

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

January 2022

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Showmans Engine

A variant of the Traction engine the Showmans engine was often highly decorated and with its generator was used to power fairground rides and attractions. This one was spotted at a show in the Lake District and, according to the DVLA website is still "taxed" and on the road.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 7th
February
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
TBA

Carlton Social Club
Main Street
Carlton WF3 3RW

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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Social Meeting Dates for 2022

The dates of the 2022 social meeting shown below are still subject to any government regulations in force at the time.

February 7th	March 7th	April 4th	May 9th	June 6th	July 4th
August 1st	September 5th	October 3rd	November 7th	December 5th	

The May meeting is our AGM and the December meeting is the Christmas Quiz. At both of these meetings there will be a buffet provided for the attendees.

At the December quiz Janice asked for suggestions for speakers. I suggested a talk on electric cars as I have a number of queries about them but do you have any ideas or requests for speakers or could you give a talk on a motoring, or even a non-motoring, subject that would be of interest to our members. If you do please let one of the committee members know and we will look into arranging a suitable speaker.

Newsletter Error

Did you spot the error that crept into last month's newsletter? The new printed edition of the Highway Code should be available in February/March 2022 not 2020 as printed. Apologies for the error. Thanks to the two members who pointed it out.

From the Editor

It's a busy time in our household. Not only getting ready for Christmas but getting ready for our daughter's wedding on New Years Day. Fortunately she's done most of the planning just needing some help from her dad's bank account plus help in transporting various items to the venue on the day before. One of the hardest parts for me has been writing the father of the bride speech. Doing the best man speech for my brother and the bridegroom speech when Caroline and I got married were easy by comparison. I've only had 30 years to prepare for this one!

We recently went to visit my brother and decided to take our new dog with us. Our previous experience with dogs in cars has been good as our first two dogs were self-loading into the car. They realised we were going somewhere and they wanted to come with us so jumped into the boot of the estate car and refused to move so we had to pack around them. They lay down and only raised their heads when we were leaving the M62 towards the end of our journey. Our last dog was also good in the car but our new dog/puppy is very lively and we never take him outside the house without a lead on as he's prone to run off and boy can he run! So armed with a harness and attachment to connect to a seatbelt buckle we set off. He was fairly good but was sick twice and we found out when we arrived he'd somehow managed to release the harness from the seatbelt buckle and ran off round the cul-de-sac my brother lives in. It took us about 10 minutes to catch him. On the way back he lay down and slept most of the way home.

The following day we spent time washing the blankets we'd put on the rear seat and cleaning the car out. Next time we do a similar visit we won't feed him before we set off!

As well as cleaning the inside of the car I also washed it and don't cars go better after you've spent an hour or so cleaning them!

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

Oliver Tibble

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Aidan Hemingway

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.



Spotted recently near us. Mist crawling up the Shibden valley

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)

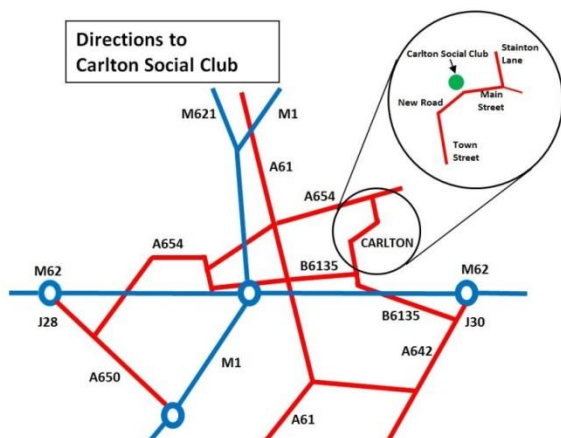
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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 towards 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.

Chairman's New Year Message

As I write this article, the Queen has just finished her speech, most of you will have just finished your Christmas dinner, and the rice for my scallop risotto is in the slow cooker. I know it's an odd time to be working, but, as I celebrated the Winter Solstice on Tuesday, and the telephone is not likely to ring today, I thought this was a good time to reflect on the past year.

At MYAM, we were able to hold our Yule/Christmas quiz evening, and I was delighted to see almost forty people attend. It was lovely to see people "face to face", including Members and guests from the Skipton & Craven Group, which is in the process of joining with MYAM, and to have the opportunity of catching up on news. As usual, Keith (our newsletter editor) had compiled a "killer" quiz, which really rattled everyone's brains! I understand he is already working on questions for next December!

As in previous years, we ran a free raffle, with a number of prizes donated by Halfords in Wakefield. We are very grateful for the support we receive from this company, and thanks also go to Alan Jones, who collects the prizes.

To finish the evening, we had an excellent buffet catered by Debby Forrest of Debby's Place on Potovens Lane in Outwood, Wakefield, and a lovely evening was had by all.

As we go into 2022 and until we hear to the contrary, we are planning a programme of "face to face" speaker meetings, the first of which will be on Monday, 7th February (all being well!). We hope, thanks to one of our Members (Sally), to have a speaker from a Kia showroom to talk about electric cars. "What type of car should I buy?" is a dilemma facing many of us – including me – and I hope many of my questions will be answered.

Other speakers we are lining up (thanks to Bob Rowles from Skipton) will cover other forms of transport, including trams – from the old rattle-traps we had in Leeds (yes, I do remember them) to the modern, streamlined vehicles running in Manchester and Sheffield; and journeys by train, including a cross-continent journey from Shanghai to the U.K.. We often spend so much time in our cars that we forget about other forms of transport.

If you would like to suggest a topic for our meetings which you think may be of interest, please let me know.

With regard to observed runs, we do have quite a long waiting list of Associates. Runs are recommencing, but only as and when both the Observer and the Associate feel comfortable and safe to do so. As a result, we are sorely in need of new Observers, and, if you are interested in giving a little of your time to train, please contact our Chief Observer, Chris Marrison, as soon as possible.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be almost 2022, and we will once again have had limited celebrations during the Yule and Christmas period. However, in spite of the necessary changes to the regulations issued by the Government, I hope you have managed to see friends and loved ones whom you may not have seen for some time.

Please take care, keep safe and well, and I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Janice N. Haigh - Chairman

Thank You Halfords

Once again we have to thank Halfords for their support by providing prizes for our Christmas meeting.

As a thank you from us to Halfords all they ask is that you call in and tell them where you heard about them. This is a relationship we can build on with your help. So please visit and let them know where you heard about them even if you don't buy anything. The manager needs to know that our members have visited his shop, which let's face it is only fair.



Halfords Wakefield

78, Ings Road
Wakefield
WF1 1TY

Telephone
01924 387474

See their website at <http://www.halfords.com/> for their full range of products, services and store locations.

Associates' Corner

A message from the Chief Observer

Firstly, thank you to those Associates who have confirmed their availability for guidance sessions during the week and those who are willing to travel slightly further afield for their sessions if necessary. As more Observers become available this will make Associate allocation a little easier.

We are gradually working through the Associates who joined prior to, and during, the first lockdown alongside a number of Associates who joined a little later. The key challenge we have is Observer availability in BD, HX and HG postcodes. We are doing all we can to service these areas but resource remains limited I'm afraid.

Although we do have a reasonable number of Observers providing guidance in LS and WF postcodes, the list of Associates waiting allocation continues to be high and so please bear with us. Not being able to offer evening sessions this time of year also has an impact.

The Group Chair, Membership Secretary and myself are scheduled to meet with our IAM RoadSmart Area Service Delivery Manager early in the New Year to agree how best we approach the current Associate waiting list and hopefully from this we should start to see some improvement in 2022.

Finally, can I remind all those Associates we are receiving guidance that in line with the Covid-19 requirements introduced earlier this month, face masks must be worn when undertaking guidance sessions. Observers must also comply with this requirement and should there be any concerns by either party, the session should not proceed.

Chris Marrison
Chief Observer

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In a similar vein to the London Transport item in the November newsletter there was a similar advertising campaign back in the 80s where the posters read along the lines of "Everyday 24 trains leave London for Southampton" under which someone had written "But only 23 make it back"!

December Meeting - Christmas Quiz

A good amount of members and guests gathered for our annual Christmas Quiz and Supper night.

As always a frustrating bit of fun deftly set and delivered by our own Keith Wevill, proceedings soon got under way.

We had a good array of general knowledge questions, events in 1970, car songs and Christmas carols i.e. ITBM? (In the Bleak Midwinter) or how about SC? I'll let you have a think...

We had a break for a lovely supper, organised by Janice and Alan had been round to Halfords and twisted their arm for raffle prizes and did us proud.

The answers were duly offered out to the usual groans and yays and totals were totted up. Worthy winners were announced and all in all we had a most enjoyable evening.

Here's hoping we can look forward to more get togethers next year.

The next social evening will be in February.

Lesley Pollard

PS - SC = Sussex Carol



The looks of concentration as the teams grapple with the questions.

Significant rise in newly qualified drivers losing their licence

There has been a significant rise in the number of newly qualified drivers losing their driving licence within the first two years of passing their test reveals a Freedom of Information (FOI) request by IAM RoadSmart.

The worrying finding by the UK's largest independent road safety charity shows disqualifications have risen sharply among this group in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to 5,401, 7,484 and 7,975 respectively.

Driving without insurance is one of the top reasons newly qualified drivers are falling foul of the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act, with more than 12,000 caught driving without insurance documents since 2018.

The new drivers Act, was introduced to give newly qualified drivers a probationary period of two years after passing their driving test. During this time, drivers will lose their licence if they commit offences leading to six or more points on their licence. For example two PCNs (penalty charge notices) for speeding would mean automatic disqualification. Once the newly qualified driver reaches six points they need to retake both their theory and practical driving tests again.

Speeding was the second highest reason for newly qualified drivers to lose their licence, with more than 5,500 being convicted of this.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart Director of Policy & Research, said: "These figures paint a worrying picture. It is the responsibility of all drivers, whether they are newly qualified or more experienced behind the wheel, to drive safely and within the law at all times and to ensure the vehicle is roadworthy and insured for the purpose it is being used."

Other main reasons for new drivers losing their licence within their probation period, include failing to provide information about who was driving the vehicle when an offence was committed, and not being in control of the vehicle such as by using a mobile phone.

Neil added: “Driver education is something that drivers should want to continue and develop as they gain experience behind the wheel. Post-test driver training such as an advanced course or driver training through employment allows the driver to continue to improve their confidence, skills and ability to drive safely on our roads.”

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

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We’ll Just Check Your Tracking Sir

I’m sure we’ve all had this at some time, you’ve taken your car in for a couple of tyres to one of the many fast fit places and the technician then checks your tracking and your shock absorbers and lo and behold the tracking needs adjusting and it looks as if your shock absorbers need replacing and they quote a price which would increase your spend with them. Over the years I’ve had this several time and have always declined their offer to replace the “faulty” items,

The first time it happened I’d taken my XR2 to have new front tyres but they’d got the wrong ones so I had to return the next day but they did check the tracking oh dear it was spot on. No additional spend. Another time it was a few millimetres out but what they didn’t know was I had the Ford workshop manual for the XR2 and the figure they quoted was within the acceptable tolerance.

When I needed an exhaust for the XR2, it seemed to need a replacement every couple of years, I rang round and was quoted a good price by one company. Many of these companies ask what price have you been quoted to which my reply is “I’m ringing around and you’re my first call”. Anyway I accepted their quote and drove round to the garage. Of course the exhaust wasn’t in stock so it had to be brought over. No problem I could wait in their “luxury” waiting room, with (badly adjusted) colour TV. While I was waiting they’d check the tracking and shock absorbers for free of course. I just happened to notice through the window of the adjacent office a sheet entitled “staff bonuses for Shock absorbers, Tracking and Krypton tuning”. Needless to say I declined their offers to adjust the tracking or change the shock absorbers. The car never failed an MOT on shock absorbers in all the time I had it.

That reminds me of a story I heard at work where someone had taken his car to one of these fast fit places and the technician said your shock absorbers need replacing. “Oh do they”, said my work colleague, “Can I see the manager”. The manager appeared

and my colleague said “Your technician has told me my shock absorbers need replacing”. The manager replied “Well if he says they need replacing they need replacing.” “OK here’s the receipt for the shock absorbers you replaced last week. Replace them!” Not sure how true it is but I’d like to believe it was true.

Once on my way home from work I heard a noise that sounded like a hole in the exhaust, At home I checked and the front pipe from the exhaust manifold had broken. I tied it up to stop it falling off and rang round several local exhaust places. The cheapest place could get it the following day but one place had it in stock but it was slightly more expensive. I needed the car the following day so decided that was where I’d take the car. “What time do you close?” 6pm. It was about 5:30 so I drove down and slowed down as I drove into the garage. The technician waved me towards the ramp and as I was getting out, the car was being raised and the technician was ready with his air gun and the replacement part. 10 minutes later I drove out having had the part replaced and paid. No “can we check you shock absorbers/ tracking” etc.

So be wary of any offers by these fast fit places it may be just trying to get you to part with more of your hard earned cash.

Keith

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Owner Blows Up His Tesla

Faced with a £17,000 bill to replace the battery in his Tesla S, Fin Tuomas Katainen contacted the local Youtubers Pommijätkät 'bomb dudes'. With their help, he rigged his Tesla with the explosives and blew it up with an effigy of Tesla Co-founder Elon Musk in the driving seat.



He’d bought the Tesla secondhand and had driven 1500km before an error light lit. It was taken to a Tesla Dealer where it spent a month before he got a call to say they couldn’t do anything for the car and the only option was to replace the whole battery at a cost of £17,000 but there would be no guarantee that would fix it. So he blew it up!

And Finally....

HAYNES MANUAL - THE REAL MEANINGS

Haynes: Rotate anticlockwise.

Translation: Clamp with molegrips (adjustable wrench) then beat repeatedly with hammer anticlockwise. You do know which way is anticlockwise, don't you?

Haynes: Should remove easily.

Translation: Will be corroded into place ... clamp with adjustable wrench then beat repeatedly with a hammer.

Haynes: Remove small retaining clip.

Translation: Take off 15 years of stubborn crud, it's there somewhere.

Haynes: This is a snug fit.

Translation: You will skin your knuckles! ... Clamp with adjustable wrench then beat repeatedly with hammer.

Haynes: This is a tight fit.

Translation: Not a hope in **** matey! ... Clamp with adjustable wrench then beat repeatedly with hammer.

Haynes: As described in Chapter 7...

Translation: That'll teach you not to read through before you start, now you are looking at scary photos of the inside of a gearbox.

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This Month's Teaser

New Years day is a Bank Holiday in the UK but in which year did it first become a Bank Holiday?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "When did Channel 4 start broadcasting?". It was on 2nd November 1982.

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.