

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

January 2025



Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE



Page 3 Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Page 4 From The Editor

Page 5 Group Membership News
Welcome to the Group, Congratulations

Page 5 From The Newsletter Editor

Page 6 MYAM Online

Page 7 Directions to the Birkenshaw Liberal Club

Page 8 December Meeting – Christmas Quiz

Page 9 MYAM Trophy

Page 9 Eddie Stobart

Page 10 A Problem With A Tesla

Page 10 Car Production In The UK Falls Again

Page 12 Oops Our New Buses Are Too Tall

Page 13 IAM News Releases and Tips
Motorists perform risky manoeuvres and divert to dangerous rural roads to avoid motorway traffic jams

Page 15 And Finally.....
This Month's Teaser and the Answer to Last Month's Teaser

Page 16 Your Committee Contact Details



Cover Photo – East Riddlesden Hall

Once the heart of the Riddlesden agricultural estate the 17th century East Riddlesden Hall, between Bingley and Keighley, has had its history shaped by its many owners, agriculture, industry civil war and peace.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 3rd
February 2025
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
The Routemaster Part 3
Graham Crawshaw

Birkenshaw Liberal Club
10 Croft Street
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Monday 3rd
March 2025
8pm**

MYAM Social Meeting
Neil Simpson – Rally
Driver

Birkenshaw Liberal Club

Everyone is welcome at these events and they are an ideal opportunity to meet new people socially, find out about what is going on within the Group and listen to interesting talks on a variety of topics, sharing our skills with other serious drivers and keeping up-to-date on club and driving matters.

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

Social Meeting Dates For 2025

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

**February 3rd
July 7th**

**March 3rd
September 1st**

**April 7th
October 6th**

**May 12th
November 3rd**

**June 2nd
December 1st**

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.



Spotted at one of our local supermarkets.

Aren't the two signs mutually incompatible?

From The Editor

The Christmas decorations are put away for another year as another new year dawns. What do we have to look forward to? Will sales of electric cars pick up, will we still have a car manufacturing industry in this country by the end of 2025, will the government realise that you can legislate on the sales of electric cars but you can't make people, especially those at the lower end of the car market, buy them. And have they realised that there are still many issues with the wholesale adoption of electric cars. We shall have to wait.

Meanwhile at MYAM we are planning the year ahead, both our social meetings and attendance at the various car shows in our region. We hope to set up "attendance by Zoom" for some of the social meetings but we still enjoy meeting our members and guests in person but we do appreciate that not everyone can get to the Liberal Club. If you know of any speakers or can suggest topics you'd like to hear about, please let us know.

For the stand at the car shows we have our regular volunteers to help set it up and man it during the day but we do appreciate any additional help at the shows even if it's just for an hour or two. If you do come along to any of the shows please come and say hello.

Our observer team are working hard to help our associates through their IAM test but we are always in need of additional observers so if you would like to join the observer team please let us know. Full training will be given.

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

No new associates this month

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Alex Otteslev - Observer Ken Newton

Alex passed with a F1rst - Congratulations

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From The Newsletter Editor

Can I reiterate what Graham, our membership secretary, said last month about members keeping us up to date with their contact details. When sending out the newsletter I often get one or two failed deliveries, many of which are due to members changing their e-mail addresses. When this happens I will check the address against the previous month address list then try to resend the newsletter to the failed addresses or the equivalent address from the previous list. If this fails I'll inform Graham.

All the newsletters going back to 2016 are available in the resources section of our website although it may take a day or two to add the latest newsletter to the site. I normally send out the newsletter about 8 days before the social meeting usually on a Sunday morning e.g. the December issue was sent out on Sunday 24th November and this issue will be sent out on 29th December although we do not have a meeting in January. Occasionally due to holidays or circumstances beyond my control it may be sent out later. Therefore if you have not received a newsletter by e-mail by the date of the next social meeting check to see if it is on the website then let me know you haven't received a copy and I'll send one out to you.

MYAM Online



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

Need to know who the Committee are or see our Observer team? We are all on there.



See us at www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midYorkshire or scan the QR code.

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



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

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)

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

MYAM has a legitimate interest in keeping sufficient personal information to communicate with its members and other local people with an interest in road safety, and to permit the renewal of subscriptions. A member can ask to see a copy of their personal information, correct any errors and ask for all or part of it to be deleted.

MYAM is affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and will use a member's information to support them if and when they are assessed by IAM. MYAM will also ensure that any data shared with IAM is accurate. We will not share your details with anybody else.

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

Directions to the Birkenshaw Liberal Club

10 Croft Street, Birkenshaw, Bradford, BD11 2HT



From the M62 West leave at Junction 26 and take the A58 towards Leeds. At the second roundabout turn left into Bradford Road (A651) after about 700yds by the George pub, turn right into Town Street. Croft Street is approximately 60yds from the junction (top photo left) but to avoid the potholes carry on up Town Street and turn right into Old Lane. After approximately 100yds turn right into Croft Street (middle picture left between the car and the house next to it).



From Bradford follow the A650. Turn right onto the A651 at the traffic lights just before Tong Academy. Then just after the George pub turn left into Town Street and follow the previous directions.



From the M62 junction 27, take the A650. Turn left onto the A58. After approximately ½ mile turn right into Old Lane. After approximately 550yds turn left into Croft Street (bottom picture left).

There is a large car park and the entrance is down the right hand side of the club as shown in the top picture.

Our meetings are held in the function room.

December Meeting - Christmas Quiz

Once again it was time for some Christmas festivities and at MYAM this includes our annual buffet and raffle. However before that we had the announcement of the MYAM trophy winner then the Christmas quiz.

As you will see on the following page this year the trophy has been awarded to Lesley Pollard for her support for the group and attendance at many of our outside events.

Then it was time for the quiz followed by the buffet being served to allow people to check their answers and to draw the raffle with the main prizes being £25 Argos vouchers.

The quiz format was more or less the same as in previous years with a couple of team questions plus a round of general knowledge questions. Each year I try to think of a different format for the team questions, such as newsletter front covers for the last two years. This year I took a couple of ideas from the TV quiz Pointless. The first question was name as many American states whose name ends with a vowel. The second question was more difficult with a list of features and components fitted to cars but for each of the feature names the letters were in alphabetical order.

I had hoped that these would prove difficult for my son but I was wrong as the team he was managed to get all 32 of the US states plus 22 of the 30 anagrams and they managed a total of 20 points for the general knowledge questions. Needless to say they won but there are no prizes, just the honour of winning.

It is not always easy to come up with suitable questions but occasionally something comes up and I think that would make a good question. So here's one of those questions. You have a one in seven chance of getting it right!

2024 marked the 80th anniversary of D Day but which day of the week did it fall on?

I'll give the answer later in the newsletter.

If anyone feels they could act as the quizmaster and create a general knowledge quiz along similar lines please make yourself known to the committee as at some point I'd like to be a contestant in the quiz!

Keith (with notes from Sally Lawrence)

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The teams deep in concentration

MYAM Trophy



The MYAM Trophy is awarded annually to an Associate or full member who has gone above and beyond what was reasonable to expect of them.

For 2024, the MYAM Committee unanimously agreed that the Trophy should be awarded to Lesley Pollard.

Lesley is a long-standing National Observer, who in addition to her Observing role has this year attended a number of our outdoor promotional events and been involved with several of the Pathfinder under 17 programs.

The Trophy is normally awarded at the December Social evening, but unfortunately, Lesley was unable to attend, and so it will be formally awarded as soon as we are able in 2025.

Congratulations Lesley!

Paul Macro
Chairman

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Eddie Stobart

It has been reported that Eddie Stobart, founder of the famous truck company has died aged 95. He founded the iconic company in 1946 initially distributing fertilizer, moving later to haulage with over 2700 vehicles.

A Problem With A Tesla

I doubt if many of us will have this, or a similar problem, but a You Tuber has brought a Tesla Cybertruck into the UK and is finding that getting, what I'd consider one of the ugliest vehicles ever built, ready to run on UK roads is proving difficult.

The first problem he had was actually getting it to the UK as it could not be transported by ship due to the fire risk. So he had it flown to the UK.

Then he had to get it road legal for the UK. This involves changing the rear indicator lights from red, legal in the US, to amber to allow them to be distinguishable from the brake lights in the UK. Also adding indicator repeater lights to the mirrors.

A rear fog light needs to be fitted that can only be turned on when the cars main lights are on.

In addition the Cybertruck has many sharp edges and a blunt front end which does not meet the European safety standards meaning the edges would have to be covered with rubber to meet the required standards.

Is it all worth it? Would a European Tesla service garage be able to service it and get appropriate spares and would you be able to insure it at an acceptable price? I guess if you want one badly enough then you'd jump through all the hoops to get it road legal on this side of the pond.

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Car Production In The UK Falls Again

Car production in the UK fell for the eighth month in a row as manufacturers battle with public reluctance to buy electric cars. The poor figures come as car makers warn forthcoming fines for producing too many petrol and diesel cars could lead to more factory closures after Vauxhall's owner, Stellantis, said its Luton plant will close.

Britain produced 15 per cent fewer cars in October than a year ago with 77,484 vehicles rolling off production lines, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Mike Hawes, SMMT chief executive, said: "These are deeply concerning times for the automotive industry, with massive investments in plants and new zero-emission products under intense pressure."

The UK exports most of the cars it makes, with Nissan's plant supplying Europe, and Britain's luxury output from Bentley and Rolls-Royce being shipped around the world. Mr Hawes added: "Slowdowns in the global market – especially for electric vehicles (EVs) – are impacting production output, with the situation in the UK particularly acute given we have arguably the toughest targets and most accelerated timeline but without the consumer incentives necessary to drive demand."

The industry is lobbying for weaker rules on EV production. Currently, car makers are expected to make 22 per cent of their cars electric. The government has indicated it may give car makers more time to hit the targets. Car makers say the 22 per cent target is about twice the rate consumers are buying the vehicles if they are profitably priced.

Most cars in the UK are made at plants owned by Nissan, Jaguar Land Rover, Toyota and Mini. But there are also lower-volume but high-end plants owned by Lotus, Rolls-Royce, Bentley and Aston Martin. Together the industry employs 198,000 people, plus many more at suppliers.

October's decline was hit most by export orders, which fell 17.6 per cent, while domestic-bound units fell by 4.7 per cent. Part of the decline is down to production lines being halted to convert them to electric car making.

Car makers have £20bn of investments planned to make EVs. While models made to ship to the EU dived by almost a third, export models to the US almost doubled as American buyers aimed to beat the expected tariffs on imports that incoming president Donald Trump plans.

Overall, 32 per cent of cars made in Britain were either battery-powered, a hybrid or a plug-in hybrid.

From the internet with acknowledgement.

It has also been reported that many manufacturers are holding back deliveries of petrol and diesel cars until the New Year in order to meet the 2024 ZEV targets. I don't believe that this situation will improve as the government ZEV targets get harder to meet as EV sales appear to be stalling. Could we be seeing the end of vehicle manufacturing in the UK in the near future with the consequent loss of tens of thousands of job in the manufacturing and supply sectors. Perhaps the government needs a rethink.

Oops Our New Buses Are Too Tall

Residents in York have been left fuming after new electric buses were found to be too tall to fit under a railway bridge. Locals have been left unable to use their standard bus route after the oversight forced the city's number 10 service to be diverted from its standard journey along Leeman Road. The "e-buses" form part of a more than £100million-valued green transport push by First York, a branch of First Bus - but despite being single-decker, the vehicles are still too tall to pass under the 12-foot (3.9metre) bridge.

First has labelled the buses "quiet, green and stylish" - but residents have lambasted why the vehicles' height wasn't considered when ordering the new fleet - while the situation has been labelled "farcical" by local officials. Kallum Taylor, a ward councillor for Holgate in the west of York, slammed the news, saying: "It's farcical that Leeman Road has lost another bus service. "Not due to financial pressure, but because the single-deckers of First's new electric buses are too big to fit under a bridge."

Taylor added that the move, combined with previous service losses and a planned closure of Leeman Road, forms "a worrying pattern of reduction" in local transport options. He criticised an apparent lack of consideration for residents, stating: "Cleaner buses are great, but it seems like, in the excitement this has caused those involved, this community has again been overlooked. It's nowhere near good enough." He also said: "That tunnel is well known as being a problem... A double-decker bus hit it a few years ago and the whole upper deck got torn off.

"I am not sure how First went about their decision... I do not know if they checked the height of the single deckers and thought it was worth the hit, and I do not know if they did not check and have now realised they have got a problem now they have the buses. "If they did not check, then that is appalling - but if they did check and carried on anyway without getting a replacement bus service that is still bad."

Locals joined in with voicing their frustrations online, with one writing on social media: "This should have been taken into consideration when the buses were ordered. "They will have been aware of their height so either needed to find a lower version or considered using the old ones for the routes concerned." Another resident said succinctly: "Didn't they think to measure it before making the buses? How stupid."

Another find from the internet.

Motorists perform risky manoeuvres and divert to dangerous rural roads to avoid motorway traffic jams

Nearly one third of those surveyed admitted to performing a U-turn and more than half divert to country lanes

More than half of motorists are diverting from motorways to potentially less safe rural roads to avoid traffic jams and congestion, according to new research.

IAM RoadSmart, Britain's leading road safety charity, found that over the last twelve months, 51% of drivers have diverted from a congested motorway and headed for a country lane instead. Statistically, rural roads are the most dangerous roads in Britain, with nearly 1,000 deaths occurring on them annually, according to the Department for Transport. This compares to 84 killed on motorways and 273 fatalities on urban roads in 2023. Many country roads are narrow, with limited safe places to overtake, and are characterised by a poor road surface and blind bends.

The research also shows that drivers engaged in hazardous manoeuvres to avoid congestion. Nearly one third (27%) of the 2,000 people polled for the 2024 IAM RoadSmart Road Safety Report admitted to performing dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns in the middle of a road to beat the jams, while one in ten (11%) confessed to running a red light to save time. A small minority (8%) held their hands up to proceeding beyond a traffic light changing to red only to end up blocking an intersection.

With more than three quarters (83%) reporting that they have had more than 30 minutes added to their journey because of a traffic jam over the past year, it is small wonder that motorists are finding other routes and diverting onto rural roads to save time. However, by doing so they may be putting themselves and others at a greater risk of a collision.

Frustrating driving habits are also totting up the time spent on the road, with 80%

reporting that they had been delayed momentarily waiting for a driver that had failed to indicate at a junction or roundabout.

Traffic jams and delays are manifesting in impatience, with more than a third (31%) beeping their horn to get the driver in front to hurry up. This has the potential to lead to those drivers on the receiving end making risky or unwise decisions when pulling out of a junction. Despite many falling under the national speed limit of 60 mph in the UK, traffic often includes people travelling at a variety of speeds, including cyclists and farm vehicles, as well as pedestrians. According to the survey by IAM RoadSmart, 64% supported lowering the speed limit on a rural single carriageway to 50 mph.

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I have to admit to diverting off the M1 many years ago when travelling from Leicester to Bradford due to roadworks. We left the M1 then followed a route that crossed the motorway several times so we could see the extent of the slow moving traffic. We finally rejoined the M1 after the roadworks. I'm not sure how much time we saved but

on previous occasions we'd had a significant delay. This was in the time before sat nav was available so we had to rely on a map with Caroline following the route and directing me.



Spotted on Anglesey in 1984

These days with sat nav it's a little easier but often the sat nav would constantly try to direct you back onto the blocked roads so you need to have some idea of the alternative route. However the sat nav often has the advantage that you have a map built in to the car so you can see any alternative route.

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Earlier I asked "2024 marked the 80th anniversary of D Day but which day of the week did it fall on?"

The answer is Tuesday.

And Finally.....

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Sears hairdryer “Do not use while sleeping.” (Gee, that’s the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bar of Dial soap “Directions: Use like regular soap.” (And that would be how . . .?)

On some Swanson frozen dinners “Serving suggestion: Defrost.” (But it’s “just” a suggestion.)

On Tesco’s Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of box) “Do not turn upside down.” (Too late!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding “Product will be hot after heating.” (As night follows the day)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron “Do not iron clothes on body.” (But wouldn’t this save more time?)

On Boot’s Children’s Cough Medicine “Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication.” (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)

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This Month’s Teaser


Here’s another question from the Christmas quiz. What is the name of the Michelin man?

Last Month’s Teaser

Last month I asked “What is the purpose of the slot by the rear door in my car?” It’s to hold the rear seat belt when it’s not in use.



Your Committee

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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.