

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

December 2024

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Brodsworth Hall and Gardens

Built in the 1860s Brodsworth Hall near Doncaster was created by Charles Thellusson. After he died in 1885 ownership of the house and gardens passed through his children and grandchildren until 1990 when it was given to English Heritage. The house has been conserved to show how the family lived and the gardens have been restored to recapture the spirit of the 1860s.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 2nd
December 2024
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
Christmas Quiz, Raffle
and Buffet

Birkenshaw Liberal Club
10 Croft Street
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Monday 3rd
February 2025
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
The Routemaster Part 3
Graham Crawshaw

Birkenshaw Liberal 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.

Please note there is no social meeting in January. Our first meeting in 2025 will be on Monday 3rd February.

On behalf of the committee

We wish all our members

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



And we hope to meet you at our meetings and events throughout the year either in person or via Zoom.

From The Editor

Our November social meeting was via a Zoom call and, in spite of a few teething problems at the start, the meeting judged to be a success. We've had several messages from members who attended via Zoom and all said they enjoyed the meeting.

This has encouraged us to look for speakers further afield who would not have to travel to the Liberal Club. We are also exploring the possibility of using Zoom to enable those members who would not normally attend the social meetings to "attend" remotely. It's early days and a few issues need to be addressed before we can offer this option so watch this space.

Once we have perfected the technique we will publish the links as both a hyperlink and a QR code.

As the quizmaster for the Christmas quiz I am always trying to do two things, one is to find a mix of questions that are not too difficult for the teams but will make the teams think about the answers and the second is to find questions that my son David does not know the answers to – that is the more difficult task.

I've also been looking at various TV quiz shows to find different formats of questions and I think this year I found a format for one of the questions that will challenge the teams. All will be revealed at the December meeting.

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

Andy Dymott, Roger Farrell, Elliot Hallam, Ian Lawson

In last month's Welcome to the Group I inadvertently pressed the wrong key on the keyboard. Our new associate should have been Kate Sandall. Apologies to Kate.

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

**Rowena Summers - Observer Ed Nash
John Biddle - Observer Paranjit Bharaj**

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From The Membership Secretary

Can MYAM Members and Associate Members please inform the MYAM Membership Secretary of any changes to their personal information such as change of email address, change of contact telephone numbers or change of home address. There have been a number of recent occurrences where reminders of membership subscription renewals and or MYAM Newsletters have been sent to a Member's old email address and not until the member has eventually queried why they have not received a MYAM Newsletter has this been brought to the attention of the MYAM Membership Secretary.

The MYAM Membership Secretary's email address can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

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 or scan the QR code.

We are adding to the content all the time so keep dropping in to see what we are doing.



X We have our own X account which can be found at X.com/MYAM4178

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.

David Rockliff is our GDPR Manager. Please contact him if you have any GDPR related issues.

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 - Tyre Safe

How often do you check your tyres? Every week, every month, just before the MOT or never? According to Stuart Lovatt, chair of Tyre Safe, 73% of motorists do not check their tyres and 29% of motorists wait for the MOT and 35% never think to check their tyres.

The aim of the Tyre Safe campaigns is to raise awareness of the importance of correct maintenance and the dangers of defective and illegal tyres. Driving with illegal tyres can lead to a fine of £2500 and 3 penalty points per tyre.

Some of the statistics given were frightening especially when you consider that your tyres are the only point of contact your car has with the road. Most of the vehicles that had been involved in an accident and had been recovered to a police compound were found to have defective tyres which was probably a factor in the accident.

In 2023 the AA recorded 620 thousand tyre related faults and 28% of tyre replacements were due to potholes and poor road surfaces

A new tyre has typically 8mm of tread which has to shift up to 30 litres of water per second at 40mph but as the tread wears down the ability to shift the water diminishes. The legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm but ideally tyres should be replaced before this point is reached hence the need for regular checks. These should include the checking pressures, details of which should be in the vehicle handbook or on the fuel filler cover. It is also important to check the tread depth across the width of the tyre. If the tread depth varies across the width it could indicate that the tracking is out and needs adjusting.

Many motorists when looking for replacement tyres will choose some of the budget brands but although these may be cheaper they are not necessarily as good as the premium brands. Stuart showed a video comparing the stopping distance between budget and premium tyres in wet conditions. There was a 78ft difference in the stopping distances. Some motorists change their tyres to winter tyres for the colder months replacing them when the weather improves in the spring. As an alternative to winter tyres it is also worth considering All Season tyres. These have a different tread pattern and can perform better in winter conditions than “normal” tyres. I can vouch for that as I’ve had All Season tyres on my last two cars and never had any major issues in bad weather.

The Zoom meeting was recorded and the edited TyreSafe video from the meeting can be found here

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midYorkshire/events/tyresafe---4.11.24-> or here <https://tinyurl.com/2876nan6> or scan the QR code



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MYAM Needs A New Chief Observer

Following recent changes to our approach in how we manage Associates and Observers, MYAM is looking for a new Chief Observer.

We have recently split out the Associate Liaison and Observer Training responsibilities into separate roles, and now have a more focused requirement for a Chief Observer.

In particular, going forward the role will focus on getting Associates through the Advanced Driving Test and liaison with the Observer Group. The key items being:

- Manage/update the Associate Training program
- Monitor Associate Run Sheets, including decisions on mid-term and pre-test assessments
- Organise Observer Forums
- Oversee Skill Check Sessions
- Work with the Associate Liaison and Observer Training roles
- A member of the MYAM Committee (or responsibility for keeping the Committee up to date with relevant information)

The Chief Observer needs to be an IAM National Observer, but we are very willing to provide relevant training / refresher sessions for anyone who may be interested.

In addition, we are willing to discuss further splitting the CO role amongst several people if this is required.

If you are interested to hear more, then please contact me at myam.chairman@outlook.com or call me on 07960 410046.

Paul Macro
MYAM Chairman

Cars With Potential Future Problems To Avoid Buying

A mechanic has warned motorists looking to buy a reliable used car to avoid models that come with a certain set of features, warning they may be problematic in the future. David Long is better known to fans as Car Wizard thanks to his YouTube videos in which he repairs classic and performance models and gives tips to help viewers cut down their motoring bills.

EVs, if you find one that doesn't have a 'battery charge' level but a 'battery health' level. These tell you how much time you have left before a battery needs to be replaced.

"There are plenty of electric vehicles on the used car market where you should be looking at the battery health meter. If it's below half, you probably should not buy that vehicle, it could cost you tons to get that battery pack replaced, and that's if you can even find a battery pack." Much like modern smartphones, many of the latest electric cars will give owners an estimation of how much life is left in the battery pack.

Whilst some models have proven that electric vehicles are capable of being used for more than 400,000 miles, examples used in extreme climates or rapid charged unnecessarily can wear out at a faster rate. Checking the health of the battery is crucial to avoid having to buy a replacement, which can be troublesome to fit and, depending on the model, cost more than the vehicle itself to buy.

Later in the video, David also urged drivers to avoid cars where all of the functions are controlled via a central touchscreen, warning that when it fails it will leave owners stranded. He continued: "The next one is going to be a future issue, but it's probably already starting to become one. So many cars are starting to come with an all-inclusive screen, like in the centre of the dashboard. It's your speedometer, tachometer, climate control, the radio, the map, everything that you need to know to drive your car on that screen.

"What happens when that screen fails? It is going to fail. Now you don't know how fast you're going, where you're going, you can't control your air conditioning because it's just a black screen."

Finally, the mechanic suggested that cars in which features are controlled via a smartphone app could have a limited shelf life, with manufacturers or operating systems ending support for them after a few years. He added: "On your phone, you can remote start the car, turn on that feature, turn off that feature, look at the charge level of an EV. We all know that technology moves fast and is ruthless. It does not care if it leaves you behind

with unsupported technology. "We've seen that in all kinds of things today where something works just fine, you move to a new operating system that the company no longer supports, and now you have a brick, it's useless. Imagine having a car that's 15 to 20 years old and you lose all of the features because the app for it is unsupported. I foresee that being such a big problem."

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Chairman's Review 2024

So 2024 was the year that I took over the Chairman's role from long-standing previous Chairman Janice Haigh. I'd like to repeat my thanks to Janice for her service to the Group (and its predecessors) over many, many years.

2024 was also the 30th anniversary of my having originally passed the Advanced Driving test (although I re-passed it again in 2018). As a present to myself, I attended the IAM Skills Day at Croft Circuit in July, which was a great day and highly recommended if you want to hone your observation skills and where to place your car on the approach to corners (without the worry of someone coming the other way!)

It has also been a great year for Social Events. We had Richard Gladman, Chief Examiner for IAM RoadSmart attend our April evening, during which he shared his driving career and the IAM's latest thinking. In July we had the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and in October we had the White Knight Blood Bikers present to us. Two hugely important local charities, both of which created some very interesting discussions.

We also had Wakefield Road Safety Officer, Helen Kilner present to us in June, during which she talked about the West Yorkshire Vision Zero initiative, which aims to eliminate all deaths on West Yorkshire roads by 2040. An admirable target, and one in which MYAM can play an important role. Indeed, I attended the formal launch event in Bradford in August. More details can be found here <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/vision-zero/>

We also had TyreSafe present to us about the importance of looking after our tyres at the November evening. Whilst this was also very interesting and informative, it was also our first Social Evening broadcast on 'Zoom'. We had around 20 people who attended in person and 10 who also attended online, many of whom would not normally be able to attend on a Monday evening. General feedback was that despite some (inevitable) minor technical issues, the event was a real success and we'll be looking to have more Social Evenings broadcast via Zoom in 2025.

As noted elsewhere in this month's Newsletter, MYAM needs a new Chief Observer, a critically important role for the Group, but also one that is interesting and rewarding. If you want to know more then please do let me or one of the Committee know.

We couldn't run the Group without our dedicated Committee (all of whom are shown on the back page of this Newsletter). All play key roles in both the day-to-day functioning of the Group and the securing of its long-term future. My thanks go to all of you, including those who have taken on new or expanded roles this year.

Furthermore, I'd also like to extend my thanks to our Observers, who similarly we couldn't run the Group without, and who give up large amounts of their own time to get Associates through their Advanced Driving Tests.

Congratulations also go to all of those Associates who have passed their Advanced Test during the year and are now Full members. This is a real achievement

Looking forward to 2025, I hope that more of you will be able to attend our Social Evenings (either in person or online).

Wishing you and your families are very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Paul Macro
MYAM Chairman



At our November meeting just before the Tyresafe presentation Paul presented Dudley Bush with his certificate.

Dudley's observer was Paul Everest.



Autumn Budget 2024 – IAM RoadSmart reaction

Announcements:

Fuel duty (frozen)

IAM RoadSmart Policy and Public Affairs Manager William Porter said: “We welcome the Chancellor’s decision to maintain the fuel duty cut, at least for now. Motorists have endured a torrid few years of high prices at the pumps and this decision will give them a much-needed boost. We separately welcome the commitment to introduce the Fuel Finder scheme by the end of 2025, which should increase pricing transparency at the pumps.”

Pothole funding (proposed £500m boost)

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: “Any additional funding to fix our crumbling and potentially unsafe roads is welcome, but with one-off repair bill of over £16bn, the amount promised by the Chancellor is a drop in the ocean of what is required. Given the risks that potholes pose to both drivers’ wallets and riders’ safety, we need a longer-term approach to funding so councils can prioritise resurfacing work where it is most needed.”

Vehicle Excise Duty (increased on first year)

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: “Increasing vehicle excise duty on all but zero emission vehicles in the first year will hit those buying new conventional vehicles in the pocket. A better solution to incentivise the take-up of electric vehicles would have been to cut VAT on the sale of new electric vehicles with list price of £40,000 and under.”

What was not announced:

Insurance Premium Tax

IAM RoadSmart Policy and Public Affairs Manager William Porter said: “At a time when insurance premiums are at near record highs, not using the Budget as an opportunity to reduce insurance premium tax for young drivers who undertake additional

training is a missed opportunity to both reduce their premium costs and improve road safety. Younger drivers have seen their quotes skyrocket into the thousands and sadly risks many in this age group being priced out.”

Older drivers (no support for mature driver assessment)

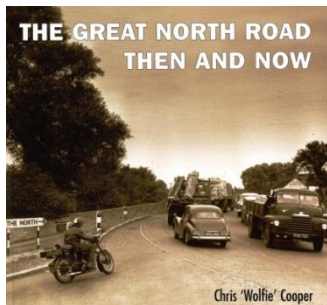
IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: “We’re disappointed the Chancellor has missed this opportunity to provide support and peace of mind for older drivers in her Budget. Our plan for optional, free driving assessments for over-70s would have the benefit of boosting the confidence of older drivers and a potentially positive impact on reducing collisions on our roads.”

VAT exemptions (motorcycle PPE)

IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy and Standards Nicholas Lyes said: “Our campaign for motorcycle air vests and other protective clothing to be exempt from VAT will continue. Per billion miles travelled, motorcyclists are by far the most vulnerable road user and encouraging them to invest in life-saving riding gear that reduces fatalities and serious injury should be a priority for Ministers.”

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The Great North Road



An interesting book that members might like to find in their Christmas stocking is ‘The Great North Road – Then and Now’ by Chris ‘Wolfie’ Cooper.

The book was published in 2013 but is still available online from Pen and Sword books in Barnsley.

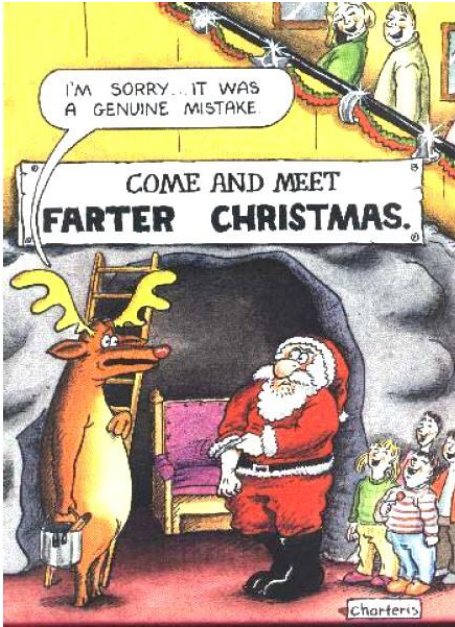
Following on from the recent meeting about tyre safety, it contains the following note:

“A report in 1955 described the A1 as the ‘ugliest and terrifying country lane in the world’ on which in the course of a year over 2,000 people are injured and nearly 100 killed between London and Scotch Corner.”

I wonder how many of these were caused by faulty (probably cross ply) tyres.

David Rockliff

And Finally.....



This Month's Teaser

On my car by the rear door is this slot but what is its purpose?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "but in which year was the barcode first used on a product in the UK?" The answer is 1979.



Your Committee

Chairman	Paul Macro 07960 410046		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Janice Haigh		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
Younger Members	Lewis Wetherill 07359 630705		myam.youngermembers(at)outlook.com
Speaker Secretary	Sally Lawrence		myam.speakersecretary(at)outlook.com
Events Manager	Alan Jones 07714 444595		myam.events(at)outlook.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
Associate Coordinator	Ken Newton		myam.associatecoord(at)outlook.com
Committee Member	Bob Rowles 01943 831976		bob.rowles(at)gmail.com
Committee Member	John Prior		

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.