

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

January 2023

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Hohe Salve Mountain Austria



Located in the Tyrol region of Austria the Hohe Salve mountain summit is 1828m (approx. 2000ft) above sea level and is a popular location for skiers and paragliders.

Photo taken by David Wevill on his recent holiday to the area.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 6th
February 2023
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening

Birkenshaw Liberal Club
10 Croft Street
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Monday 6th
March 2023
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening

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.

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Provisional Social Meeting Dates for 2023

6th February	6th March	3rd April	5th June	3rd July
4th September	2nd October	6th November	4th December	

There are no meetings in January, May or August and this year the AGM will be held in June instead of May as there are the usual May bank holidays on the 1st and 29th with a third bank holiday on the 8th for the Coronation of King Charles. This would have been the date for our AGM so we have decided to move the AGM to June.

As is usual a buffet will be available following the AGM and also in December for our Quiz night.

The above dates are provisional and are subject to change. We are also working on speakers for the meetings, more details in the February newsletter.

From the Editor

I'm sat in front of the computer thinking of what to write. What do we have to look forward to in 2023? Well for one we have an extra bank holiday to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May. This will be the first time most of us have experienced a coronation in the UK. I have a TV which was bought for the 1953 coronation and restored it to working order and used it to watch the rerun of the coronation in 2013. The picture actually looked better on the 9 inch screen than on the 37 inch TV we normally watched. I shall have to check out that TV so I can watch the May coronation on the very small screen!

This does make me think of the changes in technology since the last coronation. I read an article on the planning for the 1953 coronation which was very involved especially when you consider what technology was available at the time. These days we take for granted the fact that we can watch live high definition pictures from the other side of the world. In 1953 TV (a single channel) hadn't reached all of the UK.

2023 also marks the 50th anniversary of me passing my driving test and the 50th anniversary of some of the now classic Christmas records including Noddy Holders pension, Merry Xmas Everyone by Slade, and Wizards I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day both of which vied for the Christmas number one slot in 1973.

I won't be making any New Years resolutions as I will never be able to keep them. It seems any plans I make always seem to be scuppered by events. Do you make, and keep, any New Years resolutions or do the good intentions fade away after the first few days of the New Year?

So I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to meeting some of you at our social meetings during the 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

Alex Ogden

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Jack Chacksfield - Observer Peter Kennedy

Anne Cooper - Observer Stuart Symons

Congratulations to Jack who passed with a F1st

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.

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.

December Meeting - Christmas Quiz and Buffet

Apple pie and custard, one of my favourites, was a pleasant way to round up the Christmas social meeting at our new venue. As is traditional at this meeting the quiz and raffle replaced the speaker.

Prior to the quiz, our chairman, Janice, presented the MYAM trophy. This is presented to the member who, in the opinion of the committee, has made a significant contribution to the group. The trophy was last presented in 2019 to Hanni Kaye.



Roger Illingworth with the MYAM Trophy

At our last committee meeting it was decided that Roger Illingworth should be the new custodian of the trophy. Following a difficult period for the group over the last two years of Covid lockdown, during which time the group lost several observers including Roger, he decided to support the group by returning to the role of a National Observer and has made a considerable contribution supporting Chris Marrison and David Stringer with dealing with the backlog of associates.

Congratulations to Roger who has the honour of polishing the trophy over the next twelve months.

Following the presentation it was time for the quiz. It's not as easy as you may think thinking of questions, as to get the best from the quiz you have to know your audience and when an idea for a question comes up you have to act on it. This year one idea was to see how many people recognised the subjects of the newsletter front covers. Then I was trying to think of a second round for the teams to work on during the evening. Fortunately the answer came in the form of synonyms for film titles but I cannot claim to have devised it myself as I found it in one of the free advertising magazines that get pushed through our letterbox.

Two rounds sorted then it was the questions to ask. I have a large collection of questions from all the quizzes I have been involved in, so raided the list and picked out a few then

had to think of a few new ones. So how many prime ministers had Queen Elizabeth seen in her 70 year reign? At the time of writing the question, it was 14 then along came Boris's resignation so it was 15. Had the queen lived a few more weeks it would have been 16! At the time of writing this article King Charles has seen two prime ministers!

I actually had a total of 100 questions, including the two rounds for the teams to work on but after consulting with the committee, in order to reduce the time taken I cut it down to 50. This means I have enough questions for next year's quiz which, unsurprisingly, will be exactly the same format but with different questions.

One further consideration when writing the questions is "Will my son David know the answer?" I've had to reject several after I realised he would probably know the answer. I can also guarantee that neither he nor Caroline see the questions prior to quiz night.

I try to get a mix of general knowledge and motoring related questions. The aim is to get most of the questions that people can answer, a few hard questions and one or two really hard questions to separate the top teams.

So did you know that in the sitcom The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin his middle name was Iolanthe or that the first Beatles album alphabetically is A Hard Days Night not Abbey Road and that Martin Peters scored the other goal in the 1966 World Cup final for England?

There were five teams competing for the honour of winning the quiz but one team, who shall remain nameless, forgot the films questions meaning they finished in fifth place but in spite of my efforts to find questions that my son did not know the answers to, the team he was in won dropping only 10 points from a total of 52 points available with three points separating the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places.

The evening was rounded off with the raffle with the prizes provided by Halfords and a buffet provided by Ben the manager of the club.

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Phone Scam

Have you received a phone call by someone who claims to be from BT Openreach saying there is a problem with your internet? If you have just mention to them that BT Openreach never contact the customer directly. They will immediately end the call. Any contact with BT Openreach has to be via your ISP.

Safety driving tips for winter weather conditions

Winter brings with it difficult driving conditions, and with snow impacting many of us in the UK this week, now is a good time to remind everyone how to drive safely when the temperature drops below zero. When we expect freezing conditions, we tend to get weather warnings from the Met Office, however you should always take extra care when travelling in winter.

IAM RoadSmart's Head of Driving and Riding Standards, Richard Gladman, is offering advice to motorists to better cope with driving on road surfaces that are covered in frost, ice or snow.

Only travel if you need to

If the weather conditions are severe in your area, you should take notice of police advice and simply do not travel. However, in exceptional circumstances if you must go out then make sure you drive safely with extra caution on icy roads.

Triple your stopping distance

Approach every junction planning to stop well before the stop or give way line (it can take up to ten times as long to stop according to Highway Code advice). Every steering, acceleration or braking input should be as smooth and gentle as possible, and by selecting 2nd gear when you pull away in icy conditions should mean you have less torque that will help prevent wheels spinning. Remember ABS can be ineffective in icy conditions, changing down the gearbox sequentially can be an effective way to slow, but be careful about selecting a lower gear too soon as this may cause the wheels to lock.

Keep your car clean

Salt will often make the windscreen, headlights, number plate and rear parts of your car very dirty. Cars without headlamp washers, for example, will lose an estimated 40% of luminosity and possibly all their focus in about 20 miles on a damp, gritted motorway. When travelling long distances it is advised that you stop regularly at service stations to clean your windscreen and headlights and rear lights with a clean cloth to allow you to see and be seen.

It's always worth keeping a filled bottle of water in the car boot to give your lights, windows and mirrors a quick wash over, remember in extreme conditions this may freeze so a good mix of screen wash may be the best investment – and while you are at it top up your windscreen washer reservoir too, don't let it get to the point where you are likely to run out. Also don't forget to wash/rinse alloy wheels too; the smallest scratch can quickly become a large, corroded area.

Never ignore warning lights

If one appears then get it checked out sooner rather than later. Being stuck on the side of the road is never good but breaking down in freezing conditions is a high-risk situation when recovery services are in high demand. Keep your car well maintained and a winter health check is always a good investment.

Carry a winter driving kit

This should include an ice scraper, de-icer, blanket and warm jacket, torch, shovel, something to eat and drink and a fully charged mobile phone – you should also consider packing your phone charger.

Avoid unnecessary overtaking

When driving on a busy road avoid overtaking a gritting lorry as the road ahead may not be treated yet. If you have any doubt, don't risk it. And make sure to never overtake a snow plough in heavy snow conditions. If you see the gritting lorry stay well back from it and avoid getting sprayed with salt, remember the salt will take a while to work if the road is already icy as it relies on the salt getting into the ice, at really extreme temperatures this may not help.

Drive at a steady pace

While roads may be gritted to give you better traction, some areas may not be completely treated which can leave ice patches exposed. You should therefore drive at a steady pace, ensuring the safety of you and your passengers. It's also worth remembering to watch out for water running across the carriageway as this can wash away salt or freeze over in those extreme minus temperatures.

Watch out in the winter sun

Just because the winter sun is out does not mean the roads might not be icy. Microclimates of icy patches will linger in areas such as bridges and exposed sections, where the sun has not yet reached. Be wary of vision being affected by the low sun, not just yours but other road users.

Watch out for your tyre tread

Keep the tread on your tyres above 2mm (ideally 3mm), the more tread you have the more water they can cope with. Letting your tyres get down to the legal limit of 1.6mm is not recommended, and don't forget you can always consider winter tyres if you are in an area where they will benefit you. The following link will give good safety tips

<https://www.tyresafe.org/tyre-safety/>

Richard Gladman said: "Preparation is the key to avoiding a dangerous situation whilst driving in snowy or icy conditions. Don't rely on the performance of your cars' systems to get you out of trouble – allow time, make sure you have good visibility all round and carry the right equipment. If conditions are extreme remember the best advice is not to travel."

Those of you who receive the Inform Monthly news from IAM RoadSmart will have received a recent email concerning the passing of our former Regional Service Delivery Manager Peter Serhatlic. For those of you who do not receive Inform here is the announcement from IAM RoadSmart.

Today is a very sad day for IAM RoadSmart as we come to terms with the news that one of our committed, loyal and long standing Regional Service Delivery Team Managers, Peter Serhatlic unexpectedly passed away at the weekend.

Peter has spent his whole career invested in road safety, from his time in South Yorkshire Police, rising to Inspector rank, to his commitment to IAM RoadSmart since joining us in early 2015; he was a huge part of the IAM RoadSmart family and wider member community and will be a sadly missed member of the team. We share our thoughts with Lynn, his wife and family at this difficult time.

We know that Peter was a loved member of staff in the IAM RoadSmart community – group and member, and would invite you to submit your fond memories of him to Amanda Smith, Head of Field Service Delivery, who will pass your messages on to his family.

"I was deeply saddened to hear of Peter's passing at the weekend and my thoughts and well wishes are with his family. Peter was a huge personality, and immensely invested in IAM RoadSmart and the work we do to make others safe on roads. Understandably, our team are coming to terms with this terrible news and I would ask that you remain patient with us as this time."

Antony Kildare, CEO IAM RoadSmart.

Letter to the Editor

Earlier this year you asked if anyone in our Group had an anniversary of IAM membership. Well, I am celebrating being a member for forty years in January 2023.

I knew that my father had done some form of advanced driving course run by the police (was this a precursor of the IAM?), and he instilled into me the importance of things like reversing into parking spaces long before I even learned to drive (though oddly he did drive forwards into our garage, something I have never done on occasions when I have had one). So I had a vague notion that it was something I should perhaps do, but in those days there was no Google to look up what I should join or how. Then my work took me to Barnsley, and a friend introduced me to the Barnsley Chess Club, which met at the Polish Social Club, where in return for us each taking out personal membership for a nominal sum we had free use of their meeting room in which to play chess. Except, that is, on the first Wednesday of the month, when we had to play

chess in the bar, because another group had a prior booking on the meeting room. This other group was, you've guessed, the Barnsley Group of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Now in the spring of 1982 I treated myself to a motor racing school (another of my hobbies) at Zolder in Belgium. We attended the Grand Prix on the Sunday (the atmosphere saddened by the death of Gilles Villeneuve the day before), and the school followed on the next three days, taught by former Grand Prix driver André Pilette. This was a fantastic experience, but after returning home I found myself in conversation with an IAM member at the Polish Club one Wednesday, and decided that having had a go at motor racing it was time I did something about my road driving, so I joined. During the summer they had their mass guidance sessions on a weekday evening, but when this moved to Sunday morning as the nights drew in I was unable to continue with this (as a clergyman Sunday mornings were otherwise occupied!) so they allocated me an observer on a one to one basis, until I was ready for my test the following January.

At the time I was driving a fairly old FIAT Mirafiori and it had a problem which my garage had not identified, but led to an erratically varying idling speed. I thought I had learned to control this by adjusting the mixture screw on the carburettor (remember those?) but what I had not bargained for was that, having set it at home with the engine cold, by the time I met the examiner it had gone out of adjustment and my engine was now ticking over at about 2,000 rpm, which was a handicap I could have done without on such an occasion. But I didn't want to look like I was making excuses before we started so I said nothing and just did my best to overcome the problem. As we pulled back into the petrol station forecourt where we had met, I made to reverse into the parking bay and the examiner said, "It is OK, you have finished your test, you don't have to do that." I told him I always reverse parked and wasn't doing it to impress him, then to my huge relief he told me I had passed. I did then explain that I didn't normally have the tick over racing like this, but had a problem no one had so far been able to solve.

Bruce Carlin

PS. Since you ask, eventually the mechanic identified the problem by tightening the mixture screw as far as it would go, at which point, he confidently stated, the engine must stop as it won't be getting any air at all. Except of course it carried on running as sweetly as ever because air was getting in through what he now diagnosed as a hairline crack in the carburettor. This crack became wider or narrower depending how hot the engine was, leading to this erratic tick over speed, and a new carburettor duly solved the problem.

Drivers with Keyless Vehicles 'Twice as likely to make a theft claim'

Does your car have keyless entry and starting? This is the technology that allows you to open your car doors and start it just by having the key fob on your person. Motorists with keyless

vehicles are around twice as likely to make a theft claim as those with vehicles which are not keyless, according analysis by insurer Aviva of claims data covering the past two years.

– Here are 10 tips from Aviva to help reduce the risk of vehicle thefts:

1. Lock the door, no matter where you park, even if you need to leave your vehicle unattended for just a minute. Make sure to close the windows and sunroof if you have one.
2. Use a steering wheel lock or foot pedal lock. These two simple, traditional anti-theft devices will not only make it harder for the thieves to steal your vehicle but also work as visible theft deterrents.
3. Get a signal blocking pouch, container or box to keep your car keys in. This is another simple way to reduce the risk of car theft if you have electronic keys. Such devices can prevent signals from keys being intercepted and manipulated by thieves.
4. Fit a vehicle tracking system. Some cars already come fitted with vehicle tracking systems but unfortunately criminals often know which models feature tracking devices. Considering fitting your own vehicle tracking device, even if you have one pre-installed.
5. Park the vehicle in a locked garage or secure area. This will further reduce the risk of your vehicle being stolen by adding an additional obstacle for the thieves to overcome. Aviva's research found only around a third (34%) of motorists with a garage always store their car in it.
6. Try to park in well-lit and busier areas if you do not have a private garage or driveway and when away from home.
7. Do not leave anything in your vehicle. If you must store something in your vehicle for a short length of time, make sure it is out of sight.
8. Consider the use of immobilisers, which prevent the engine from starting without a correct key or fob. Some cars have immobilisers installed already, but if you have an older car it may be worth considering one.
9. Never leave the keys in the ignition. It can only take a few seconds for your car to be stolen. Also think about where you keep your car keys – try not to store them in the garage or near your front or back door.
10. Consider CCTV, locked gates and increased home security. Steps that help improve your home security can help improve your car security, too.

And Finally.....

A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel

An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel

A REALIST sees a freight train

The TRAIN DRIVER sees three idiots standing on the tracks

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This Month's Teaser

If you received all the gifts mentioned in the 12 Days of Christmas, how many birds would have by the 12th day?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "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?"

The answer is George Canning who was in office for 119 days from 12 April – 8 August 1827.

Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Paul Macro		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
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Membership Secretary	Graham Crawshaw	0113 314 9969	myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Youth Liaison	Position vacant		
Speaker Secretary	Position vacant		
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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		
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.