

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

July 2020

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Our back garden

No the newsletter is not turning into a gardening magazine, but in these times of lockdown it's difficult to go out to take pictures for the front cover so here's the cherry tree in our back garden, actually taken back in April, to hopefully brighten our spirits. Let's hope we can get back to "normal" soon.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

MEETINGS CANCELLED

Because of the current Covid-19 situation the committee is following government guidelines and has cancelled the Skill check meetings, the social meetings and the committee meetings at the Carlton Club. We will be reviewing the situation regularly and hope to resume the regular meetings as soon as possible following the review.

The audited accounts and reports are ready and will be presented to the members as soon as possible following the review. The AGM has been provisionally rescheduled to October 5th and we are aiming to publish the AGM agenda and the 2019 AGM minutes in the September newsletter.

The rescheduling of the AGM will not affect the 2021 AGM which will be held, circumstances permitting, in May 2021.

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

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Jeffrey Long's Latest Exploits

I've often written about Jeffrey Long's fundraising exploits and this year he's been busy once again. On 5th May he finished the TWOPOINTSIX challenge completing ten laps of 2.6 miles to raise over £1000 for "Support our Paras" charity, actually walking 32 miles.

At the beginning of June he's been visiting care homes in the area to honour the heroic efforts of care workers who Jeffrey said were undervalued and needed more recognition.



From the Editor

This newsletter is a special issue for me as it's the 50th issue I've edited since I took over from Kim in 2016. During that time the newsletter has slowly evolved into its current form which I hope you all like.

One question I have to ask is "What is the purpose of a newsletter? Here I take my cue from John Reith who became the first Director General of the BBC. He summarised the purpose of the BBC as inform, educate, entertain. This is equally applicable to the newsletter. We have to inform our members of our events and updates from IAM Roadsmart, educate by explaining technicalities and rules associated with motoring and finally entertain. I feel that a newsletter without a sense of humour would be a dull and dry publication, hence the "And Finally" section (Didn't ITVs News at Ten usually end with an "And Finally" light-hearted piece). I also try to incorporate interesting and amusing photos which I hope makes the newsletter more readable.

The newsletter is also our main means of communicating with all our members as not everyone can get to our social meetings. We usually get about ten percent of our membership at one of the monthly meetings at the Carlton Social Club.

As you are aware the newsletter is distributed primarily by email which significantly reduces our costs. However we do send out 23 newsletters by post which costs us just under £450 per year so if you receive a postal newsletter, which incidentally is in black and white rather than the emailed version which is in glorious colour, and have an email address could you consider changing to an email version. If you wish to change please let our membership secretary, David Rushfirth, know.

In exceptional circumstances, when we need to send out an important announcement which has arrived too late for inclusion in the newsletter, we can send out an email to the membership.

Keith

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.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Radu Baak

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

No tests this month.

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From The Past

Lilly was a conductress (remember them?) with Metro Bradford (part of the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive – WYPTE) in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Her most famous exploit occurred on the Eccleshill service. She was working a late turn and was coming down from Eccleshill early in the evening on a cross-city journey to either Buttershaw or Horton Bank Top when two young men boarded her bus and asked for two halves to the city. Lilly was convinced they should be paying full fare and set about interrogating them: How old are you? When were you born? Which school do you go to? Who's Head of Geography? Etc. Etc. She couldn't break their story and so reluctantly had to accept they were half fare.

When the bus arrived in the city on Market Street the two lads got off. Lilly told her driver to wait time and she observed the lads going down the steps into Spinks Bar, which was the pub beneath the Wool Exchange. Lilly was having none of it, and set-off after them. When she walked into the bar the lads were just about to sink their pints of Best Bitter when Lilly announced: "Nah then lads. You've just come down on my bus claiming you were 16 and half fare, and now I see your 18 and drinking ale. So, what's it to be? Full fare and enjoy your pints? Or half fare and pints of lemonade? (pause) That'll be another threepence from each of you." They paid-up on the spot and Lilly issued them with the appropriate tickets from her ticket machine, turned on her heels and left. Everyone else in the pub was dumbstruck, apparently.

Thanks to Graham Crawshaw for this gem from the past,

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.

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)

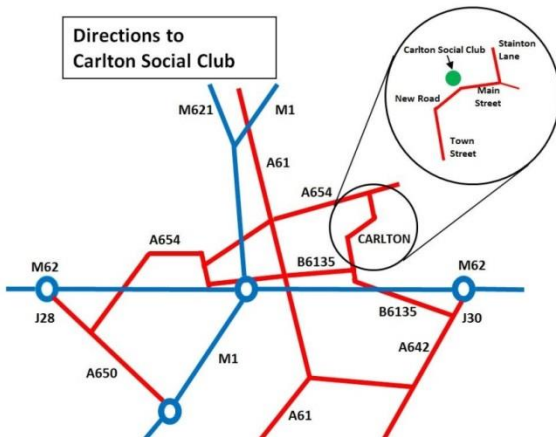
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

Directions to the Carlton Social Club

Main Street, Carlton, Wakefield WF3 3RW



From the M62 West leave at Junction 28 and take the A650 towards Wakefield. At the next set of traffic lights turn left onto the A654 toward Rothwell. Follow the A654, turning left in Thorpe on the Hill. Cross the A61 and continue into Carlton. Turn right into Stainton Lane then turn right into Main Street. The Social Club is on the right immediately after the Unicorn pub.

From the M62 East leave at junction 30 and take the A642 towards Wakefield.

Take the next right, B6135, towards Lofthouse. Follow the B6135 under the M62 onto Ouzlewell Green towards Carlton and Rothwell. Follow the road past Carlton Primary School and the Social Club is on the left just before the Unicorn pub.

There is a car park with overspill parking available on the grass area opposite the club.

From the Chairman

Your committee has just held its second virtual meeting, and I am pleased to report that it went very well. Unfortunately, some committee members are still experiencing problems with technology, but the majority of us are managing to cope.

During the meeting, Paul Macro (the Group Secretary) reported that there had been a large increase in the number of Group Members who have signed up for Gift Aid and to pay their subscriptions by Direct Debit.

May is an important month for us, as many Members pay their subscriptions at that time. I am therefore very pleased to report that 16 Members have signed up during May to pay their subscriptions by Direct Debit, and 9 Members have signed up for Gift Aid. As a result, approximately 113 Members are paying by direct debit and over 100 have signed up for Gift Aid.

Very many thanks to all those Members who have taken the time to sign up.

It actually takes very little time to set up the Direct Debit payment and the Gift Aid, and I can assure you it helps the Group a great deal, as we are able to claim Gift Aid on your subscriptions retrospectively for several years.

I would therefore ask once again for all Members to consider payment by Direct Debit, and, if you are a U.K. tax-payer, that you consider signing up for Gift Aid.

By the way, if you sign up to pay your subscription by Direct Debit, please remember to cancel your standing order.

Many thanks and best regards,

Janice

Chairman

Lockdown Diary part 3

It's June, I'm losing track of the days and the lockdown is slowly being eased but this brings different problems. Our daughter is going back to school and her partner, who has been working from home, is being asked to return to work but who will look after their son? Nurseries are not taking any new children and even if they did it's only for a day or so a week.

Garden centres are open again so we've been out to spend a fortune on new plants for the garden. DIY stores are also open but a couple of weeks ago when we went down to our local B&Q the queue to get in was horrendous so we didn't bother.

Get a call from our daughter who has been looking for a stand to grow herbs on and can Mr Fixit (dad) make one. Draw up a rough design and work out how much wood is needed.

I also need to make up some gates for the back garden to stop our grandson, who is now walking, from finding the steps in the back garden and discovering that he can't walk down them when he can finally visit us. Again work out what materials are needed. Decide to make a trip to get the wood etc, for both projects later in the week.

We've actually been able to book both our cars in for a service and MOT, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Hope it goes better than the last time we did this when Caroline's car passed its first MOT but mine failed because the front tyres were just below the limit. This time both passed with flying colours.

It's time to get the materials for both projects. No queues at B&Q so get the wood etc. return home and start making the gates.

Part way through cutting up the wood the phone rings, it's my brother. He's been rebuilding a 1966 MGB roadster over the last 25 years and has finally got it on the road. I've been helping him out by sorting out his weak point - the electrics. He's "taxed" (zero road tax) and insured the car and taken it out for a run but the fuel gauge isn't working. Trying to remember what I did on the car last year and trying to talk him through checking it with a multimeter turns out to be very difficult. It would probably be quicker to drive down and check it out myself but that's not possible. Anyway after several phone calls and a lot of head scratching he seems to have sorted it out.

The gates are done but it looks like it's going to rain and I don't fancy trying to fit them in the wet so I'll make the herb stand. Turns out to be a fairly easy job in spite of almost making it up as I go along! However Caroline has seen it and suggests making one so we can grow some herbs. Ah well it'll keep me busy.

Nature Watch

As all the places we would normally be visiting at this time of year are closed and we're having to spend more time at home, we've started watching the wildlife across the valley and in our garden. Across the valley, apart from walkers and their dogs, we occasionally see a family of deer wandering across the fields. Sometimes there's all four of them but mostly one or two. They'll stay in one field then suddenly take off and disappear into the undergrowth.

In our garden we've put up three bird feeders with a selection of peanuts and fat balls fixed to the cherry tree (shown on the front cover) and a fat slab fixed to one of the trellis's. It's fascinating watching the variety of birds visiting and the acrobatics they perform to stay on the feeders while trying to fend off all the other birds trying to do the same. We've seen the usual sparrows, starlings, blue tits and the local magpies.

I'd wondered how long it would be before the local squirrels would find the peanuts but being on the end of a long thin branch it was interesting to watch this one trying to stay on the feeder long enough to actually get some peanuts.



We're starting to think of places to visit once the lockdown is over and one attraction that looks interesting is Bressingham Steam and Gardens. This has been on TV recently and has a narrow gauge railway and also houses the Dads Army Appreciation Society's collection as the TV series was filmed in and around nearby Thetford. The Museum also provided several of the vehicles used in the series. I'll have to suggest it to my brother who's a big Dad's Army fan. Come to think of it, that would make a good outing for both his MGBs (and another cover picture for the newsletter).

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Three Hollywood A-listers were invited to a music themed costume party.

Stallone said, "I'm going as Mozart"
DeNiro said, "I'm going as Beethoven"
Schwarzenegger said, "I'll be Bach"

Petrol Prices

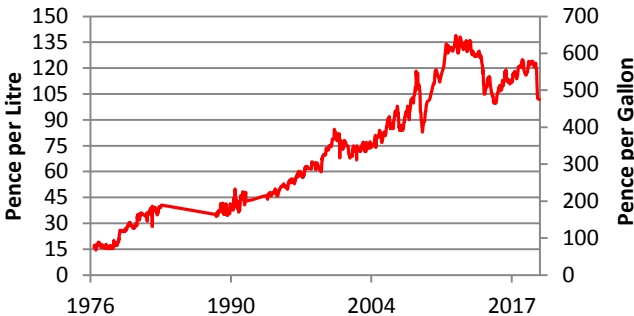
You may have noticed the drop in petrol and diesel prices over the last few months presumably because people are using their cars less, resulting in a surplus of fuel. I recently filled up my car which was last filled up at the end of March and has done less than 300 miles since then. Normally I would have done about 800 miles in the same period.

I've been recording the fuel consumption of my cars, by recording the mileage and amount of fuel at each fill up, ever since I bought my first car in 1975 and remember the price of petrol back then was around 70p per gallon (around 15.4p per litre). I also record the price paid which has allowed me to work out the cost per mile and the cost per litre. (I just love this type of data analysis. In my last job I used to analyse the failure rate of one of the products the company designed. The analysis showed up faults in components and manufacturing processes and allowed us to improve the reliability of the product)



The chart below shows the rise and fall of the price of petrol over the last 43 years based on the price I paid. There are gaps (the straight lines) between 1983 and 1988, as I've misplaced the original data, and between 1991 and 1993 as I had a diesel car. It also shows that the price of petrol has risen fairly steadily up to the present day apart from a "blip" between 2009 and 2014.

Petrol Price 1977 to 2020



Around June 1979 petrol passed through the £1 per gallon (22p per litre) mark and in 1982 started being sold in litres. I suspect there is a little psychology involved, as 22p per litre on the signs looks better than £1.00 per gallon. People just see the number and tend to ignore the units.

Petrol passed £1 per litre in late 2007 before falling a couple of years later. It peaked at around £1.40 per litre in late 2013 before falling to around £1 per litre in early 2016. It's been rising steadily since then until the lockdown dropping back around the £1 per litre mark. I'm sure it will start rising once things return to normal.

Back to school tips from IAM RoadSmart following Coronavirus lockdown

With a phased return to school for primary school pupils due to begin in England next week, IAM RoadSmart, the UK's largest independent road safety charity, is reminding parents, carers, drivers and riders to be on full alert in the vicinity of schools.

With drop-off and collection arrangements likely to be staggered and some people only just returning to driving or riding after an extended period away from the roads, the need for vigilance around schools will be essential over the coming weeks.

While arrangements for the phased re-opening from 1 June in England are being made by individual schools and local authorities, there are plenty of road safety tips that are relevant both to parents and carers driving children to school and those who are driving or riding nearby. Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's Head of Driving and Riding Standards has some advice on how to make sure it's as safe as possible for all road users.

- For parents and carers, take some time to check your vehicle and make sure it's in good order well in advance of that first school run, particularly if it's been stationary for a while during lockdown. Make sure you have enough fuel, check oil and water levels, look for defects, check the engine, rubber (tyres) and, last but not least, you. Watch our basic vehicle checks video [here](#). Make sure you clean your windscreen thoroughly; inactivity can cause a film to build up on it which will not come off with the wipers. Also remember to check your tyres carefully. You need to examine them for cuts or bulges and check the tread and pressure. For guidance on tyre safety, visit the Tyre Safe website [here](#).
- Feeling nervous about being back out on the roads as you begin to drive children to school again after lockdown? Start off slowly to re-familiarise yourself with your vehicle and driving again. Even if it's only been a few weeks since you last drove, you need to remind yourself about the importance of being fully engaged in your driving, vigilant and courteous to other road users.

- Has your usual route changed? With the introduction of pop-up cycle lanes and other initiatives to promote walking and cycling and keep public transport use to a minimum, check before you leave to avoid any difficulty.
- Leave enough time. Setting off for school can be a frustrating and rushed experience at the best of times and your morning routine will almost certainly have been changed by the lockdown arrangements. Allow yourself enough time to get ready in the morning. A half-eaten breakfast and badly combed hair can put both you and your child in the wrong frame of mind for the start of the day.
- Make sure everyone is in the right seat. If you use child or booster seats, make sure they are fit for purpose and correctly secured. Check out Good Egg for some top tips: <http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com/>.
- It may have been a while since your children have been out in the car. Pack for success. Dependent on the age of your little ones, take some healthy treats to distract them and keep them engaged, even on a short journey.
- It's not a race. In many areas with local schools the motto is '20's plenty.' Remember that this is the limit, not a target. Always help out the school crossing patrol. You'll probably receive a friendly wave and smile for your assistance.
- Setting a good example while in the driving seat teaches your children important road safety lessons that will stay with them in preparation for when they learn to drive. Make sure you park in a safe place and if you can, walk the last few metres to the school gates. It will not just help with congestion; it will also allow you to teach them the right way to cross a road, looking right and left (then right again for us Green Cross code users). Teaching children to use the road sensibly will save lives.
- The amount of traffic on the road and the mix of road users is likely to be different as a result of the government advice on the use of public transport. There are also likely to be more pedestrians and cyclists than before, so treat them the way you would want to be treated. It is important to give people the time and the space they need to use the road.

Richard said: "Traffic levels will be increasing as children return to schools. Cyclists and pedestrians have no airbags, crumple zones or seatbelts to protect them. By taking time to prepare for your back to school journey and remaining courteous and alert for other road users, you can be an ambassador for safer driving and riding.

“At the same time, all drivers – including those not on the school run - need to be vigilant for children getting out of cars, walking or cycling to school, possibly at unusual and unexpected time. After a longer than usual break from the school run routine, it’s more important than ever we all practice safe, courteous driving and riding.”

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Letters to the Editor

You wrote sensibly this month about taking care when near cyclists, family groups walking at roadsides and passing horses. I’d like to make a point about horse riders, many of whom are teenagers.

I live near livery stables and see a large number of riders hold the reins with one hand whilst holding a smart phone with the other hand whilst concentrating on the phone screen. Some of the riders are too young to be motorists so have not had road user training and experience not least with the use of mobile phones whilst driving that are part of a driving test but they’re apparently comfortable to be in charge of a horse whilst being distracted in this way.

However maybe I’m just a grumpy old fart and may be alone in these thoughts but other members’ comments would be interesting to hear.

Regards,
Jeremy Bauer

You raise a very important point there Jeremy, the almost hypnotic attraction to mobile phones by many people. I’m sure we’ve all seen videos of people walking into lamp posts walls or falling into water features while intently looking at the small screens. They seem to place their social media contact above their own safety.

Horses can be unpredictable at the best of times and need full concentration from their riders especially when on the public highway. Perhaps it’s time to extend the non-use of handheld mobile phones to all road users including cyclists and horse riders.

Do you have any views or comments? Let me know.

Ed

And Finally.....

Many companies use popular songs as part of their advertising campaigns but do they always check the lyrics before using them? One I remember is when Microsoft used the Rolling Stones Start Me Up as part of their Windows 95 promotion. Perhaps some of the lyrics foretold problems with future operating system?

The song starts:- “If you start me up I'll never stop” (Windows 98 shutdown issue?) and continues “I've been running hot, You got me ticking gonna blow my top” (overheating?) and finally there’s “I'll take you places that you've never, never seen” (Dodgy internet sites?)

There are also many songs with classic lines here are a couple of my favourites.

“In Jersey anything is legal as long as you don't get caught” (Tweeter and the Monkey Man by the Traveling Wilburys)

“How can you lie there and think of England when you don't even know who's in the team” (Greetings to the New Brunette by Billy Bragg)

But who can fathom out the meaning of the lyrics to Don McLean's 1972 classic American Pie?

Do you know of any other classic, amusing or interesting lyrics in songs? You know where to send them.

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This Month's Teaser

Above, I've mentioned Don Mclean's song American Pie but who was it written about?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked. “Where was the cover photo taken? If you take the A59 and just outside Skipton take the B6265 towards Grassington you'll reach Threshfield where the B6160 branches off to Kettlewell.

Your Committee

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Chief Observer	David Rushfirth	See above	myam.webmaster(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

David Speight has taken on the role of Speaker Secretary but we still need a minutes secretary for our committee meetings. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested this position.