

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

July 2022

iam
RoadSmart

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 5-6	Group Membership News 5. Welcome, Congratulations 6. MYAM Online
Page 5	Social Media
Page 7	Directions to the Carlton Social Club
Page 8	June Meeting – Sweden to New Zealand
Page 9	Running Out of Fuel
Page 11	Thank You!
Page 12	Please Play Your Part
Page 12	The Highway Code
Page 13	Amazon Smile
Page 14	IAM News Releases and Tips Avoid the fine in flip flops
Page 15	And Finally..... This Month's Teaser and the Answer to Last Month's Teaser
Page 16	Your Committee Contact Details



Cover Photo – Eiffel Tower Paris

You shouldn't need me to tell you what this well known structure is. Built in 1889 to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution it was only intended as a temporary structure but has lasted over 130 years.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 4th
July
8pm**

**Video Time
Bob Rowles shows us some
of his videos (motoring
related of course!)**

Carlton Social Club
Main Street
Carlton WF3 3RW

**Monday 5th
September
8pm**

TBD

Carlton Social 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.

At the last committee meeting it was decided that, due to many people being on holiday during August, we would no longer have an August social meeting. The next social meeting will therefore be on Monday September 5th.

This means there is one less social meeting speaker to arrange. There are only nine speakers to arrange as the May meeting is the AGM and the December meeting is the Christmas Quiz, both of which come with a buffet.

This is a roundabout way of asking if you would like to take on the role of speaker secretary. If you feel you could undertake the role please contact any member of the committee.

Alternatively are there any topics you would like to see at the social meetings or could you suggest someone to give a presentation at one of our meetings.

The committee feel that it is important to have social aspect to our group where we can meet the membership rather than just be a group that arranges observed runs with associates with no social interaction.

From the Editor

None of us are getting any younger and as we get older things we took for granted in our twenties are increasingly getting more difficult. I've been reminded of this while digitising my old photos taken 40 years ago. It was around this time when I started doing my own car servicing following a move back to university. Of course cars were simpler back in the 80s although they were becoming more complex as legislation was introduced to reduce the emissions and improve safety. I became reasonably proficient servicing my Mini although I knew my limits and some of the more difficult jobs I left to garages.

While cars were new and still under warranty I had them serviced by the garage but once outside warranty I serviced my XR2 myself even removing the head to decoke it and it still ran afterwards. By the time its replacement arrived I was married and we'd started a family so it was time to let someone else take care of the servicing. I did however do a few of the smaller maintenance jobs myself. I was also working and earning enough to pay for the servicing.

Now in retirement it seems I have less time but also less enthusiasm for doing many of the jobs I would tackle in my 20s. Cars are getting more complex making it less easy, but not impossible, for the man in the street to service. It used to be said that you only needed a screwdriver to b****r up your car. Now you need a computer to do the same job. Such is progress. Fortunately modern cars are significantly more reliable and do appear to be lasting longer. It's not unusual to see cars 10 or more years old still running and looking in good condition. When we are all electric will we see 10 year old electric cars still running or will they be consigned to the scrap yard because of a faulty battery that costs more to replace than the car is worth?

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 members this month

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

**Darren Crossley passed with a F1RST - Observer Alan Jones and
trainee Observer Patrick Handy
David Johnson - Observer David Stringer**

**Congratulations to David Belford who has passed his
Fellow retest with a F1RST at the tender age of 88**

This section is to congratulate our associates who have passed their Advanced driving test and any of our members who have achieved a higher level pass such as a Masters or Fellow qualification. However we are not automatically notified by IAM RoadSmart when this happens so we have to rely on the associate or member letting us know. As an example last month Jeffrey Long rang me to tell me he'd passed his Fellow retest and this prompted David Belford to contact me about his Fellow retest pass.

Therefore can you let your observer, Graham our Membership Secretary or Chris our Chief Observer know when you have passed your test. They will then pass details on to me and I'll publish them here.

Social Media

You will have seen our requests for someone to look after our social media accounts in previous newsletters. Following the incorporation of the Skipton and Craven group Bev Bruce, who looked after their Twitter account, has volunteered to look after the MYAM Twitter account which has now been resurrected having been closed since May 2018.

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)

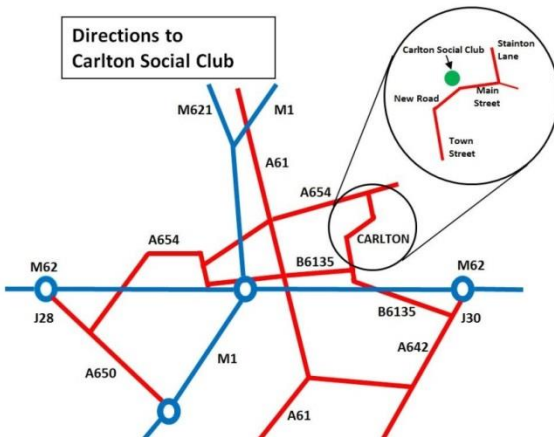
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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 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.

June Meeting - Sweden to New Zealand

Sweden and New Zealand, two countries almost literally poles apart. John and Iris know both countries well as Iris was originally from Sweden, moving to the UK about 30 years ago.

Iris told us about driving in Sweden which is approximately twice the size of the UK but has about one sixth of the population and also fewer vehicles. Therefore the roads are significantly less crowded.

One major difference is that being a Nordic country they expect snow every year and winter tyres are compulsory over the winter months meaning that it is necessary to change over the tyres or the wheels twice a year. Studded tyres are an option for icy roads but they do cause damage to the road surface if used when there is no ice. One other difference with the UK, not related to driving, is that the schools never close in winter.

Wild animals such as deer and elk are dangers we do not usually encounter here but accidents involving them are common in Sweden. An elk can weigh up to 700kg which can make mess of your car and often the elk will just get up and walk away!

Speed limits range between 30 and 120kph and there are speed cameras with fines ranging from 1500Kr to 4000Kr (approximately £120 to £320) depending on how much above the limit you are.

Sweden used to drive on the left but with left hand drive vehicles and in 1967 they changed overnight to driving on the right. At the appointed hour any vehicle had to stop, wait an hour then drive off on the other side of the road. It all went smoothly.

The second part of the evening was slightly different as John showed us a video of photos taken when visiting relatives in New Zealand, another country with fewer people than the UK and many wide open spaces.

Keith

Running Out of Fuel

A glance at the dashboard shows the fuel gauge is in the red area and the low fuel light is on. How far can I go before the car stops? Where is the nearest filling station? I'm sure we've all been in this situation at some point in our lives. I've experienced it a few times but have only run out a couple of times.

The first time I was in Caroline's car on my way home from work and knowing the fuel was low I was going to fill up on the way home but before I could get to the petrol station the car started spluttering so a change of plan was called for, calling at a more expensive filling station just off my route home but about a 100 yards from the station the car finally stopped. I walked to filling station, bought a petrol can, filled it and returned to the car with sufficient fuel to get to the intended filling station. Not a major problem, just a bit of extra exercise!

The second time I was on my way to work. I'd sold my car but it was a week before I could pick up the new car so the garage "sold" me a temporary car, an old basic Fiesta, the type that "Rent-a-Wreck" would not want. As I knew I was getting a new car soon, I put the minimum amount of fuel in, not wanting to leave too much in the tank when I handed it back. It ran out of fuel on a back road near Keelham. I thought I'll ring the RAC but found my old mobile phone had little charge left. No problem I thought I'll power it from the 12V socket but being a basic model there was no socket. I did manage to call the RAC who came out and sold me a gallon of petrol. A few days later I handed the Fiesta back and much to my relief took possession of my new car.

Back in 1981, following an accident, my car was in a garage being rebuilt so over Christmas the garage let me use one of their loan cars, a 7 year old Escort. It had just enough petrol in it to get to the nearest petrol station. After Christmas I still had use of it and kept it until my car was ready. As a result I was putting the minimum amount of petrol in it almost on a daily basis. About half a gallon at a time, around 50p – well it was 1982!

Once the garage told me my car was ready I took the loan car back and took possession of my repaired car. I parked the Escort on a slope just outside the garage. I had to return to get a few items fixed and they told me that when they came to move the Escort it ran out of petrol. I thought yes got it just right.

On another occasion I was in my XR2 going to a regular Sunday pub quiz. The route was over a hill but as I drove up the hill the engine spluttered and stopped. I let the car roll back into a side road and it started. I took an alternative route round the hill and then downhill to the petrol station. The low fuel level was due to an unexpected journey the previous evening.

There are times when you want a low fuel level, primarily if you are trading in your car. You don't want to leave too much fuel in the tank when you hand it over! But there are dangers in running with a low fuel level especially with an older car as the fuel tank can contain debris which could be sucked into the fuel line and could block it.

Most cars these days have a trip computer which can be set to indicate the estimated range left in the tank. This is usually based on the fuel consumption over the previous 20 - 30 miles. This can result in the range increasing especially if you're on a long journey following a week or so of short trips.

While on the subject of fuel there has been some speculation on the use of supermarket fuel assuming it is not to the same standard as fuel from the major fuel suppliers. This is not the case as all fuel sold in this country has to conform to a standard, EN228 for petrol and EN590 for diesel. Some of the major suppliers do add additional additives which are intended to reduce engine wear but these are normally added after the tanker has filled up at the distribution depot. In many cases fuel tankers from the majors and supermarkets all fill up at the same distribution depots.

There are many reasons why supermarket fuel is cheaper, they buy in very large quantities and can use it almost as a loss leader to encourage people into their stores. I've been using supermarket fuel probably for almost 40 years in at least ten cars and have not noticed any problems with any of the cars.



Bad Moon Rising – Not Creedence Clearwater Revival but the super moon over the twin towers of the Emley Moor TV transmitter

Thank You!

As some of you may have realised, I have been noticeably absent from most of the meetings at the end of 2021 and this year. Unfortunately, I have been very ill since June last year, and it would appear that this has been caused by a very bad reaction to the Astra Zeneca vaccine, which I had in February and April last year.

As a result, I had to take a step back from IAMR and MYAM whilst I underwent a barrage of hospital tests.

During this time, I have been wonderfully supported by the MYAM Committee and, in particular, by Bob Rowles (former Chief Observer of the Skipton & Craven Group) and by David Stringer, who is our Group President. David immediately took over the role of Group Chairman, and has done a marvellous job.

All the members of the Committee took over parts of the Chairman's role, and the whole Group has operated very smoothly. This has enabled me to concentrate on the problem at hand, and, although I still have some way to go, I am pleased to say that I am improving slowly.

I am therefore writing this article to acknowledge what a superb Committee we have at MYAM, and to say how proud and grateful I am for what they have done for me and the Group.

With grateful thanks!

Janice

Janice N. Haigh Chairman

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Associates Corner

We are slowly reducing the number of Associates waiting to be allocated to a MYAM Observer to begin their Advanced Driving runs. All MYAM Observers are currently fully allocated to Associates but as and when Associates pass their Advanced Driving Test we are allocating a new Associate to the Observer whose Associate passed the Advanced Driving test.

To all Associates who are yet to be allocated an Observer, please be patient, we will allocate an Observer to you as soon as we can.

Please Play Your Part

As you can see from my earlier article entitled “Thank You”, your Committee has worked extremely hard to keep the Group running smoothly and efficiently whilst I have been ill.

In addition, the Observers have played a huge part by continuing to carry out observed runs and ensure Associates are test-ready.

However, one area where we do need your help is in finding speakers for our monthly meetings, and I am particularly grateful to Sally Lawrence, who suggested the topic of electric cars earlier this year, and even went so far as to find a speaker for us. It was an excellent suggestion, and, as the speaker, Tony Dyson from Kia Bradford, was so well received, I have asked him to come back later in the year to give us an update.

We are always looking for topics which may be of interest to you, the Members, and so any suggestions you may have are always gratefully received.

Please don't just leave it to everyone else! We need your ideas and suggestions to make our Group meetings a success. Send your ideas to me at myam.chairman@outlook.com or to any other member of the Group Committee, and they will be brought up at the next Committee meeting.

Thank you!

Janice

Janice N. Haigh Chairman

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The Highway Code

I received an email from our Treasurer Rosie with a link to the latest Highway Code updates <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>.

Cycling UK has put this video on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhWi-9NrJeU>.



Spotted on a tub of ice cream.
What have we been eating?

Amazon Smile – Raise Funds for MYAM



Online shopping has grown significantly in recent years and more so during this year of restrictions and lockdowns. But did you know that when shopping with Amazon, you can also help raise funds for charities such as MYAM? If purchases are made from Amazon Smile rather than the normal Amazon site, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to your chosen charity at no cost to you or MYAM.

The Amazon Smile site looks exactly like the main Amazon site and has the same extensive product range at the same prices. All you have to do is shop at:

smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1053843-0

or go to smile.amazon.co.uk and search for “mid Yorkshire”.

Once you’ve selected MYAM as your chosen charity, simply bookmark the home page to replace any existing Amazon bookmark that you may have and simply shop as normal. Amazon will then make their 0.5% donation direction to MYAM without you having to do anything and without it costing you a penny.

If you shop on the Amazon mobile APP, just search in it for Amazon Smile and click on the Amazon Smile banner, search for “mid Yorkshire”, select MYAM and you can help raise funds for MYAM this too.

If you have any questions or problems with this, then please let know– just contact me at MYAM.secretary@outlook.com

Paul Macro
MYAM Secretary

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Every time I get in my car and put the key in the ignition I get a message on the dashboard “Depress clutch to start”. I keep telling it sad stories but it still won’t start.

Avoid the fine in flip flops

It's that time of year again when we say goodbye to our winter coats and start digging out our summer wardrobe –many of us might start wearing our comfy flip flops once again.

While they're a summer staple they simply don't belong on your feet when you are driving. We strongly encourage people to reconsider wearing flip flops whilst driving. Rebecca Ashton, Head of Policy and Research at IAM RoadSmart, is giving her expert advice on why it's best to leave the flip flops for the beach and choose something more suitable for driving.

While it's not illegal to wear flip flops whilst you drive, The Highway Code states that you must have footwear and clothing which 'does not prevent you using the controls in the correct manner'. Since flip flops can easily slip off and get lodged under the car's pedals, they have the potential to cause a serious incident.

What should I wear on my feet?

It's important to have maximum control while driving, soft shoes with a thin sole which can offer a little grip are best. These will allow your ankle to remain flexible and keep your sole sensitive to how much pressure you're putting on the pedals. Driving in heavy or chunky shoes can put you in danger of pressing two pedals down at once, so the best sort of driving footwear is your basic flat shoe or trainer.

It's not uncommon to find yourself getting in the car wearing sandals during the summer, or heavy winter boots in the colder months. So, it's a good idea to keep a pair of shoes specifically for driving in the boot of your car.

Rebecca explained: "Flip flops can easily slip off and get caught under the pedals, and if they're wet, your foot might slip affecting your ability to brake. Driving in flip flops has the potential to create a dangerous driving environment and put you and other road users at risk.

"Some drivers might not be aware that if you're involved in a crash and the police see that you have flip flops on, and they believe these could have been a contributory factor in the incident, you may be prosecuted for 'driving without due care and attention' The fixed penalty for careless driving is £100 with 3 points on the driver's licence. The most serious cases can go through the courts, where higher penalties might be deemed appropriate – a fine as high as £5,000, nine penalty points and potentially a driving ban."

And Finally.....

For all you DIY enthusiasts



This Month's Teaser

The tyre pressure monitor light came on in my car recently. So when I got home I left the car outside the garage to cool down for an hour or so. I then checked the tyre pressures and found that both the nearside tyres had virtually identical pressures as did the two offside tyres but the offside tyres were both about 0.1 bar higher than the nearside tyres. After thinking about it I realised why there was a difference between the two sides but what was the most probable cause?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "What were the dates of the previous Jubilee Bank Holidays?" They were Silver - Tuesday 7th June 1977, Golden - Monday 3rd June 2002 and Diamond - Tuesday 5th June 2012

Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Paul Macro		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis	07579 965029	myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Graham Crawshaw	0113 314 9969	myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Youth Liaison	Position vacant		
Speaker Secretary	Position vacant		
Events Manager	Alan Jones	07714 444595	alan.j909(at)btinternet.com
Website	Position vacant		myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Keith Wevill	01274 815281	myam.newsletter(at)outlook.com
Chief Observer	Chris Marrison	07798 822935	myam.chiefobserver(at)outlook.com
GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		
Committee member	Bob Rowles		

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.