

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

January 2024



Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Ape Three Wheeler

These 3 wheel commercial vehicles are based on Piaggios Vespa scooter and appear to be very popular in Italy. The object appears to be to load them up with as much “stuff” as you can then if they can still move there's not enough load so put more on!

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 5th
February 2024
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
Ian Goring – The
Pathfinder project

Birkenshaw Liberal Club
10 Croft Street
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Monday 6th
March 2024
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
Richard Gladman -
IAMR Chief Examiner

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 that, as in previous years, we do not have a social meeting in January.

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Social Meeting Dates for 2024

The confirmed dates for our social meetings at the Birkenshaw Liberal Club are:-

February 5th	March 6th	April 8th	May 13th	June 3rd
July 1st	September 2nd	October 7th	November 4th	December 2nd

The AGM will be held at the May meeting and the December meeting will be our Christmas quiz and raffle. A buffet will be provided at both of these meetings.

We are also planning which events to attend. To date we will be attending the Harrogate MG Club show at Pateley Bridge on Sunday 4th August.

If you know of any shows or events that we could attend please let the committee know.

From the Editor

Christmas is over and the 2024 is nearly upon us as I write this. 2023 has not been the best year for me as I lost my voice in February and it took a few months before it returned to normal. Then in November I had cellulitis in my right leg which severely restricted my movement but thankfully I am on the road to recovery. I seem to have seen the medical profession more this year than in the last 10 years but I have found that all the people who actually look after patients have all been superb. We must be thankful for our health service which celebrated its 75th birthday this year.

At MYAM we are planning to resume our recruitment stand at various shows in our area. I'll put details on the Forthcoming Events page once the details for each event have been finalised. If you see us at one of these events please come over and say hello.

We have also welcomed new members to the committee during the year but we still need someone to look after our website. If you wish to volunteer for this important position please let Janice or Paul know.

Our social meetings are an opportunity to meet other members and the committee. All the committee have name badges (although I often forget mine!). Also starting in this issue is the Meet The Committee feature where I've asked the committee members to briefly describe how they became involved with the IAM.

As always I'm always interested in receiving items for publication in the newsletter, anything you think would be of interest to the membership. Just send them to me at the email address on page 16.

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

Lucas Berridge, James Bristow

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Vince Cranmer - Observer Darren Crossley

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A (Snowy) Blast from the Past



Not what we really want to see at this time of year but this photo was taken from my parent's house on Easter Sunday 1981.

MYAM Online

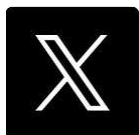


WEB SITE Our website is packed full of information and is the go to place for everything you need to know about our events, courses, meetings and news about us as a Group. How about copies of the newsletter going back a few years.

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.



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

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.

December Meeting - Christmas Quiz and Buffet

At the Christmas meeting Janice began with the MYAM trophy which had been introduced about 8 years ago and was presented to the group member who had gone “above and beyond” for the group. Committee members are not eligible! Last year the trophy had been presented to Roger Illingworth. This year it was to be presented to Mick Coley, a National Observer.



The MYAM trophy

However Mick was unable to be at the meeting so the trophy will be presented at an Observers Forum in late January.

Janice then mentioned the Pathfinder course for under 17s to give them a head start in their driving careers and reduce the number of accidents for young drivers. Note that Ian Goring, who runs the local Pathfinder course, will be our speaker at our first social meeting next year.

Then the quiz. This was a similar format to last year, basically because it had been compiled for last years quiz but it was considered that there were too many questions so it was split into two quizzes, which made it easier for me as question master!

Fifteen pictures tested your memory for newsletter front cover subjects and fifteen synonyms for films tested your knowledge of film titles. Then there were the twenty general knowledge questions.

Then time to relax and mull over the answers while the buffet was served and the raffle was drawn. Previously we had raffle prizes from Halfords but this year due to a change of ownership they were unable to provide any prizes so as an alternative there were three Argos vouchers plus prizes of tea towels.

Answer time and the realisation that the answer you had originally thought of was actually correct. There were five teams and it was soon obvious which team was a strong contender for the top spot. The Penguins team won with a maximum score in

the film synonyms round. All teams did well in this round but not everyone could identify the front cover pictures.

Janice then thanked Keith for the Quiz, Alan for getting the raffle prizes, the committee for all their hard work during the year and Ben at the club for the buffet.

Our next meeting is on 5th February.

Keith from notes by Sally Lawrence

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Meet The Committee

As promised last month for the next few months I will publish a short statement, in no particular order, from each of the committee members, beginning with myself.

Keith Wevill – Newsletter Editor



I'm married to Caroline with two grown up children and two grandchildren. In my professional life I was an electronics design engineer in the military, commercial and consumer electronics fields plus a few years in a university research department.

I first came across the IAM in 1977 when I took an assessment drive with the Bedford group but it was not until 1985 that I joined the local IAM group in Leicester. I passed my IAM test in 1986 and around a year later I was invited to join the committee eventually becoming the Awards Co-ordinator and Assistant Newsletter Editor when Caroline, who passed her IAM test in 1989, became the Newsletter Editor.

We left the Leicester group in 2001 when we moved up to Yorkshire but didn't join a local group until 2011 when we joined the Dewsbury and Batley group which merged with other local groups to become MYAM in 2014. I took early retirement in 2015 and in 2016 I offered to become the newsletter editor when the previous editor, Kim Clark, retired from the group. The offer was quickly accepted!

The position of newsletter editor is more important than most people realise as only a minority of our members can attend our social meetings so the newsletter is the only way of informing them of what is happening within MYAM.

Paul Macro – Group Secretary and Vice Chairman



I'm married to Jan and have two grown-up children, who have both recently left home.

I'm an Actuary and have worked throughout my career as a consultant advising companies on their staff pension schemes. Having worked for a number of large US-based consultancies, I started to work for myself in 2015, and continue to do this.

I first heard about the IAM in 1993 when I spoke to representatives from the South Essex Group at a country show in Southend. My interest was sparked because in February that year, after a series of front-wheel drive hot hatches, I had bought my first rear-wheel drive car (a mark 1 Toyota MR2)* and had managed to spin it on a rather icy roundabout! Both Jan and I passed our IAM tests in 1994 and, until he died recently, were still in touch with our Observer, George.

I finished my professional qualifications in December 1994, and decided that I needed something to fill my time instead of studying, so joined the Committee in the role of Covenant Secretary (the pre-cursor to Gift Aid). I worked with the South Essex Group for a number of years before I moved to Yorkshire in 2001, following the birth of our children. Life then got in the way and whilst I retained my membership of the IAM, wasn't active.

In 2017, following a Speed Awareness course, I decided that I needed to get back to driving 'properly' and joined MYAM. I re-passed my IAM test (with a F1rst) in 2018, and joined the Committee. I became Secretary in 2019 and Vice-Chairman in 2023.

As well as my Secretarial responsibilities, I set-up and manage the Group's Direct Debit and Gift Aid programs, keep our Website up to date (though we really could do with a formal Webmaster), and deputise for Janice chairing Committee and Social meetings as needed.

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*Someone at a company I worked for had an MR2. One morning he found some ice and ended up in a field upside down. Apparently there was only one small body panel that was left undamaged.

Lewis Wetherill - Younger Members



I'm the youngest member of the committee and I'm committed to bringing more young people on board.

I currently work in sales however I'm about to start training as a bus driver for my local bus company.

I first came across the IAM when watching YouTube videos on how to reduce my insurance in late 2020. I received the course as a gift at Christmas 2021. I started my observed drives in October 2022 coincidentally exactly one year after passing my driving test. I passed in March 2023 with a F1RST mark and joined the committee in July 2023.

As well as being a part of the IAM I also run a Suzuki Swift sport owners club due to my obsession with Japanese hot hatches. I also attend a lot of modified and classic car shows on weekends.

That's all for this month. More committee member profiles next month.

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Car Fires

Last month in the item on batteries I mentioned the reports of fires caused by electric scooters and bikes. I suspected these are due to incorrect charging of the lithium batteries. Now electric cars have lithium batteries so how prone are they to catch fire?

Fires in petrol or diesel cars, while not being common, do happen and can normally be quickly put out by the fire brigade. However fires in electric cars, although not that common, are another matter as it is very difficult to put out a fire in a lithium battery.

If a lithium battery is mistreated, short circuited, overheated or damaged it can catch fire and the resulting fire can be very difficult to extinguish. Even if it is extinguished it can spontaneously re-ignite. Often it is best to let it burn itself out. Some fire brigade will send out two engines with specialist extinguishing equipment to an electric car fire.

Additionally damaged electric cars normally have to be held in an isolation area in a scrap yard because of the fire risk.

Why Electric Cars are NOT Green Machines

I found this in an article on the internet and have summarised it below.

Five Big Eco Dilemmas

The reasons your electric car isn't as environmentally friendly as you think.

- It needs a lot of electricity: Both during its manufacture and when it is on the road, an electric car requires a significant amount of electricity. They are much heavier than their petrol equivalents due to the enormous battery they have, with the extra weight meaning they use more power.
- Making it pollutes the environment: The impact on the environment of mining the minerals needed by electric cars could negate the green benefits of owning one, some critics believe.
- Toxic tyre particles: Experts warned last month that electric cars release more toxic tyre particles into the air than their petrol equivalents.
- The impact of road repairs: The rise of heavier electric vehicles could lead to more potholes on residential roads, the Asphalt Industry Alliance warned last month.
- Battery recycling: Most EVs use lithium-ion batteries, and the UK has scant industrial capacity for lithium-ion battery reprocessing.

Volvo revealed in 2021 that the emission from the production of electric cars can be up to 70 per cent higher than petrol models and said it would require between 30,000 and 68,400 miles for an EV to become greener overall, which typically takes four to nine years.

This is chiefly due to the batteries used to power electric cars. They require raw materials such as cobalt and lithium that need to be mined in places such as Africa and South America before being transported across the globe.

Does anyone have any comments?

Be a Friend Not a Foe This Christmas

The build-up to Christmas is busy with parties, lunches, and festive nights out with friends and family. However, earlier this month we carried out a national survey of UK drivers which revealed some shocking attitudes towards drink and drug driving.

According to our latest research, more than a quarter (27%) of drivers think there are circumstances when it's okay to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and only 69% of people would stop a colleague from getting behind the wheel if they were under the influence.

Half (49%) of people polled wouldn't stop their parents from driving, and almost a third (28%) would not feel comfortable trying to stop their spouse or partner. So, what steps can you take to ensure your night doesn't end in despair?

Top tips this festive period

- Who is your designated driver? This refers to a person selected to stay sober for the evening and drive everyone home safely. Ply them with free soft drinks all night and help them with none for the road.
- Can you pre-book a taxi? There are plenty of ride share apps and local taxi ranks ready to get you to your destination. It's also a money saver if you share the cab with friends.
- Can you walk to the venue? If you wrap up warm, there's nothing to stop you from heading out on foot, knowing you don't have to worry about finding the money for a taxi at the end of what can be an expensive night.
- Can you persuade someone who's about to drink or drug drive, to get home safely by other means? If persuasion doesn't work, you can report a drink driver to police who can then try and stop them.
- Will food help to sober me up so I can drive? Eating food won't help you absorb alcohol faster; in fact, it can slow it down. Alcohol is absorbed into the body via the small intestine, not the stomach. So, if you've eaten it will take longer for the alcohol to reach your intestine. While, eating a kebab or pizza after a night out drinking won't soak up the alcohol consumed, eating a meal

prior to, or alongside drinking, slows the rate in which the alcohol is absorbed. Any slowing of the rate of alcohol consumption is likely to extend the time until you are safe. An hour per unit is a rule of thumb, and remember strong drinks contain more units.

- Can you drive the morning after? It’s not just the night before that you need to be sensible about and plan. When you get up the next day you’ll need to know if you’re fit to drive. Do you know how long it takes before alcohol is at a low enough level for you to drive? There is a calculator [here](#) (for England and Wales) and [here](#) (for Scotland), but rather than wait until the next morning, have a look now, you will probably be shocked! Every drop counts and if you don’t count the alcohol, you’ll be counting the cost!

IAM RoadSmart maintains there is no safe limit as to when a small amount of alcohol becomes risky. Alcohol affects different people in different ways depending on a variety of factors, not least age and build. Remember stick to #Nonefortheroad

Nicholas Lyes, Director of Policy, and Standards at IAM RoadSmart, said:

“IAM RoadSmart is reminding people that consuming alcohol or taking illegal drugs and driving don’t mix and ruins lives. Those attending a celebration or gathering where they plan on drinking should make sure they look at alternative travel arrangements such as nominating a designated driver, using public transport where possible, and taxi sharing.

“We are urging the Government to put resources into tackling the real problem areas – young drivers, those with alcohol or drug problems and those who simply don’t believe they will ever get caught.

“The best way to catch those who ignore the limit is through intelligence-led high profile policing so investment in roads policing must be protected. The reality of being caught must be matched in education campaign messaging.”

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With all the talk about Artificial Intelligence there is very little talk of the opposite – Artificial Ignorance.

And Finally.....

Understanding Engineers

A pastor, a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with these guys? We must have been waiting for 15 minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such ineptitude!" The pastor said, "Hey, here comes the greenskeeper. Let's have a word with him."

[dramatic pause]

"Hi George, say, what's with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greenskeeper replied, "Oh, yes, that's a group of blind firefighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime." The group was silent for a moment.

The pastor said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. And I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there's anything he can do for them."

The engineer said, "Why can't these guys play at night?"

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This Month's Teaser

The day of the week that January 1st falls on determines the pattern of the days and dates for the rest of the year but how many different day/date patterns are there?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "What does the Latin Tempus Edax mean." Although I did some Latin at school I never came across this phrase which means "Time the devourer of all things"

Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
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Associate Coordinator	Ken Newton		myam.associatecoord(at)outlook.com
Committee members	Bob Rowles 01943 831976		bob.rowles(at)gmail.com

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.