

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

March 2024

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** **Pathfinder Course 2nd – 6th April 2024**
- Page 7** **Directions to the Birkenshaw Liberal Club**
- Page 8** **February Meeting – The Pathfinder Project**
- Page 9** **Classic Cars**
- Page 10** **Has The Electric Car Bubble Burst?**
- Page 11** **Car Shows – Volunteers Needed**
- Page 12** **Meet the Committee**
- Page 13** **IAM News Releases and Tips**
Stay Alert On The Road This Winter
- Page 14** **Presentations**
- Page 15** **And Finally.....**
This Month's Teaser and the Answer to Last Month's Teaser
- Page 16** **Your Committee Contact Details**



Cover Photo – Hallgrímskirkja Church Reykjavik

The Hallgrímskirkja Church is the Lutheran Church of Iceland parish church in Reykjavik. It is the largest church in Iceland and was completed in 1986. It is named after the Icelandic poet and cleric Hallgrímur Peturson (1614 – 1674)

Photo taken by David Wevill

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Monday 4th March 2024 8pm	MYAM Social Evening Richard Gladman - IAMR Chief Examiner	Birkenshaw Liberal Club 10 Croft Street Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT
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Monday 8th April 2024 8pm	TBA*	Birkenshaw Liberal Club
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Monday 13th May 2024 8pm	MYAM AGM	Birkenshaw Liberal Club
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*We are hoping to have a speaker from the West Yorkshire Fire Service Fire Training centre at Birkenshaw as the speaker for our April Meeting but he needs to ensure his availability on our meeting date. See next month's newsletter for more details.

Our March meeting will feature Richard Gladman the IAMR chief examiner. It should be a useful meeting for associates who are about to take their ADT and for those of us who took their tests many years ago so please come along armed with questions for Richard.

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.

Can you fill this space?

Do you have any photos or could you write a short article to fill a space in the newsletter? I am always looking for items or suggestions for items for the newsletter and would welcome contributions from our membership. Ideally on a motoring related subject but anything that you feel could be of interest to the membership.

Send any items to me at the address on the committee page.

From the Editor

Have you ever had one of those days when nothing appears to go right? I've just had one.

It all started on Tuesday when I received a text from BRI reminding me of an appointment at 9:10am the following Friday. I had no recollection of making the appointment so rang the hospital which confirmed the appointment at the ENT department. I realised this must be related to the problem I had with my voice last year. Now the few times I have had to go to BRI I have used my bus pass to get there and back as parking at BRI is bad and not knowing how long I'd be there it's difficult to know how much to pay for parking but with the appointment time I wouldn't be able to use my bus pass so Caroline took me there and I'd use my bus pass to get home.

I arrived at the hospital well before the appointment time but at the reception desk they had no record of my appointment. After making a phone call I was informed that the text had been sent in error and the "appointment" was for the doctors to review my case with a view to discharging me.

So I set off to catch the bus home only to find that the first bus rejected my bus pass as it is only valid after 9:30. So a 25 minute wait for the next bus that arrived at 9:30. I thought this would stop at the Interchange but it stopped in the street, changed drivers then set off past the Interchange and onto its final destination. Having realised I was going in the wrong direction I got off, crossed the road and caught a bus back into Bradford and was told by the driver that the Interchange was closed – great! I got off the bus in the city centre walked through all the building works and closed attractions to finally find a bus stop I recognised to catch the bus back home after a journey taking the best part of two hours. A waste of a morning because of a text sent in error.

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

Keith Wiggins

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

No new passes this month

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Pathfinder Course 2nd - 6th April 2024

Marshalls are needed for our next Pathfinder course please at Rufford Airfield East between the two live runways (YO23 3QA).

Someone able to move the cones about, with help and supervision, as the course is changed during the week for various road layouts.

Teas/coffees and lunch provided...good company and lots of fresh air!

If you could help for a day or even longer please contact -
Ian Goring on –

01904 700489

07988 740274

ian.goring@btinternet.com

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.



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

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

Directions to the Birkenshaw Liberal Club

10 Croft Street, Birkenshaw, Bradford, BD11 2HT



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



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



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

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

Our meetings are held in the function room.

February Meeting - The Pathfinder Project

MYAM have supported the Pathfinder project for under 17 drivers for many years with several members volunteering to assist. For our February social meeting we had the privilege of a talk on the Pathfinder project from the local organiser Ian Goring.

Originally established in 1976 as the under 17 Car Club it is split into three organisations.

1. **The Club** itself which meets 30 times a year and is aimed at 11 to 17 year olds.
2. **The Pathfinder Initiative**, formed in 2008, focuses on 15 to 17 year olds in an intensive 5 day course.
3. **The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust** which manages the operations of the organisations. Charitable status was achieved in 2012.

In 2018 Pathfinder came to Yorkshire running courses at different venues, initially at Driffield Training Centre for the first two years moving to Tockwith Motor Sports Centre for the next four years and in 2024 the courses are to be held at Rufforth.



Ian Goring

The Yorkshire courses are supported by IAM RoadSmart, Safer Roads Humber and North Yorkshire Road Safety Team Partnership with instructors taken from local IAM groups.

Ian gave a statistic that fewer than 1 in 10 full licence holders are aged between 17 and 24 but they account for 1 in 7 of all reported conditions on Britain's roads and over 1 in 6 collisions in which someone is killed or seriously injured.

However since the Pathfinder project started 1895 students have participated and from the Department of Transport data 421 of those would have been in a collision but

because of Pathfinder that figure has been reduced to 100 meaning approximately 320 young people are still alive.

During the course the students are assessed with three competence check sheets ranging from a basic check at the start of the course and increasing in complexity as they progress.

Each day there is a classroom session where different aspects of driving are discussed followed by a practical session in their parent's car with one of the instructors. Their parent also sits in the car with instructions not to interfere with the driving!

Once they have passed the course many come back on future courses and help with the marshalling and they can come back on a following course after 10am and use the facilities without instruction.

In addition if they take and pass their Advanced Driving test within three years of taking the Pathfinder course they can apply to the Under 17 Car Club to receive £100.

As you can see on page 5 the project is looking for volunteers to help at the next course in April. The course is being held at Rufforth Airfield East between the two live runways. Please note that the location given in last month's newsletter was for the previous course location. Contact Ian Goring for further details or to volunteer.

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Classic Cars

Did you know that there are almost 340,000 cars over 40 years old according to data from DVLA. Of these around one in eight are declared off the road by their keepers.

Cars over 40 years old are exempt from Vehicle Excise Duty and the need to have an MOT. However you still have to apply for VED but the cost is zero.

To gain the exemption you have to wait for the first day of April, and then as long as your car was registered 40 years before the first of January you can apply for road tax exemption from thereafter.

Another useful thing to know is that cars over 40 years old are also exempt from emission zone charges.

Has The Electric Car Bubble Burst?

Every time I visit the internet I get a news feed and many of the items relate to the state of the electric car market. In spite of being encouraged to go electric there seems to be a significant reluctance for many people to shift from petrol and diesel. Many reasons are given but the high initial cost and the poor state of the charging network are high on the list of reasons.

Several of the major manufacturers are cutting back on EV production due to the demand stalling and many are having to discount models by up to 25% in order to improve sales. This comes at a time when the government are introducing penalties for manufacturers who fail to achieve the required 22% percentage of car sales to be EVs in 2024. Tesla has warned of lower growth this year which “spooked” investors so badly that the company lost more than a quarter of its value in January.

It appears that the majority of EV sales are to companies with less than 25% of sales being to private buyers. Sales to private buyers are also falling. Presumably those private buyers who want, and can afford, a new EV have already bought one and it is becoming more difficult to sell to the remaining drivers who would normally buy second hand cars. The removal of government incentives on the purchase of EVs and chargers may also be a reason for the drop in sales to private buyers.

Many companies also keep their company cars for 3 years while they are still under manufacturer’s warranty then dispose of them through the motor trade. This may be one reason why secondhand values of EVs are falling as there appears to be a glut of used EVs. There is also the question of how has the battery been treated during its time as a company car. Often company cars get the minimum of maintenance to reduce the cost to the companies. It is also possible that the battery may have been abused during the time it belonged to a company. A secondhand EV with a dodgy battery would be difficult to sell and with the high cost of replacement it may be effectively a write off.

A Lords recent committee report said the fall in demand was linked to high prices and slow rollout of charging. The committee also blamed Rowan Atkinson who, in an article in the Guardian, described electric cars as bit soulless.

I’ve also read an article that stated that over half of electric car drivers have a second car powered by petrol or diesel which they use for longer journeys over 60 miles due

to concerns about finding a reliable charging point coupled with range anxiety. Under those circumstances to me an EV seems like an expensive way to get a town runabout.

This issue with finding a charging point on a long journey does seem to be an issue as it almost certainly means having to plan a long journey in an EV and having to factor in waiting for a charging point to become available and the time it takes to charge. It's all very well saying you can have a cup of coffee while you are charging but there is a limit to how much coffee you can drink while waiting for the car to charge and there would often be little opportunity to leave the car for said cup of coffee while you are waiting in the queue for the charger.

As the number of EV on our roads increases there is the possibility that the charging network will not have the corresponding increase in chargers to cope. The charging network has already significantly missed the government's targets.

I'd be interested to hear if any of our members have experience of private or company car use of EVs and how easy is it to charge an EV away from home.

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Car Shows – Volunteers Needed

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter the committee is currently deciding which car shows in our area we will be attending. These shows help promote IAM RoadSmart and our local group and are one way we attract new associates.

At the shows we will be setting up our stand using our gazebo instead of our caravan we used to use. Setting up the gazebo needs four people hence we need volunteers to help set up and to man the stand.



Once we have which car shows we will be attending I will put them in the Forthcoming Events but if you wish to volunteer to help out at any of the future events please contact our events manager, Alan Jones, at the email address on page 16.

Meet The Committee

Sally Lawrence, Speaker Secretary



With living in Bradford I think I am now one of the Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) Committee members closest to the geographical centre of our region. But, in the late 1970's I found the Leeds group recruiting stand at a local agricultural show and was invited along to one of their weekend skills check days. My first training drive was on a hot sunny day and the waiting observers had hoped to be out in an open-topped car - so I rolled back the roof of my new Citroen Dyanne and off we happily went!

Whilst practising for my advanced test I completed one of my many house moves and found myself closer to the Wakefield group so I transferred to them. However I have lived in many of the areas absorbed by MYAM since passing my Advanced test with the old Wakefield group (led by John Saville and tested by Ron Elderkin - revered names from the past!). Ron tested applicants in Leeds and we'd only gone round the first corner when he saw me cancel my direction indicator and pulled me up on it asking if they were self-cancelling - but they weren't! I remember approaching Huby after working my way to the front of a tail of slow cars. Ron urged me to overtake before the 30mph zone started but I disagreed as there wouldn't have been time to reduce my speed after the manoeuvre. I passed first time anyway! In those days, as soon as we'd passed, we were encouraged to 'replace' ourselves by taking on our own Associate and I was pleased to successfully train my Associate before taking 'maternity leave' with my first child - and the resulting 'baby brain'.

In addition to the Leeds then Wakefield group - in a similar way to Bob's story - I then transferred from Huddersfield group to the new one covering Dewsbury and Batley. Never as an active member, other than the monthly meetings, due to 'home responsibilities' and other volunteering positions as Chair of the newly formed local Credit Union, and also Speaker Secretary with the local Women's Institute (WI). On retiring from working as a Local Government Officer I took on more volunteering - as Bradford organiser for Mensa social events and, putting my WI skills to use, taking on the vacant role as Speaker Secretary for MYAM. I totally agree with the majority findings of our recent full members survey and I am happy to look for driving and/or transport related speakers. Please come along to the monthly meetings and support me and your association 😊

Stay Alert On The Road This Winter

With dark, cold mornings in abundance right now, it can be hard to get going once the alarm goes off, especially if you haven't had a good night's sleep. Extreme tiredness can also lead to microsleeping. These are short episodes of drowsiness or sleep that could last a fraction of a second or up to 30 seconds. Any vehicle travelling at 70 mph will travel 31 metres per second, giving plenty of time to cause a serious crash during a micro-sleep.

IAM RoadSmart has some top tips to keep you alert.

- Speeding, using a mobile phone, drinking and drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt and careless driving are responsible for a large proportion of incidents and are considered 'the fatal five'. Fatigue is a serious contributor to careless driving.
- Make sure you take regular rest breaks to split up the journey, especially when travelling on a long, boring stretch of motorway. The simple rule is don't drive or ride tired; stop at least every 100 miles or two hours of driving BEFORE fatigue or drowsiness sets in. Make sure the break is at least 15 minutes long; getting out of the car and walking around will help.
- If necessary, plan an overnight stop. If you feel too fatigued to carry on, then book yourself into a hotel at the next service station and sleep it off. Wake up fresh with a good breakfast and carry on your journey. It's good to note that a caffeine high may be a quick fix, but it is not a long-term solution and certainly not a substitute for proper sleep.
- You're bound to be tired after a full day at work, so avoid setting out on a long journey after you have finished the day. It's best to start your journey earlier when you're more alert.
- If possible, avoid travelling between the two peak times for sleepiness. These are between 3am and 5am and 2pm and 4pm.

- If you have taken prescribed medication, then seek advice from your GP as to whether you should be driving or riding. If bought over the counter, then read the instructions on the pack or speak to a pharmacist.

IAM RoadSmart Chief Examiner Richard Gladman says: “Even the fittest of us need regular sleep to perform at our highest standards. Driving and riding requires full concentration, and if you are tired, your ability to concentrate is reduced. Our internal body clock is usually set to deal with our normal lifestyle; extra care needs to be taken when driving or riding during a time we would normally be at rest. Stop, rehydrate, and rest if you need to. Remember caffeine is no substitute for rest and should not be relied upon for concentration.”

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Presentations



At our February social meeting Janice presented Vincent Cranmer with his certificate and at the Observer meeting she presented Mick Coley with the MYAM Trophy.

And Finally.....



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This Month's Teaser

I recently had to replace the CMOS battery in my computer meaning I had to reset the time and date as it defaults to 1/1/2009. I reset the time but couldn't reset the date to 28/12/2023 until I realised why. Once I'd realised what was happening it was easy to reset the date but why couldn't I initially reset it?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "According to DVLA how much was paid for the most expensive private number plate sold by auction in 2023?" £112,010 was paid for H1NDU, a bit more than I paid for mine!

Your Committee

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Secretary & Vice Chairman	Paul Macro 07960 410046		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis 07579 965029		myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
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Due to computer hacking and high levels of spamming we have had to remove the hyperlinks to our e-mail addresses and have replaced the @ symbol with (at) so you will need to retype the address in the correct e-mail format, i.e. replace (at) with @, with no spaces.