

# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

June 2020



Group Number 4178  
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### **Cover Photo –Old Style Road Signs**

You don't see many older style road signs like these around these days and as a bonus there's an old phone box although it needs a fresh coat of paint.

I won't say where it is as it the subject of this month's teaser on page 15.

# FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

## MEETINGS CANCELLED

In view of the Government guidelines, there will be no further meetings until the end of June at the earliest. The Carlton Social Club remains closed until the situation changes, and so we are unable to arrange any events until we receive further information. Obviously, the committee is maintaining contact, and we are hoping to hold meetings via video conferencing. If you have any queries or comments (polite ones only, please!), then please send them to any member of the committee, then they will be brought up at the next meeting.

With regard to the AGM, we are again governed by the rules laid down by the Government. The 2019-2020 accounts have been approved, and the meeting will be arranged as soon as possible following the easing of the regulations.

In the meantime, Keith, our Newsletter Editor, will continue to issue the monthly Group magazine, "Are We There Yet?", but he would be very grateful for any contributions.

### **Janice**

It will not come as a great surprise that in addition to the cancellation of our social meetings most, if not all, of the events that we attend to promote the IAM and the group have been cancelled or postponed. These include the Fleur-de-Lys show and the Pateley Bridge MG show but it's probably safe to assume that all the shows in the area have been cancelled. If you were planning to visit an event it's worth checking before travelling.

We have also been notified that the Skills day at Croft, originally set for 9<sup>th</sup> June, has been postponed.

### **Stop Press**

We have just been informed that our application for Gift Aid has been accepted with a welcome addition to the group funds. Thank you to all who have signed up for Gift Aid.

## FROM THE EDITOR

We're still in lockdown but restrictions are slowly being lifted. Whether this will prove to be the correct decision will be down to history to judge but I'm sure we're all pleased to be able to get out more.

It'll be some time before we can get back to normal but, as you'll read later in the newsletter, the committee have been preparing for the AGM. We've held our first video conference committee meeting, which lasted almost as long as our normal committee meetings and until normality is resumed this will be the way we will be running the group.

I'm hoping that garages will be open soon as both our cars were due their MOTs in May, so as soon as we can I'll be booking them in. I'll have to take them for a good run (Italian Tune up) beforehand to clear the engines though as they've done less than 200 miles since March!

One aspect of this lockdown that is encouraging is the way people are coming together (2m apart of course) to support our essential workers and generally get to know each other better and make the best of the situation. Stories of street parties to celebrate any event abound. Let's hope this continues after the lockdown ends and, as I said last month, the government appreciates the contributions made by all our essential workers who have worked hard to keep the country running during these hard times.

Have you started any new or revived old interests or have any stories of what you've been doing to during the lockdown? If they are suitable for publication send them to me at the address on page 16.

Where we live we can often see many aircraft flying overhead but now the skies are devoid of aircraft. I've found this website which shows which aircraft are flying throughout the world. <https://www.flightradar24.com/52.94,-0.96/8> . Looking at the UK it shows very few aircraft in the air, and at most times of the day there are no aircraft in our area.

### 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

No new associates this month

# Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

No tests this month.

Hopefully normal service will be resumed once  
the restrictions are lifted.

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**A street in Pompeii – Looks in better condition than many modern streets!**

# 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](http://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](http://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.



## Chairman's Update

As I write this, we have been in "lockdown" longer than we expected, and so I thought it was only right and fair that I bring you an update on what is being done within MYAM.

First of all, I want to say a very big "thank you" to Keith Wevill, our Newsletter Editor, who has kept us all updated and entertained by issuing this newsletter regularly and on time. This is one of the main ways of all our Members staying in touch, and I certainly appreciate all Keith's hard work. I would also like to thank David Rockliff and his local printers, who print and mail the hard copies of the newsletter to those Members, who do not have the facility to receive e-mail copies.

With regard to the Group Committee, we obviously can't hold face-to-face meetings, and so David Rushfirth, our Chief Observer and Membership Secretary, helped us all to download a programme which would allow us to hold virtual meetings. Some of us (including me), who are not too comfortable with technology, needed a little more support, but we finally got there. As a result, we held our first video conference meeting in early May, and, although chairing the meeting was a little strange, it was, on the whole, a success! We plan to continue holding regular meetings in this way until the situation changes.

The meeting allowed us to keep up to date with the financial side of the Group, and our Company Secretary, Paul Macro, was able to announce that the number of Members who have signed up for Gift Aid and to pay by Direct Debit has increased considerably. The Gift Aid means that the Group will be able to claim a refund from HMRC, and the payment by Direct Debit saves both you and our Treasurer a great deal of work. Thank you to all those Members who have taken the time (only a few minutes!) to sign up.

Unfortunately, we are receiving notifications on a regular basis that the outdoor events we usually attend are being cancelled one by one, and these car rallies and fetes are the main way we have of marketing IAMR and the Group to the general public. On top of that, I must admit it's a great opportunity for David Rushfirth and I to show off our treasured MG's! So, for this summer, the caravan will stay in storage, but we hope we will be able to return to using it for the Skill Check Drives later in the year.

In the meantime, both the W.Y. Police Scrutiny Panel and the W.Y. Police Independent Advisory Group are also continuing to hold virtual meetings. I sit on both these panels, and so it will be useful to keep in touch and updated on what is happening during this difficult period.

With regard to the Group AGM, this should have been held on the 4th May. In fact, all the preparations were in progress before it was necessary to cancel the event. Our Treasurer,



Rosie Bricis, had worked very hard getting the 2019-20 accounts finalised and examined, and they are ready for presentation to the Members. We therefore agreed at our video conference meeting to set a provisional date of Monday, 5th October, for the Group AGM. Please pencil the date in your diary, and we will keep you updated. In the meantime, nomination papers for those who would like to join the Committee have been circulated, but they are also available on the Group website. We welcome anyone who feels they would like to contribute in whatever way they can. In particular, I would appreciate a Minutes Secretary, as chairing the meetings and trying to take the minutes at the same time is not easy!

As you can see, we are still working hard on behalf of the Group, and I am very grateful to all my fellow Committee members for all their support and hard work. We all feel it is necessary to make sure the Group is “on the starting grid” ready to go as soon as the lights turn to green - and I hope it won't be too long before we are able to meet up in person.

In the meantime, please stay safe and stay well.

**Janice**

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## **Welcome to MYAP**

No, that's not a typing error. Let me tell you a bit more.

Advanced motorists like acronyms. Our starter for ten is always IPSGA – what used to be known as ‘the system of car control’ (not forgetting our POWDERY checks).

**I**nformation, **P**osition, **S**peed, **G**ear, and **A**cceleration is something we use all the time, but the current situation has made me think about how to apply it on my daily permitted exercise – a long walk. Thankfully, there are lots of riverside walks and footpaths to escape to in Knaresborough (with apologies to those of you who are unfortunately confined to your home).

Observers often use acronyms as part of their work with Associates. I like to use the ‘group of three words’ method used by politicians because it is a quick way of reminding the Associate that they need to keep thinking. At a steady speed, I often shorten IPSGA to **IPS**.

An advanced driver should always be thinking about taking, using and giving **I**nformation because next comes **P**osition – where in the road do you need to be to make safe progress.

Then comes **Speed**. This is something our new Associates often struggle to control - and some have 'points' on their licence to prove it. Encouraging Associates to maintain 'safe, smooth and legal' progress can sometimes be a challenge.

A personal favourite with a good Associate is **OAP** – **Observe**, **Anticipate** and **Plan** – but perhaps this is just me thinking about the free bus pass due later in the year. Although **OAP** is no longer in the course handbook, I think it helps an Associate to think a bit more about what to expect as they drive along. For example, **Plan** to stop on the approach to a roundabout but try to **Observe** and **Anticipate** a gap that could allow you to make change the **Plan** and make safe progress.

So how can we use **IPS** and **OAP** on our daily walk?

In many ways, the final **P** is the most important. Before you set off, your **Plan** should avoid public footpaths where there is not enough room to allow walkers to pass two metres apart. (One newspaper cartoonist has suggested that we all wear hats with a metre wide brim. That way we can all be sure of being two metres apart.)

Once you leave your house, here is how it works:

If you use a road with a footway on both sides, walk on the right hand footway so that you have oncoming traffic on your left hand side. If you **Observe** someone approaching, **Anticipate** and **Plan** to change your **Position**. Move into the carriageway if it is safe to do so, but you can also **Anticipate** by moving into a nearby safe space. You change your **Position** and reduce your **Speed** to zero.

(Sorry about the technical footway/carriageway terminology, but I am a highway engineer. My understanding of the word 'footpath' is probably different to yours.)

The riverside in Knaresborough is a minor road without any footways, so Highway Code Rule 2 becomes the **Plan**. And yes, there are 35 Rules for pedestrians. Questions will be asked at the next MYAM quiz night – you have been warned! (*now there's an idea for the Christmas quiz – Ed*)

I was brought up in rural Lincolnshire in the days when nearly all children walked to school. Rule 2 was drummed into us at Primary School – “**If there is no pavement**, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic”.

Of course you still have the 'silent menace' of cyclists approaching from behind, but they usually only move to the right hand side if they are confused by the pedestrians who were never taught Rule 2. Other pedestrians may also confuse you, but you can **Observe** them, **Anticipate** their likely movements, and **Plan** to move to one side if Rule 2 is not on their current Facebook page.

Now the whole point of all this is to remind you that although your car, caravan or motorhome may be confined to the drive for much of the time (despite fuel being annoyingly cheaper than it has been for years) you can still practice your advanced driving skills.

If enough people are interested, MYAM will consider creating a new grade of membership. There will not be any additional cost – but only if you pay your subscription by direct debit to keep our Secretary happy.



**Knaresborough taken by David Rockliff**

You can become a **MYAP** – a **Mid Yorkshire Advanced Pedestrian**.

**David Rockliff**

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**Lockdown Diary - continued**

**Day 20**

The seat has now been assembled for a few days so at least we can sit outside and enjoy the sun.

**Day 21**

Since we lost our dog Gina we've occasionally taken Caroline's parents dog for a walk. He's young and enthusiastic but loves the walk round the valley.

**Day 22**

There's a committee meeting soon but we're going to use video conferencing. Something new to try but I've no webcam. Webcams are like the proverbial rocking horse droppings at the moment, but it's been suggested that a dashcam or digital camera can be used. Look at the manual for my digital camera but it can't be used, however the dashcam can be used as a webcam but the microphone won't work. Another problem to sort out.

**Day 23**

Connect dashcam to PC. PC finds it and installs software. Looks promising. Try the camera option and it looks to be working. Now need to sort out a microphone. Don't think people

would like to attempt lip reading. Find a microphone, plug it in but it doesn't seem to be working. Needs a bit of a boost.

### **Day 24**

Lash up an amplifier to boost the microphone. Connect it up and the microphone now appears to work. Now need to try the video conferencing. Contact David Rushfirth. We'll give it ago tomorrow.

### **Day 25**

Take the in-laws dog for a walk.

All set up for a trial video call at 6:30. Sit in front of PC, call David on the phone. He calls me over the internet. Which button do I click on? Call drops out. Call re-established, click on the correct button. He can see and hear me but I can't see him. Suddenly David's face appears on the screen. Seems to work. Spend the next few minutes talking about this that and the other. Looks promising for a virtual committee meeting on Star Wars day.

### **Day 26**

It's sunny so decide to clean the windows. We can now see outside properly.

Resist the temptation to trim the hedges as we'd only have to store the cuttings until the tip re-opens. Think there will be a queue at the tip when that happens.

### **Day 27**

I'd noticed one of our gutters downpipe is blocked, typically it's the one that's least accessible. Don't fancy standing on a sloping roof to take it apart so an alternative is called for.

Take in-laws dog for a walk and think about it.

### **Day 28**

A solution, I'll blast it with water from the hose either by pushing the hose up the pipe or from the top. Should be entertaining if anyone was to be watching. I'll try when the wind dies down.

### **Day 29**

No wind today so let's give it a go. Get ladder and hose out. Check water pressure at end of hose. A bit pathetic, so it's blast it from the top with the appropriate fitting. Tie hose to end of broom handle, connect to outside tap. Instruct Caroline to turn tap on when I say so. Climb ladder hoping it won't be a £250 You've Been Framed moment. Point broom handle and hose at the blocked pipe and yell "turn it on". It's a bit of an anti-climax as seconds later water appears at the bottom of the drain pipe. Let it run for a few seconds and try to remove as much muck from the gutter as possible without actually being able to see where I'm pointing the hose. "Turn it off", climb down ladder, clear up and put everything away. All done, now it's lunch time.

### **Day 36**

I've been in contact with some of my friends from university and it's suggested that we have a video call. This uses different software so download it, check with a couple of them to prove it all works and a call is arranged. It's the day before the committee meeting so will be a good test.

### **Day 40**

Video call with my friends, one in California, others spread around the country, Leicester, Abergavenny, Edinburgh, Exeter and Wrexham. Worked very well. Good to see them again.

### **Day 41**

The committee meeting. Like yesterday the video conferencing just worked.

### **VE Day anniversary**

The bunting is up in the road and there's a socially isolated Bingo session starting at 7. Prizes include bags of flour and tins of tomato, all off ration! The bingo finishes and further celebrations continue, finishing after 11. There'll be some sore heads in the morning.

### **To Be Continued**

## **IAM News Releases and Tips**

**Remember your manners and share the road to keep everyone safe**



In the strange world we find ourselves in now, traffic in certain areas has reduced to next to nothing. We should all be out only for essential journeys, but that is not to say the situation is without challenges.

We have families out walking in groups and children with their parents out cycling on roads that would not normally expect to see such traffic. Farmers are still going about their business and animals both wild and domesticated will be enjoying the relatively quiet traffic situation to explore roads they would normally avoid. In these circumstances, we mustn't forget our manners and the need to share the road space safely.

IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman, has put together a few simple tips to keep us all safe on the road.

- Children out walking on a quiet road even with parents can be unpredictable and they can dart out into the road for no apparent reason. On a country lane, they will run across from an area of safety to hold a parent's hand, completely oblivious to anything other than mum or dad. Slow right down, let the pedestrians sort themselves out and only then pass slowly. Remember out of any bend there may be a family getting their daily exercise and combining it with social distancing, which may have forced them off the pavement and into the road away from other pedestrians.
- Cyclists may have earphones on and music playing and may well be completely oblivious to you approaching. Slow down and give them plenty of space, you may have to follow for a while if there is no safe place to pass. Don't try to squeeze past, you need to allow as much space as if you were passing a car. Also, remember the current limitations to our usual daily routines have seen a lot of novices back onto pedal cycles to exercise. The mixed family group is also a feature of the roads at the moment. Younger members may not be as steady and predictable as a seasoned cyclist. If in doubt stay back and do not crowd them. If in town remember a cyclist may be filtering either side of you so check before moving.
- There may still be horses being exercised by their riders, or riders being exercised by their horses. They still need at least the usual care and it may be that the quiet roads have encouraged more nervous riders or animals to try new routes. Pass wide and slow is the best advice. Most riders will find somewhere to create space for you to pass. Don't be tempted to drive too close behind them as this may startle the animal and will certainly be of concern to the rider. Keep your engine revs low and turn down the volume on your radio.
- Motorcyclists may be using the shopping trip to keep their bike running, so remember when pulling out of junctions to have that second look for them. It's easy to lose a bike in the background if you are not looking properly especially at night where the lights can all blend into one stream of traffic.

Richard says, "The last thing we want to do now is put any extra strain on the hospitals, a slight misjudgement when driving can result in an incident that ends up in casualty. Rural areas that would never usually see pedestrians or inexperienced cyclists are home to families trying to exercise in safety away from possible infection. By following the advice we are always offering to our children to 'share nicely' we can do our part to help keep our quieter roads as safe as possible for all road users."

# And Finally.....

A traffic officer pulled a car over and told the man driving that he was going 50 mph in a 40 zone.

"I was only going 40!" the driver protested.

"Not according to my radar," the traffic officer said.

"Yes, I was!" the man shouted back.

"No you weren't!" the officer said.

With that, the man's wife leaned toward the window and said, "Officer, I should warn you not to argue with my husband when he's been drinking."

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## **This Month's Teaser**

Where was the cover photo taken? It's somewhere in Yorkshire and there should be a clue in the road numbers.

## **Last Month's Teaser**

Last month I asked. "When were the AA and RAC formed?"

The Royal Automobile Club was formed in 1897.

The Automobile Association was formed in 1905 to warn its members of the presence of a speed trap. Following a legal case where it was judged that where a patrolman signalled to a motorist to slow down he was committing the offence of obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty, the AA developed a system where a patrolman would salute any car with an AA badge. If he failed to do so the motorist was supposed to stop and ask the reason. This usually meant there was a speed trap was in the vicinity.

# Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
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Youth Liaison	David Speight		
Speaker Secretary	David Speight		
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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.**