be out and about, possibly in school uniform which is not known for bright colours.

Use your lights appropriately:

Never worry about being the first person to put your lights on! Being visible and being able to see is key. Checking your lights are in full working order should become part of your routine vehicle checks. Knowing how to use your lights correctly is important to your safety and the safety of others. If visibility is reducing check the light switch, a modern car with illuminated dash and daylight running lights can appear to have the lights on when they are not.

Remember you can dip your interior mirror if the lights from the vehicle behind are too bright for you. You also need to consider how and when you use your main beam. If you get blinded by someone coming in the opposite direction, try focusing on the left-hand edge and pull over and stop, if necessary, until your eyes recover.

Keep windows and mirrors clean:

Ensure the vehicle's windscreen, windows and mirrors are clean and clear inside and out. Whilst a dirty windscreen may not be noticeable during the day, at night this can impair visibility and increase the glare from oncoming vehicles. It can be surprising just how dirty they have become over the summer months, especially on the inside.

Check your tyres:

At least 153 people are killed or seriously injured every year because of defective tyres. As we approach the winter months, road conditions are inherently worse, tread depth is very

important in being able to push the surface water away and help stop the car from aquaplaning. Before travelling, check that your tyres are inflated to the correct pressure, with no obvious damage and have a tread depth of at least 1.6mm. Read more tyre safe tips in our Tyre Safety Month blog.

Take regular breaks:

We know from research that that 37% of respondents have continued to drive whilst overtired. We all know the tell-tale signs and how important it is we take notice of these and stop and take a break from driving every 100 miles or every 2 hours, whichever is sooner. Driving when tired slows your reaction time and puts you, your passengers and other road users in danger. Don't set out on a journey if you are tired and where possible avoid driving when you are normally asleep.

Learn more about the risks of driving fatigue [here](#).

Increase the distance between cars:

Keeping a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front is important at any time of day. Remember in wet weather the Highway Code suggests we double the two second rule to allow at least four seconds in bad weather, up to 10 seconds in snow and icy conditions. Night-time driving has many different hazards due to lack of clear vision – always drive at a speed that allows you to stop in the distance you see to be clear.

Rebecca Ashton, Head of Policy and Research had this to say:

“Driving in the dark shouldn't be something to be nervous about but can take a little adjusting to if it's something you have not done for a while. Making sure your seat position is set up correctly can sometimes help; adjusting your seat can reduce the glare from other road users.

Remember to take your time and make sure you anticipate other road users; it can take practice but learning to link observations and anticipate what could happen on the road is an important skill to have. If you have concerns and find it difficult to see at night then consider an appointment with your optician, it could be some corrective vision is required.”

Remember to stay safe, pay attention and check your vehicle

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Have you noticed that no matter how you set the sun visors, the sun always comes through the gap between them and shines straight into your eyes even though there is usually a shaded area around the rear view mirror?

Letter to the Editor

Back in the October newsletter I asked if anyone had met Queen Elizabeth and received an email from Brian Davison.

Hi Keith,

My recollection of meeting the queen was in 1977 or thereabouts when I was awarded my Queen's Scout Award aged 16. She presented them down at Windsor, and had a brief chat with me about what I had done for my expedition (50 mile hike in North Yorkshire Moors).

I don't have any photos but I remember the day well - we spent the morning learning to march properly, and our exact position in the parade, and etiquette if spoken to, and the parade was in the afternoon.

She was kind and gracious as she has been all her life.

Kindest Regards

Brian Davison

PS I didn't go down to London for the funeral or lying in state, but was among 4.1 billion (est) who saw it on telly.

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Christmas – A Few Things You May, Or May Not, Know

Early Christians wanted to celebrate the birth of Jesus but nowhere in the Bible does it say when he was born or the time of day or the time of year.

Western Christians settled on 25th December during the 4th century but the Eastern Church chose 6th January but by the 5th century they had agreed to 25th December.

The 25th December also coincided with the Roman festival of Saturnalia, the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and the Norse Yule which celebrated the winter solstice.

Christmas trees were a German tradition and the belief is that



they were introduced to England by Prince Albert in 1841 although they had actually been introduced 12 years earlier by a German, Princess Lieven.

Christmas cards began in the 1840s.

Christmas crackers were invented by Tom Smith, a pastry cook and confectioner, after seeing sugared almonds being sold in twists of coloured paper in Paris. He added mottoes but they did not sell well in London until he added the “bang”.

During the rule of Oliver Cromwell Christmas was abolished but was re-established on the return of the monarchy in 1660.

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Farewell to the Fiesta

There can't be many drivers who haven't owned or driven a Ford Fiesta since its introduction in 1976. Now Ford have announced that they are stopping production of the car in 2023 after 47 years with over 22 million cars being sold. It was the smallest car that Ford had built at the time and their first with a transverse engine and front wheel drive. There have been seven generations of the car and I have owned two Mark 1 Fiestas one of which was one of the last of the Mark 1 XR2s to be built.



My first Fiesta

The first two generations only had three doors but when the third generation came out in 1989 there were five door versions available. As with most Ford cars there were several variants ranging from a basic version to the top of the range Ghia and different engines available across the range. There were also the sporting XR2 and ST versions and more mundane van variants.

The Fiesta was sold all over Europe and for a short time was sold in the USA. The US version had the larger engine but was fitted with all the emission controls required for the American market meaning it had less power than the smaller engine versions sold in Europe. In the UK it has been consistently one of the best selling cars becoming the bestselling car in July 2014 with 4,115,000 cars sold.

And Finally.....



Well I guess he had to do what thousands of tourists in Pisa have done!

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This Month's Teaser

Liz Truss has entered the record books as the prime minister with the shortest term in office (50 days). Prior to her who was the prime minister with the shortest term in office?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "Have you noticed the subtle change I've made to the newsletter." It's a very subtle change but I'll bet you'll notice that the page number is now in the centre instead of on the right.

Your Committee

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Youth Liaison	Position vacant		
Speaker Secretary	Position vacant		
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GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		
Committee member	Bob Rowles	01943 831976	bob.rowles(at)gmail.com
Committee member	Sally Lawrence		

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.