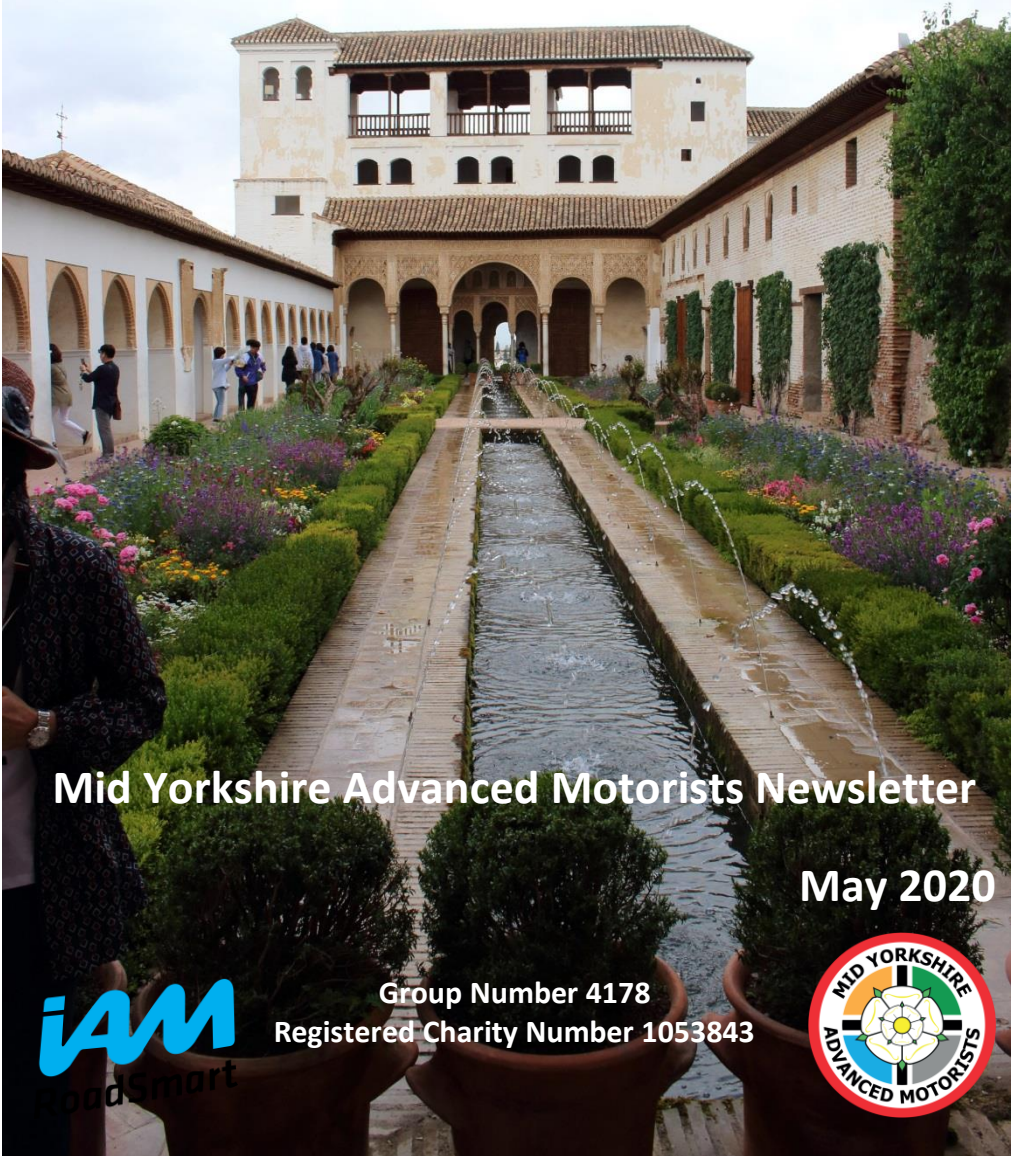


# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

May 2020



Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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### **Cover Photo –The Alhambra Palace**



No not the Alhambra in Bradford but the Alhambra Palace in Granada. Originally constructed as a small fortress in the 9th century, and rebuilt in the 13th century the Alhambra in Granada was converted into a royal palace in 1333. The site, which covers an area of 35 acres, on the top of a hill overlooking the Plain of Granada is a Unesco World Heritage Site.

# FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

## MEETINGS CANCELLED

In view of the latest 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

As mentioned last month the deadline for committee nominations has been extended to May 22<sup>nd</sup> and to prepare for the AGM it is our intention to publish the minutes from the 2019 AGM in the next newsletter.

In the mean time you can keep up to date on our website and Facebook page.



## FROM THE EDITOR

How are you coping with the current lockdown? I can't see it being lifted for several months so we have to get used to staying at home and keeping our distance from people when we go out for our permitted reasons. Our house overlooks a valley with public footpaths and we've seen significantly more people walking their dogs than before.

We have to be thankful to the NHS workers for their dedication during our hour of need. I haven't spent much time in hospital in my life but just over 10 years ago I spent a few days in hospital and all the staff at the sharp end of the service were superb.

We must not forget all the other people who we often take for granted, but in these uncertain times perform vital services. These include, in no particular order of importance, postal workers, bin men, shop workers, milk men, delivery drivers and many others. All of these people deserve recognition for the work they do and are continuing to do in these uncertain times. Our local Amazon delivery driver told me the number of packages he's delivering has doubled. Let us hope that when things are back to normal the government recognises the valuable contribution that all these workers, vital to the running of the country, have made and takes steps to reward them.

Later in this newsletter I have written a slightly tongue in cheek lockdown diary based loosely on real life events during the lockdown. It is tinged with a little sadness as just after the Easter weekend our beloved dog, Gina, died after collapsing on her morning walk. She had been part of our family since July 2005 when she joined us as a 3 month old puppy. The picture shows her on one of her favourite walks where her aim was to find the stickiest mud and jump into it.



Have you been doing anything different or have had any interesting experiences, that are suitable for publication, to pass away the time during the lockdown? Just send them to me at the address on page 16.

### 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

No new associates this month

# Congratulations

No tests this month.

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

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## From the DVLA - New rules on MOT testing for light vehicles

Due to the unfolding COVID-19 situation, cars and vans and motorcycles due their MOT from 30 March 2020 will have their MOT extended by 6 months.

This will continue until confirmed otherwise.

This will allow vehicle owners to continue to be able to get to work where this absolutely cannot be done from home or do essential shopping.

Vehicles must be kept in a roadworthy condition and drivers can be prosecuted if they drive an unsafe vehicle.

We have [published guidance for garages](#).

We've also published 2 guides for the public:

- [guidance on MOTs due before 30 March](#)
- [guidance on MOTs due from 30 March](#)

# 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)**

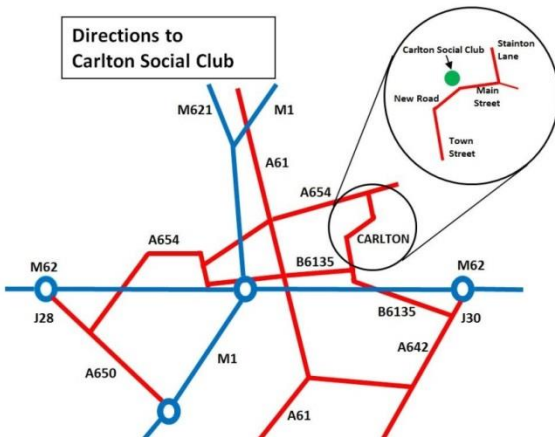
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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.

# 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.

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.

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

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

# IAM Driver Skills Days at Croft Circuit Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020



The 2020 schedule for IAM RoadSmart's ever-popular Skills Days has been announced. They are the perfect way to sharpen up driving or riding skills in your own car at top circuits around the UK. The closest one to our Group is at Croft Circuit

Skills Days are open to anyone with a full car licence and any road-legal car. You do not have to be an IAM RoadSmart member to take part.

Working one-to-one in a car with a dedicated instructor, Skills Days are an enjoyable and informative day out where drivers sharpen their skills and learn more about the capability of their vehicle.

Expect to learn about your own capabilities and that of your machine; entry, apex and exit points, how they vary from road to circuit; where to brake, when and how much to brake, how it feels in an emergency; controlled, progressive, smooth cornering; how to use the accelerator or throttle to add stability to the car when cornering.

*The experience is invaluable!*

No matter what they have driven, from runabout, 4x4 to supercar, IAM RoadSmart members have enjoyed this unique experience and been surprised by what they have learnt in the just a few hours.



*Guests are welcome and can enjoy the freedom of the pit lane and watch the action from the pit lane wall. Make a real day out of it!*

Car Skills Day calendar 2020 £135, using your own car (half day: morning session is from 08.45 - 12.30 and afternoon session is from 13.15 - 16.45)

For more information on the skills day call the IAM RoadSmart team on 0300 303 1134

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: New bookings are suspended until travel restrictions are lifted.**

We have included the above notice about the Croft Skills Day as, at the time of writing, it has not been cancelled or postponed. However, because of the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, it is likely that it will be at the very least postponed. We would hope that more information will be available for the June newsletter.

## **Lockdown Diary**

### **Day 1**

Boris has told us all to stay at home and not to go out unless it's essential, for exercise, medical or once a week for shopping. I guess it's all down to how you define essential.

Take dog out for her walk.

Decide to make a list of all the jobs that need doing to stop us getting bored.

### **Day 2**

Take dog out for her walk.

It's a sunny day so make a start on the garden, cut the grass, chop down a few bushes ready to revamp the front garden. Realise the local tip is closed so the debris will have to be stored.

### **Day 3**

Take dog out for her walk. Police car passes us but doesn't stop to interrogate us.

Take another look at the list which seems to be growing.

Decide to try to fix the small leak from the cistern in the toilet. It's been like that for several months but is getting worse. Remove cistern, tighten up all the fixings, replace it and no leak. Tick it off the list.

### **Day 4**

Take dog out for her walk. I'm sure she could take herself as she knows the route and can find her way back home.

Have to go to post box to post a letter. Try to find dark glasses and false beard to avoid being seen going out for a second time in one day. Can't find them, so decide to risk it. Nobody around so I've got away with it!

### **Day 5**

Time to go shopping. Drive on deserted roads to supermarket. Last time we went, there were bare shelves where the toilet rolls used to be. This time get there just after it's opened. Walk in with trolley, sanitise hands and trolley handle, get our shopping plus shopping for Caroline's parents who, being over 80, are confined to their home. Queue up to pay. Then home to sort out shopping.

Take dog out for her walk.

Sit down to attempt puzzles in paper.

### **Day 6**

Take dog out for her walk.

Take a look at the DVDs on the shelf and think why not watch a few of these while we're at home. How long will it take before we have to watch The Sound of Music (it was a freebie when I bought the player)?

### **Day 7**

Take dog out for her walk.

Decide to tidy up the study (well that's what the estate agent called it when we bought the house). Move stuff into dining room. Shuffle remaining stuff around in study. Looks good as I can now see the carpet and I can move around without risking life and limb. A good result.

### **Day 8**

Take dog out for her walk. You're beginning to see a pattern developing.

Pleased with yesterday's tidying up until I look in the dining room. That now needs tidying.

The study is now clear so I can use that to store the stuff while I tidy up the dining room.

This could go on for a long time.

### **Day 9**

Take dog out for her walk.

The dining room and study are now back to their previous state but not quite as chaotic as before. Decide that the loft and garage also could do with a good clear up. Take a look in loft at the 19 years of accumulated boxes and other items. Close loft hatch and decide to leave the pleasure of sorting it out until later. It's also cold up there. Look in garage and make a similar decision.

### **Day 10**

It's sunny today so take dog for longer walk.

Spot neighbours sat outside their house. Stop to talk to them keeping 4 metres away as their daughter is also taking her dog for a walk and has called round to see them and is standing 2 metres away from everyone. Could semaphore be a more appropriate form of communication?

### **Day 11**

It's a sunny day today so after taking the dog for her walk, decide to refurbish the garden seat which has been stored in the shed since October. The old varnish needs removing so take it apart and get out the sander and start sanding down the wood. After one piece the sander stops working and not relishing the prospect of hand sanding nine pieces of wood decide I need to fix it.

Open it up and try to work out how to remove the motor. Remove the motor and now need to find out how to dismantle it without losing any of the parts. It slips on the work bench and the brushes fly out onto the floor propelled by the springs. Find the brushes then the rest of the motor falls to the floor. There's now a broken wire to contend with.

Take the damaged bits into the house and re-solder the wire onto the connector it should be connected to. Check the board with all the connectors on and find a damaged track. Out with the soldering iron and re-solder it. Reassemble the sander and switch on. Whoopee it's working. Finish removing all the old varnish, then oil all the wood. Leave it to dry, I'll re-assemble it tomorrow.

### **To Be Continued**

## **IAM News Releases and Tips**

### **Coronavirus: what does it mean for cars and motorists?**



The current situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) is fast-moving, and this week's IAM RoadSmart tips have been written by Simon Bolingbroke from Chelmsford Advanced Motorists group offering advice on what the coronavirus pandemic means for cars and motorists.

#### **Will I be able to get my car serviced and repaired?**

It's likely you'll be able to book your car in for servicing, repair or maintenance, but you may end up waiting longer for an appointment or must travel further. The National Franchised Dealers Association (NFDA) has called on the government to ensure "essential repair and maintenance services for all vehicles will not be closed as part of the anticipated wider closures of shops in the UK."

Sue Robinson, NFDA director said: “Ensuring that essential vehicles remain in a roadworthy condition will reduce the likelihood of mechanical failures and other incidents, ensuring that vital journeys can be made and services fulfilled.”

### **Will coronavirus cause fuel shortages?**

According to Brian Madderson, chairman of the Petrol Retailers Association, motorists have nothing to worry about here. He said his organisation has been in contact with its equivalent in Italy, where the virus is some weeks ahead. It reports Italian fuel sales are down around 60 per cent due to the travel restrictions. “It is the reverse of panic buying”, he said.

In the UK, Brian says the picture is “mixed”. Fuel sales in urban areas are remaining steady due to reduced journey numbers being counteracted by the number of travellers switching from public transport to cars. More transient filling stations, such as motorways service stations, have reported a slump in demand as fewer motorists embark on long-distance journeys.

### **How hygienic are petrol stations?**

Motorists are being urged to use gloves when filling up with petrol or diesel. The Petrol Retailers Association says all its members are offering gloves for motorists to use at the pumps. Brian Madderson said that while petrol pump nozzles are cleaned every day they can't be cleaned after every use, so pump handles could pose a real risk of transferring the virus.

He added that hand sanitiser is being offered to customers and staff, where available, but he warned petrol retailers are struggling to deep clean forecourts because cleaning companies are prioritising front-line services such as the NHS and care homes.

He said some fuel retailers are taking further steps, with a small number refusing to accept cash due to concerns over contaminated notes, although he stressed that with comparatively few motorists carrying cash, it's unlikely too many forecourts will become 'plastic-only'.

To keep up-to-date with the latest developments from IAM RoadSmart, please visit [www.iamroadsmart.com](http://www.iamroadsmart.com).

## **How to keep your car healthy during lockdown – tips from IAM RoadSmart**

During the current lockdown, with all but essential travel banned, it is easy to forget about your car. It is not often it will sit for such a long period without being used, aside perhaps

for a yearly rest in an airport parking facility while you head off on your holidays. Most of the time, it's likely used on a regular if not daily basis, travelling to and from work, the shops and visiting friends and family. So how will your car survive during weeks of inactivity, while we all stay home and stay safe?

The important thing here is not to worry – your health and that of the people around you is paramount. If you can keep well, the car will still be there when we get out of the other side of this situation. Above all else, take notice of government advice and stay indoors wherever possible.

However, if you do feel you need to check your car – and if you can safely access it while maintaining your two metre distance from other people - Richard Gladman, Head of Driving and Riding Standards at IAM RoadSmart, has these useful tips on how to help ensure your vehicle remains in good condition while it is not being used:

### **Tyres**

Check your tyre pressures and make sure they are at the recommended settings. A tyre that is partially deflated will put extra stress on the sidewall and may cause lasting damage if left that way for an extended period. If you have space, roll the car forward or backwards slightly to change the area where the stress on the sidewall is greatest. Keeping the pressure right will mean you are ready to go as soon as restrictions are lifted.

### **Handbrake**

If left for a long period of time a handbrake can stick on. To avoid this, sit in the car, apply the footbrake to ensure no movement and release the handbrake. If possible, move the car slightly before re-applying the brake, just to vary the part of the drum or disc where the pads are gripping.

### **Battery**

A modern car battery which is in good condition should stand up well to periods of inactivity and a modern car will shut down most systems if it detects inactivity for a long period of time. There may however be a small drain due to an alarm system. It is also possible to lose some charge if the terminals are dirty or corroded, so make sure they are clean if you're able.

To compensate for any power drainage over time, try connecting a maintenance charger which will charge and discharge the battery as necessary. These are available for home delivery from a range of online retailers. Any cheap modern charger will also do the trick. Switch it on every couple of weeks until the battery is fully charged.

If you do not have access to a power socket, there are some solar devices available that will do the same job without the need for mains power. Again, these are available for delivery from online retailers. As a last resort, if you are worried, you can start the car up

and allow it to run stationary for 15 minutes or so every couple of weeks. This is not ideal, and certainly not good for the environment, but if you do need to do it, make sure all electrical systems are switched off before you start. If they are on you will likely drain more power than you put in. Be careful if your car is a diesel when doing this, as slow running can harm your diesel particulate filter. So you may need to increase the revs slightly to prevent this - but be mindful of your neighbours, after all, they are trapped in too!

**Richard Gladman said:** “It is vital that we follow government advice and travel only when it’s essential. If you can safely do these few precautionary checks while still keeping social distance, they will help make the transition to normality easier when the restrictions are relaxed. If you are not able to do them, a family member or friend can do them on your behalf, but only if they can do so without breaching the terms of the lockdown.”

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**Quarantine Day 831.  
Just been down the M25**

# And Finally.....

Due to the current financial situation caused by the Corona Virus and slowdown in the economy, the Government has decided to implement a scheme to put workers of 50 years of age and older on early, mandatory retirement, thus creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

This program will be known as RAPE (Retire Aged People Early).

Persons selected to be RAPED can apply to the Government to be considered for the SHAFT program (Special Help After Forced Termination).

Persons who have been RAPED and SHAFTED will be reviewed under the SCREW program (System Covering Retired-Early Workers).

A person may be RAPED once, SHAFTED twice and SCREWED as many times as the Government deems appropriate.

Persons who have been RAPED could get AIDS (Additional Income for Dependents & Spouse) or HERPES (Half Earnings for Retired Personnel Early Severance).

Obviously persons who have AIDS or HERPES will not be SHAFTED or SCREWED any further by the Government.

Persons who are not RAPED and are staying on will receive as much \*\*\*\* (Special High Intensity Training) as possible. The Government has always prided themselves on the amount of \*\*\*\* they give our citizens.

Should you feel that you do not receive enough \*\*\*\*, please bring this to the attention of your MP, who has been trained to give you all the \*\*\*\* you can handle.

Sincerely,

The Committee for Economic Value of Individual Lives (E.V.I.L.)

PS - Due to Corona Virus, recent budget cuts and the rising cost of electricity, gas and oil, as well as current market conditions, The Light at the End of the Tunnel has been turned off.

## **This Month's Teaser**

When were the AA and RAC formed?

## **Last Month's Teaser**

Last month I asked. "What cash prize do the Best in Show winners at Crufts receive?" The answer is surprisingly low at £100.

# Your Committee

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Chief Observer	David Rushfirth	See above	myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		

Due to computer hacking and high levels of spamming we have had to remove the hyperlinks to our e-mail addresses and have replaced the @ symbol with (at) so you will need to retype the address in the correct e-mail format, i.e. replace (at) with @, with no spaces.

## URGENT REQUEST

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