

# ***ARE WE THERE YET?***



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

June 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 6 MYAM Online**

**Page 7 Directions to the Birkenshaw Liberal Club**

**Page 8 May Meeting – MYAM AGM**

**Page 10 Pathfinder Participant Report**

**Page 12 May Presentations**

**Page 12 A Clean Windscreen**

**Page 13 IAM News Releases and Tips**

New data reveals huge cost of poor fuel economy for business fleets

**Page 14 Farewell to Long Wave**

**Page 15 And Finally.....**

This Month's Teaser and the Answer to Last Month's Teaser

**Page 16 Your Committee Contact Details**



### **Cover Photo – Dunstaffnage Castle near Oban**

Built before 1240 Dunstaffnage Castle guards the approach from the Firth of Lorn to the Pass of Brander and thereby the heart of Scotland. This photo was taken in 1982 during an oceanographic cruise when we called in at the nearby Scottish Marine Biological Association.

## Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Saturday 31st  
May 2025 10am  
to 4pm**

**Harrogate Motor Show &  
Family Fun Day**

Harrogate Rugby Club,  
Rudding Lane,  
Harrogate HG3 1DQ

**Monday 2nd  
June 2025  
8pm**

**Neil Simpson**  
Rally Driver

Birkenshaw Liberal Club  
10 Croft Street  
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Friday 4th  
July 2025  
3pm to 9:30pm**

**Thornes Park Classic Car  
Show**

Thornes Park,  
Horbury Road (A642),  
Wakefield

**Monday 7th  
July 2025  
7:30pm**

**William Merritt**  
**converted cars and**  
**Electric Cars**

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.

The MYAM Chairman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MYAM June Social Evening

Time: Jun 2, 2025 19:45

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5851212145?pwd=SwXivDApcqSllvqackberqnH50ujGk.1&omn=89342706548> or scan the QR code



Please note that when meetings are available via Zoom we record them for future reference. Please let us know if you use Zoom to attend the social meeting and have any objection to the meeting being recorded.

For our July social meeting we are hoping to have a display of cars modified by the William Merritt centre. This will be held outside in the Liberal club car park at the earlier time of 7:30pm. We also ask if any member with an electric car would be willing to bring it along and answer any questions that members may have about owning and running an electric car. If you have an electric car and would be willing to take part in the event could you let either myself or our speaker secretary Sally know via the email addresses on the committee page.

## From The Editor

I know some of our members are also members of the MG owners club and receive their Enjoying MG magazine. The front cover of the May 2025 issue has picture of my brothers 1966 MGB Roadster with the story of its restoration featuring on the inside pages. There is also a short article that my brother asked me to write about the electronic ignition system I built for his car based on a system I designed back in the early 1980s. One unexpected consequence of having article like this published is that you get letters from people who have built one and cannot get it to work or have questions about the components used. One prolific writer of articles in several of the hobby electronics magazines back in the 1960s and 70s apparently had a standard reply of "oh they've used the wrong components"

That brings me to mention that I'd love to receive any feedback on the newsletter, are there any things you'd like me to cover or could you write a short piece for inclusion. It's your newsletter so let me know what you'd like to see in it.

We'd also like to know whether you have attended any of our meetings via Zoom and if you have any comments on the experience as we are still learning the best way to use Zoom for this purpose.

Occasionally a speaker is unable to attend our meeting, usually at short notice. Under these circumstances we will offer an alternative speaker, and will endeavour to notify our members by email of the change if possible.

**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

Mark Broadhead - Observers M.Coley and A.Wilkinson

Mark passed with a F1rst.

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It's that time of the year when the vintage vehicles come out to play! Here they are at a show in the Lake District a few years ago

# ***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) 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 has changed – see page ??**

## **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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.

# MYAM AGM

Our May meeting was our Annual General meeting. After the presentation of certificates to two associates who both passed the IAM test with a F1rst our chairman Paul opened the meeting with his report for the previous year, his first year as chairman.

He thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work throughout the year and mentioned the social meetings several of which were available via Zoom to members unable to attend the meetings at the Liberal club. For the Associates Ken Newton had taken on the role of liaising with the new associates. Our observers had both online and in person training and forums.

Paul also thanked retiring observers Bob Rowles, Roger Illingworth and Francis Lintott for their long service to the group and then congratulated Lesley Pollard on receiving the MYAM trophy for her service to the group.

Paul then passed the “baton” to Janice Haigh for the secretary’s report.

The committee had met nine times, six in person during the summer months and via Zoom during the winter months. There were no committee changes during the year but Lewis Wetherill is stepping down from his role as younger persons liaison although he remains a member of the committee.

There were no rule changes but we are still waiting updates to the IAMR rules.

Rosie Bricis then presented the treasurers report

	2024-25	2023-2024
<b>Income</b>	<b>3,811</b>	<b>3,591</b>
Subscriptions and gift aid	2,051	<b>1,856</b>
Associate fees	1,254	1,387
Interest, donations, misc	506	348
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>3,589</b>
Meetings	<b>1,190</b>	635
Training	747	716
Caravan	40	495
Profit on disposal of caravan	(1,680)	
<b>Travel</b>		109
<b>Stationery, printing, postage</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>405</b>
Equipment, clothing	<b>2,108</b>	<b>616</b>
Other	747	613
<b>Surplus for year</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>2</b>



Followed by the membership secretary's report presented by Paul as Graham Crawshaw was unable to attend.

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024	Change
<b>Total Number of Members</b>	299	306	-7
Full Members	227	237	-10
Associates	72	69	+3

Associates includes those yet to decide whether they want to start their ADT since Covid

Non renewals of full members

- Deaths (2)
- Long term illness / given up driving
- No longer want to be a member
- Cannot afford IAMR fee
- No replies to subscription emails

### Membership by Postcode

	Full Members	Associates	Total
Blackburn	1	-	1
Bradford (inc Keighley, Skipton, Settle)	45	14	59
Doncaster	1	-	1
Halifax	6	1	7
Harrogate	15	5	20
Huddersfield	11	3	14
Leeds	90	29	119
Sheffield	2	-	2
Wakefield (inc. Dewsbury)	51	20	71
York	4	-	4
Dudley	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>299</b>

### New Associate Locations April 2024 – March 2025

Postcode	Number of New Associates
BD (Bradford – inc Keighley, Skipton & Craven)	4
HX (Halifax)	1
HG (Harrogate)	4
LS (Leeds)	19
WF (Wakefield – inc Dewsbury)	7

On behalf of Chris Marrison Paul then presented the Chief Observers Report.

There had been 21 tests in the last year with 18 passes, 9 of them being F1RSTs. A pass rate of 85%. This compare with 22 tests with 18 passes and 4 F1RSTs in the previous year with a pas rate of 82%.

**Planned Events**

- Further Observer Forum/Strategy/Training meetings
- New Observer Training Programme
- Introduction of IAMR digital platform
- New Observer’s Handbook (paper and digital)

**Challenges**

- Observer recruitment / retention
- Observer demographics
- MYAM operational area
- IAMR requirements

The Group officers were then elected. There being no other nominations the existing Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were all re-elected.

One third of the committee members, Alan Jones (Events Manager), Graham Crawshaw (Membership Secretary) and Sally Lawrence (Speaker Secretary) were up for re-election and were re-elected along with a new committee member Jonathan Scott.

The chairman, Paul Macro, then gave the New Chairman’s address welcoming the re-appointees and the rest of the committee.

To the membership Paul asked if you could get involved with the group by becoming an Observer, helping out at our outdoor events and car shows, For our Social evenings he asked for suggestions for speakers or any other events that would be of interest to the membership as well as asking if anyone could help with our website and social media.

And finally, asking for the authority to increase the membership subscription if it became necessary. This was passed.

There being no further business the meeting ended and the membership was invited to participate in the buffet.

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**Pathfinder Participant Report**

Many of you will know that several of our observers also help at the Pathfinder events where pre-licence drivers between the ages of typically 15 to 16 undergo driver training through an intensive programme focusing on developing risk awareness, safe attitudes and high technical driving skills. The Pathfinder initiative was pioneered by the Under 17 Car Club.

These week long courses are held usually during school holidays and involve the under 17 drivers driving their parents car around different courses with an instructor, to experience various road situations along with class sessions to discuss various aspects of driving.

Last year 1345 past students taken from all the years the scheme has been running were invited to take part in a survey about the course. Those that replied confirmed that it had delivered substantial benefits compared to their contemporaries who had not experienced the course. They had an accident rate of 5%, compared with the national rate of over 20%, in their first year after passing the DVSA test.



**A Pathfinder class at one of the events in 2019**

The national pass rate for the DVSA test, in 2023/24 was 47% but amongst the pathfinder students the pass rate for their first attempt was 56% with 27% passing on their second attempt.

Additionally only 8% reported being convicted of a traffic offence compared to the national average of 13.6%.

The Pathfinder scheme has been running for 17 years with around 2100 students passing through the system and the organisers believe that:-

- Under 17 Driver Training in a regulated environment reduces collision and incident rates and increases pass rates.
- The reach of the U17CC Trust is necessarily limited and we would encourage Government public and road safety bodies to support us in providing this opportunity to every child.
- We contend that our approach is evidently more effective than other measures routinely suggested (curfews, age restrictions etc).
- Ensuring that the opportunity to participate in Pathfinder can be available to every child will require financial support but the payback to society and the economy will far outweigh the cost.

The Pathfinder Initiative is supported by many of the UK police forces and organisations in the UK including IAM Roadsmart

Having visited one of the sessions I was impressed by the standard of driving by the participants and their enthusiasm. Hopefully the scheme will still be running by the time my grandchildren are old enough to benefit.

**Ed**

## May Presentations



**Paul Macro presented certificates to two of our recent associate passes, Kathleen Dosell and Jane Lack, before the start of the AGM. Both Kathleen and Jane passed with a F1rst.**

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## A Clean Windscreen

I recently travelled down the M1 to visit a vintage radio event. Before setting off I'd cleaned the windscreen but by the time I came to return home it was covered with the usual dead insect remains and other "muck" and no amount of screen wash would shift them as I drove home up the M1. Being sunny didn't help either so at home I sprayed the windscreen with some window and glass cleaner from a well known supermarket chain to see if that would help clear the screen. A quick wipe down and operating the washers and wipers and the screen was clear again so it may be worth keeping a bottle of the glass cleaner in the car to remove any stubborn deposits on the windscreen. It's also useful for cleaning the inside of the windscreen an often neglected area when cleaning your car.

## **New data reveals huge cost of poor fuel economy for business fleets**

- Research shows that companies whose workers participate in driving efficiency training see up to 14% improvement on fuel consumption, with the potential to save thousands at the pump and on tyre wear.
- There are also huge environmental savings to be had: if a fleet of 100 adopted 'eco driving', 69 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be cut; the equivalent produced driving a car around the world 14 times.
- 'Eco-driving' helps drivers develop a calmer and more efficient driving style, helping to reduce collisions and making the UK's roads safer.

New business driver data lays bare how modestly sized fleets are losing tens of thousands of pounds each year through poor driving, and how companies with larger fleets are potentially wasting more than £70,000 a year. Worrying habits, such as excessive speed, sharp acceleration, and sudden braking, are all significant contributors to draining the margins of fleet operators, significantly increasing the cost of routine maintenance and tyre wear, in addition to fuel bills.

The research [i](#), collated through data from 4,500 participants in road safety charity IAM RoadSmart's on-road 'Driving for Work' training courses delivered throughout 2023 and 2024, shows that companies whose workers participate in driving efficiency training see up to a 14% improvement in their miles-per-gallon on average. This means a fleet of 100 vehicles can save up to £53,890 a year on fuel costs. Fleet operators can also see annual savings on tyre outlay of up to £14,400 from driving efficiently, meaning there are potential savings of nearly £70,000 a year, excluding initial training costs. Furthermore, eco driving can provide additional benefits to firms' environmental goals, with the potential to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for a fleet of 100 by 69 tonnes a year; the equivalent produced driving a car around the world 14 times.

Eco-driving, which is a driving style focused on maximising fuel efficiency and minimising environmental impact, can also enhance safer driving. Work journeys account for nearly one in three deaths on UK roads. In addition, company drivers rack up an estimated 1.3 million penalties a year, costing almost £100m.

Nicholas Lyes, Policy and Standards Director at IAM RoadSmart said: "In the face of high fuel prices, many companies are taking steps to improve the fuel economy of their fleets, such as by investing in hybrid and electric vehicles and conducting regular vehicle maintenance. While these are positive developments, a considerable number are failing to address one of the key

contributors towards poor fuel economy – poor and potentially unsafe driving habits. These include behaviours such as driving too fast, accelerating sharply, braking suddenly and poor gear discipline, which have a significant impact on fuel economy across fleets. Even loading a vehicle incorrectly will impact on how quickly your vehicle gets through a litre of fuel.

“The data from our Driving for Work course shows that companies not engaging in training are essentially pouring money down the drain by letting negative driver behaviours go unaddressed. By investing in driving efficiency training, business can take impactful steps towards improving driver habits, and begin unlocking the big savings that come in doing so.”

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## **Farewell to Long Wave**

After over 90 years of broadcasting the Long Wave transmitter at Droitwich, just south of Birmingham, is set to close down at the end of June 2025. It has been a feature of UK radio broadcasting since its construction in 1934. The two Long Wave transmitters in Scotland that extend the coverage into Scotland will also be closing down.

Back in the 1950s it used to transmit the Light Programme, renamed Radio 2 in 1967, on 1500 metres until 1978 when Radio 2 was moved to VHF only and Radio 4, formerly called the Home Service, moved to Long Wave as well as VHF. Whereas the VHF services require many transmitters to cover the UK only one Long Wave transmitter is needed to cover most of the UK with two additional transmitters to cover parts of Scotland.

The number of listeners to the Long Wave service has been declining and many radios do not have a Long Wave option. The radio in my current car doesn’t feature a LW setting. In fact it must be over 20 years since I had a car with a long wave option.

Back in 1968 the physics teacher at school organised a visit to the station for a few of the members of the schools radio club. I took along a small crystal set and was able to listen to Radio 2 while standing next to the long wave transmitter. It was a very impressive building with many people working there to maintain the transmitters (Radio 1 and Radio 4 on medium wave were also broadcast from the site). Now it is a shadow of its former self and it is probable that once all the radio services from the site have ceased the site will be sold off probably for housing.

It has been said that closing this transmitter is a big mistake as it is the only transmitter that covers virtually the whole country from a single site. How could the public be kept informed if the internet in the UK and all the lines to the VHF and DAB transmitters have gone down?

# And Finally.....

Outside Bristol Zoo there is a carpark for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years, it's parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant. The fees were £1.40 for cars and £7 for buses.

Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't show up; so the Zoo Management called the City Council and asked it to send them another parking agent.

The Council did some research and replied that the carpark was the Zoo's own responsibility.

The Zoo advised the Council that the attendant was a City employee.

The City Council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the City payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain or France or Italy ... is a man who'd apparently had a ticket machine installed completely on his own and then had simply begun to show up every day, commencing to collect and keep the parking fees, estimated at about £560 per day — for 25 years.

Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over 5 million pounds ... and no one even knows his name.

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## **This Month's Teaser**













When did the original MGB begin and end production?

## **Last Month's Teaser**

Last month I asked "When was the separate licence for a car radio abolished?" And the answer is February 1971. This led to many more cars being fitted with a radio.



## Your Committee

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Paul Macro</b> 07960 410046		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Janice Haigh</b>		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rosie Bricis</b> 07579 965029		myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Graham Crawshaw</b>		myam.membership(at)outlook.com
<b>Younger Members</b>	<b>Position vacant</b>		myam.youngermembers(at)outlook.com
<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	<b>Sally Lawrence</b>		myam.speakersecretary(at)outlook.com
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<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Lewis Wetherill</b> 07359 630705		
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Jonathan Scott</b>		

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.