

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

February 2022

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Hardwick Hall

Built between 1590 and 1597 for Bess of Hardwick, Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire is an early example of the renaissance style. After being owned by the Cavendish family for many years ownership was transferred to the Treasury in 1956 and to the National Trust in 1959.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Monday 7th February 8pm	MYAM Social Evening Tony Dyson from Vertu Kia on Electric Cars.	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW
Monday 7th March 8pm	MYAM Social Evening TBA	Carlton Social Club
Monday 4th April 8pm	MYAM Social Evening TBA	Carlton Social Club

Everyone is welcome at these events and they are an ideal opportunity to meet new people socially, find out about what is going on within the Group and listen to 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.

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

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February Meeting

Our February will be a little different from our normal social meetings as our speaker, Tony Dyson, was a little apprehensive when he spoke to Janice about the meeting. Instead of a formal presentation, the meeting will take the form of an informal, interactive, chat about the pros and cons of electric cars.

I'm sure many of us will be interested to find out more about owning and running an electric car and will have many questions to ask. So come prepared with a question, or two, to ask. I certainly have a few questions mainly about charging, which I suspect many of us have concerns about. Other topics could be battery life, resale value, should I buy a secondhand electric car? I'm sure you can come up with a few questions for what promises to be an interesting and informative evening.

From the Editor

While everyone else was preparing for their New Year celebrations on Dec 31st, we were getting ready for our daughter's wedding on New Year's Day. This meant at least 5 carloads of various items to be transported to the venue which was about a 45 minute drive from our house. I ended up taking the flowers and balloons which, although they were light, took up a lot of space in the car. Added to that once I'd delivered them and had the rehearsal for the ceremony I had to pick up her dog, as she (the dog) was staying at our house overnight, and feed the guinea pigs. (Our daughter loves animals!)

We missed the New Year fireworks, well we've seen them many times before, so we could be ready for an early start in the morning, breakfast, walking the dogs, taking our daughters dog back home as one of the neighbours would keep an eye on her during the day. Then off to the venue, chauffeur driven by my brother. Arriving in plenty of time we set up the surprise photo collage of the embarrassing pictures of their younger days, ensured the music in the chapel was set up ready to go at the right moment. Then upstairs to check on our daughter followed by the walk down to the chapel and finally walking my daughter down the aisle, one of the proudest moments of my life.

The ceremony went more or less as rehearsed, then photos and finally into the hall for the wedding breakfast. She'd spent the best part of last year planning and obtaining all the items for her woodland theme for the hall and all the planning had worked out as the room looked superb. Sadly several of the guests were unable to attend as some had tested positive. Also Caroline's parents were unable to attend due to illness (not Covid) but they were there in spirit. The usual speeches followed, not too embarrassing for the bride and groom. We had to leave early as we'd left our dog and my brother's dog alone in the house but when we got back they'd both behaved themselves and were really pleased to see us.

It's a strange thing but the registrar didn't work on New Year's day so we had to return on the Sunday to make it all legal. I therefore had a second opportunity to walk my daughter down the aisle although in one of the other rooms in the hotel which hosted the wedding. And finally to load up the car with some of the wedding items that had to be taken away.

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

Lewis Wetherill

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

No test passes this month

From last month's test pass, Aidan Hemingway's observer was Clive Nunnington.

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.



Sunrise from our house on 18th January

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)

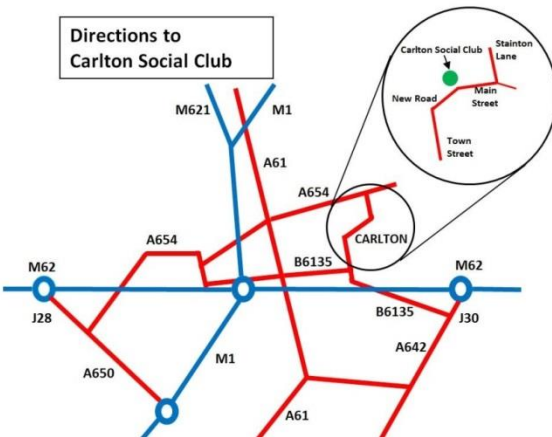
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

Countdown – My 45 Minutes of Fame

As you may be aware, I made an appearance on a popular Channel 4 gameshow on 13th January, which [SPOILER ALERT] I very narrowly lost (111-101). In fact the broadcast doesn't quite catch how close it was in the end, I was half a second behind on the tie break conundrum and may have spoiled the original footage with a reflex reaction! (hence the need to re-film the buzzer sequence). I've also subsequently learnt that this was the highest scoring tie-break game under the current format (since 2013).

Besides that it was good to finally see it on TV, though mainly because with all the excitement on the day I couldn't remember half of what had occurred and it was nice to be reminded. I can say that in real life Anne Robinson is just as warm and friendly as she appears on TV, her reputation is well-deserved, and that everyone else (Susie, Anne-Marie, Prue, even Adrian my opponent) were a pleasure to appear alongside, and quickly helped me get used to it. You quickly forget about the cameras so the only source of nerves is the sound of the clock during the rounds.



In short, it was an amazing experience, I was just unlucky to come up against such an evenly matched opponent, and there is every chance that I might try again in a few years to win that teapot!

David Wevill

Smart Motorways: Government Halts Rollout of All-Lane Running Schemes

Government accepts Transport Committee's recommendations, agreeing to collect further smart motorway safety data.

The rollout of controversial all-lane running (ALR) smart motorways has been halted with immediate effect after the Government agreed to a series of recommendations set out by the Transport Committee last year.

All-lane running smart motorways that are currently under construction and more than halfway to completion - such as those on the M4 and M27 - will be finished, but other schemes will be paused until the Government has collected five years of safety and economic data for every ALR scheme introduced before 2020.

This comes after the Transport Committee's conclusion that the Department for Transport's (DfT) decision in March 2020 to make all new motorways all-lane running was premature, as the "evidence base was insufficient".

The conversion of seven dynamic hard shoulder smart motorways - where the outside lane can switch between being a hard shoulder and a live running lane - to ALR will also be paused. In addition, the case for controlled motorways where variable speed limits are implemented, but the hard shoulder is left as standard, will be revisited.

The DfT and National Highways have committed to a £390million retrofit programme, including the installation of 150 new emergency refuge areas - no more than three-quarters of a mile apart where physically possible - and further stopped vehicle detection technology. These measures will be independently evaluated by the Office for Rail and Road, reports due on an annual basis.

There has also been a commitment from the secretary for state for transport Grant Shapps to further investigate the emergency corridor proposed by the AA in 2017. This would see the Highway Code updated with a manoeuvre where, in a motorway traffic jam, vehicles would be required to pull over towards each side of the road, leaving a space in the middle for emergency service and recovery vehicles to pass through.

Edmund King, president of the AA, commented: "The AA has been a major critic of smart motorways in our campaign for over a decade to improve their safety. At last,

we have a transport secretary who has made progress and taken a positive and pragmatic approach. He has today accepted many of the measures we have been calling for.”

He added: “Whilst smart motorways will never be perfect, we do believe that considerable progress has been made to make them safer. We will be holding the Government to account to ensure these actions will be implemented as soon as possible.”

Huw Merriman MP, chair of the Transport Committee, said: “It was clear to our committee that the public needs more reassurance that these motorways are safe to use. With conflicting and patchy evidence covering a limited number of years, more time was required to properly assess the impact on safety.

“By accepting our recommendation to pause the rollout of Smart Motorways, the Government will have the weight of evidence to assist planning for future road building design.”

“It is important that this extra time is not just spent on evaluation - it must be focused on making Smart Motorways safer.”

Taken from the internet.

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I’m sure we’ve all driven on sections of motorway where All Lane Running is in operation but is it always necessary? At off peak times the capacity of a three lane motorway is usually, from experience, more than adequate for the level of traffic.

One other concern is the reliability of the stopped vehicle technology. It relies on both hardware and software and both must be fully specified at the design stage to cope with all anticipated situations and thoroughly tested before implementation. Unfortunately having seen the results of government (all flavours of government) past computer exploits I fear that this technology will not be reliable enough to prevent a major incident on an All Lane Running motorway.

Do you have any concerns or comments on the so called ‘Smart’ motorways? Let me know.

Ed

ULEZ – Ultra Low Emission Zones

Many cities are introducing Ultra Low Emission zones in order to try to reduce air pollution. London is probably the best known but other cities including Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Greater Manchester, Newcastle on Tyne and Portsmouth have introduced such zones. Locally Bradford is about to introduce an Ultra Low Emission Zone soon. In these zones vehicles not meeting a low emission standard are charged a fee to enter. The standard is for the vehicle to meet the EU4 standard (from January 2006) for petrol cars or the EU6 standard (from September 2015) for diesel cars. In Oxford, however, charges apply to all vehicles except electric vehicles.

Vehicles are divided into different classes such as Buses, Coaches, Taxis, Private Hire Vehicles, HGVs, LGVs and Private Cars. The following website gives details of each city and which classes which are charged.

[All the towns and cities in Britain with planned clean driving zones | This is Money](#)

To find out if your car is subject to any ULEZ charges enter your registration number into this website.

[Drive in a clean air zone - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Talking to Janice she told me she had received a letter stating that her 15 year old car did not meet the London ULEZ standards and would be subject to a £12.50 daily charge for entering the zone. Why do they think that Janice would want to drive in London? I certainly have no intention of driving in London even if my car does meet the ULEZ standards. I only drive through Bradford if I have to and, as I have a bus pass, I use that if I have to go into the city centre.

Forget Android Auto – parking sensors top the list of most wanted features for young drivers

When drivers consider the best gadgets to have on their next car, it is great to see safety concerns are at the top of the list for young motorists. Added to the risk of damage to their car, cost of repairs and lack of spaces, maybe it's no surprise that many motorists go to great lengths to avoid reversing into tight and tricky parking spaces.

But according to research by the UK's largest independent road safety charity, IAM RoadSmart, young drivers are ready to kick parking problems to the kerb once and for all as they look for vehicles fitted with parking sensor technology.

In a survey commissioned by IAM RoadSmart of more than 1,000 drivers aged 17-24, young drivers were asked to rank a number of optional extras from 1 to 10, with 10 being the most important and 1 being the least important, when purchasing a new car. Indeed, parking sensors took top spot on young drivers' wish lists, with an average score of 7.5 while Android Auto was surprisingly the least important.

Neil Greig, Director of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart, commented: "Having grown up in an age of mobile phones and social media, 17–24-year-olds are a demographic who have embraced how technology can make everyday decisions and activities easier, and clearly this is no different when it comes to keeping it between the lines or squeezing into tight spaces.

"Crucially, parking sensors, also make Britain's roads a safer place to be, as poorly parked or protruding vehicles can often obstruct the vision or restrict mobility of other road users."

However, Neil went on to warn young drivers that parking sensors should not be a substitute for practising good driving habits: "Parking sensors don't always work and still need the back up of looking all around, checking mirrors, signalling and expecting the unexpected."

The survey also revealed that parking sensors are not the only form of technology that young drivers are looking for when purchasing a car. According to the research, Bluetooth connectivity (7.23), satellite navigation (7.19) and autonomous emergency braking (6.85) rank as the next most important technology features young drivers look for when purchasing a car.

Meanwhile, Android Auto (5.32) and perhaps surprisingly, the once popular sunroof (5.78) was ranked as the least important features by young drivers.

Neil concluded: “Technology will play a vital role in improving road safety in years to come, so it’s great to see that young people are looking for features which either directly or indirectly help with making Britain’s roads safer. Always buy the most modern car you can afford to make sure you reap the benefits of recent safety engineering improvements. We all think we are five-star drivers, but a five-star car could save your life when you make that one critical mistake.”

For more information about IAM RoadSmart, which helps to improve driving and riding skills through courses and coaching, visit www.iamroadsmart.com.

When purchasing a car, rank the following features on levels of importance.	
Parking sensors	7.55 (1st most important)
Bluetooth	7.23
Satellite Navigation	7.19
Autonomous emergency braking	6.85
Fast USB Charging point	6.63
Heated seats	6.20
Lane departure warning	6.13
Apple CarPlay	6.04
Sunroof	5.78
Android Auto	5.32

Are these the options you like to have on a car? Let me know if you agree with the young driver’s choices or what would your priority be for the important features?

Coincidentally I’d written the article on the following page just before I found the article above.

Car Specifications

If you look through the car manufacturers brochures you'll undoubtedly find many variants of the same model from the basic entry level model to the top of the range model. As you move up the range more and more features are added. In addition the whole range would have a number of options available. Often it is possible to add options to bring a basic model up to a higher spec model but it would often be cheaper to buy the higher spec model as the cost of the options would exceed the difference in price between the two models.

Over the years many of the options become standard across the range, for example radios were not often fitted to the basic model. Now the basic models have a better specification than the top of the range model of years before.

Whenever I've bought a new car I always look at the list of options before deciding on which model and options to specify. I do like a car with a good specification. One option I've specified on recent purchases is a spare wheel as the repair kit supplied with most cars these days will not always be able to repair some of the punctures I've experienced.

One of the best options I've had on three of my cars since 1991 is a heated windscreen. For those of you who haven't experienced one I can assure you it is one of the best features I've ever had. When I was at work and we'd had snow I'd go out to the car, clear the side and rear windows then get in, start the engine and press the heated windscreen button. After a minute or so I'd operate the wipers clearing the windscreen so I could see everyone else in the car park still scraping their windscreens. I could then drive off with a completely clear view. Other useful options and features are a rear camera and the "off road button" which changes setting on the ESP and ABS systems to help keep the car going in the direction I want it to go in snow.

So what are the best features on your car? What feature would you want on any future car and what feature could you live without. My car has a "Park Assist" to help you park it as standard but I wouldn't have it as an option as I very rarely use it although I have tried it on a few occasions.

Keith

And Finally.....

HAYNES MANUAL - THE REAL MEANINGS part 2

Haynes: Locate ...

Translation: This photo of a hex nut is the only clue we're giving you.

Haynes: Pry...

Translation: Hammer a screwdriver into...

Haynes: Undo...

Translation: Go buy a tin of WD40 (catering size).

Haynes: Ease ...

Translation: Apply superhuman strength to ...

Haynes: Retain tiny spring...

Translation: "Jeez what was that, it nearly had my eye out"!

Haynes: Press and rotate to remove bulb...

Translation: OK - that's the glass bit off, now fetch some good pliers to dig out the bayonet part and remaining glass shards.

Haynes: Lightly...

Translation: Start off lightly and build up till the veins on your forehead are throbbing then re-check the manual because what you are doing now cannot be considered "lightly".

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This Month's Teaser

One of the letter selections David had when he appeared on Countdown was

L M E O L I H R O

What 8 letter word can you make from it which turned the game around for David?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "When did New Years day first become a bank holiday in the UK?" It was in 1974.

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.