

# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

November 2023



Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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### **Cover Photo – Steampunk Weekend at Haworth**

The first weekend in October saw hundreds of Steampunk enthusiasts converge on Haworth. Here we see James, Dee and Steve, from Leicestershire, who are regulars at the event which has been running since 2013. Some amazing costumes were on show raising funds for the Manorlands hospice in Oxenhope.

## Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

<b>Monday 6th November 8pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> The AEC Routemaster Pt 2 Graham Crawshaw	Birkenshaw Liberal Club 10 Croft Street Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT
<b>Monday 4th December 8pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> Christmas Quiz, Raffle and Buffet	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.

### Christmas Meeting

For our Christmas meeting we will be having our usual quiz, raffle and buffet but in order to ensure we have enough food to go round we need to know how many people intend coming to the meeting.

We would also like to extend the invitation to friends and family who will be most welcome to participate but we would appreciate letting us know the names of those attending and if you have any specific dietary requirements.

Therefore if you intend attending the meeting can you let Janice, or myself, know who is coming and any dietary requirements by Friday 17th November at the email addresses on page 16.

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### Advance Notice

For our social meeting in March next year we have managed to book the IAM RoadSmart chief examiner Richard Gladman as our speaker. This should be an interesting and informative meeting especially for those associates about to take their Advanced Driving Test.

## From the Editor

It was our younger grandson's birthday early in October and on the Sunday we all took a trip on the KWVR to Keighley stopping in Haworth on the return journey. In Haworth we discovered it was the annual Steampunk\* weekend with the streets full of people in amazing costumes. They come from far and wide to participate and have obviously taken a lot of effort with their outfits. The front cover picture was taken at Haworth station (and yes I did ask permission to use the photo for the front cover and will be sending them a copy of the newsletter).

The nights are drawing in and we are experiencing foggy mornings meaning switching the headlights on when visibility is less than 100m and also switching the fog lights on. As I take our elder grandson to school I'm still amazed at the number of drivers who are driving with either no lights on or just their daytime running lights on even when the visibility is very low, often meaning the tail lights are not turned on. Do they not know where their light switch is located? It is also a legal requirement to use headlights when visibility is less than 100m (Highway Code rule 226).

Many drivers seem to just switch on their front fog lights without switching on their rear foglight. I feel it is probably more important to have the rear foglight on so that you can be seen by drivers behind you to prevent a rear end collision.

### Keith

\*Wikipedia defines Steampunk as "A subgenre of speculative fiction or science fiction that emphasises anachronistic technology, usually from the Victorian era. It is also used to refer to a trend in fashion and music".

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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

**Sonia Burton, Robert Crawshaw, Joseph Robinson,  
Derek Saunders, Neil Woodley, Joanne Wulf**

# Congratulations

**On passing the Advanced Test**

**Ryan York - Observer Ed Nash**

**Congratulations to Ryan who passed with a F1rst.  
Apologies to Ryan as this should have been included  
in last month's newsletter.**

## **Objections to 20mph Speed Limit in Wales**

I recently reported that Wales had reduced the 30mph speed limit to 20mph across the country. It seems that this is not popular as more than 443,000 people have signed a petition against the move by the Labour run Welsh Government.

This means that more people have signed the petition than voted for First Minister Mark Drakeford's party at the Welsh Parliament elections in 2021.

# 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.



**TWITTER** We have our own Twitter account which can be found at [twitter.com/MYAM4178](https://twitter.com/MYAM4178)

**Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969**

## **Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)**

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

MYAM has a legitimate interest in keeping sufficient personal information to communicate with its members and other local people with an interest in road safety, and to permit the renewal of subscriptions. A member can ask to see a copy of their personal information, correct any errors and ask for all or part of it to be deleted.

MYAM is affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and will use a member's information to support them if and when they are assessed by IAM. MYAM will also ensure that any data shared with IAM is accurate. We will not share your details with anybody else.

# Directions to the 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.

# October Meeting - Tramways in Yorkshire

In April last year Tony Young gave us a talk on “My Life in Trams”. Last month he returned to talk about Tramways in Yorkshire.

In 1872 William Turton, the chairman of Leeds Tramways Company, developed the first horse tram in Leeds which covered most of the city. Other cities followed including Bradford, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham and Sheffield.

On most trams, passengers could alight at either end depending on the direction of travel but Leeds experimented with a “reversible” horse tram where the carriage body had only one entry. This meant the carriage body had to be turned round at each end of the route. Not many were produced.



**Horse drawn Sheffield tram at Crich Museum**  
and York. This meant there could not be a continuous service between the areas with different gauges. There was an experimental service between Leeds and Bradford with a tapered track from 4ft 8½ins to 4ft 0ins which started in 1907 but was discontinued in 1918.

There was a brief flirtation with steam trams but these effectively replaced the horse with a steam engine. During the early 20th century the horse and steam trams were replaced by electric trams. In Yorkshire there were 19 tramways with a variety of gauges ranging from the railway standard 4ft 8½ins used by Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield and others down to 3ft 6ins used by Halifax, Scarborough

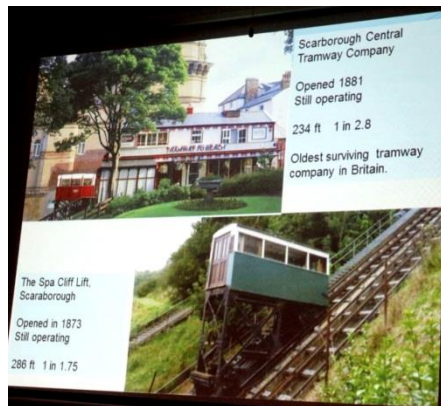
Many of the tramways began closing down in the 1920s with services being replaced either a bus or trolley bus service during the following three decades. Bradford’s trams



closed down in 1950, Leeds trams closed in 1959 and Sheffield was one of the last cities to close it's trams in 1960.

Most of the trams were scrapped but a few were saved and can be seen in various museums but several have been restored and are run regularly at museums such as the Tramway Museum at Crich near Chesterfield.

Scarborough had a tram system which opened in 1881 and is still running and the Scarborough Central Tramway Company is the oldest surviving tramway company in the country. The Spa Cliff Lift opened in 1873 and is still operating.



**Scarboroughs Cliff Railway**

Closer to our area there was a tram system in Keighley which ran from Ingrow through the town centre to Utlely (along the old route of the A629) with a branch to Keighley railway station. This service closed in 1924.

It is surprising how many tram systems there were in Yorkshire and Tony certainly kept us entertained by his knowledge and enthusiasm for trams.

Tony finished by telling us of recent developments which include the new tram system around Sheffield and the proposed mass Transit plan that would have linked the major towns and cities in West Yorkshire but whether this will ever get the go ahead is open to speculation.

## **Motorist Fined For Taping a Leaf to Obscure Their Number Plate**

A driver has been fined after using double-sided tape to stick a leaf to their car's number plate to obscure it.

Surrey Police posted the photos on X, formerly Twitter, showing the leaves firmly attached to the car.

In a post, the force said: "There are times when camouflage is needed and can look good. Leaves attached to your number plate with double-sided tape is neither."

## Pathfinder – Yorkshire

You may, or not, be aware of the Pathfinder Initiative which is aimed at 15 to 17 year olds and gives them driving tuition before they are legally allowed to drive on public roads. By giving them driving experience under the tutorage of experienced drivers, including IAM observers, they have a “head start” when learning to drive at 17. The courses, which take place during school holidays, include theory sessions and practical driving experience under carefully controlled conditions.

By gaining early experience they are less likely to have an accident during their first year following passing their driving test. Statistics show that one in five novice drivers have an accident in their first year following their test (I have to admit that I did have a major accident during the 12 months following passing my driving test – but it wasn't my fault and the driver that caused it was prosecuted). Of the young drivers who have been on a Pathfinder course the accident rate drops to one in twenty showing the value of the course.

The young drivers are usually accompanied by a parent and use the parents car and the course is run at various locations around the UK. The Yorkshire events are currently run at Tockwith.

In 2019 I visited the event and was very impressed with the way it was run. I sat in a car with one of the youngsters who handled his mother's car extremely well – his mother was sat in the back so a little extra pressure! She was also impressed with the course and said it was excellent value for money.



**A view of the course with students practicing manoeuvres from 2019**

Next year's courses are scheduled for 1st to 5th April, 2nd or 3rd week in August and 28th October to 1st November For more information see [www.under17driver.co.uk](http://www.under17driver.co.uk) . This could be a possible Christmas or birthday gift if you have a young relative who wishes to learn to drive but is too young to drive legally on the road.

We have also managed to secure the local organiser, Ian Goring, as the speaker for our February meeting next year. This would be an ideal opportunity to find out more about the scheme.

## Not Driving But Learning

When my mother was in her 40s she decided to learn to drive. I was a teenager and no one else in the house had a driving licence. Cash-strapped, Mum couldn't afford a lot of lessons but was determined to practice "driving" without her driving instructor or car. She would sit on a piano stool, using the pedals as clutch, accelerator and brake, holding a dinner plate which acted as the steering wheel. By her left hand side was a coal scuttle with a poker sticking upright - the gear lever, of course.

In this fashion, she was able to develop her coordination, turning the steering wheel using the push-pull method, and improving her coordination for gear changes. By some fluke she managed to pass her driving test - fairly cheaply by today's standards - and became the family's only driver for quite a long while.

One thing that I've learned so far as an IAM observer is that associate progress is partly determined by how much practice they can pack in between observed drives. I'm of the view that practice is best done when there are least distractions, e.g. without the kids in the car and a swimming lesson to get to. For those with families and a shared car, solo practice can be hard to come by, as it is also for younger drivers with busy lives.

So I've been recommending other forms of learning or practice that aspiring advanced drivers can do without the car. These include: scanning while walking, trolley-pushing, highway code self-testing and critiquing others.

In trying to develop the "thinking driver" taking, using and giving information is a key skill, and you don't have to be driving to do this. My favourite illustration of this is to walk up Skipton High Street, where making progress on the pavement can be a real problem. Hardly anyone seems to be walking in a straight line or with a purpose. Unpredicted stops, turns and reverses usually indicate the distracted tourist, and this is where scanning is incredibly useful. Use scanning to sight your goal in the distance and then continually scan to identify hazards nearer along the way, adjusting position on the pavement and walking speed to maximise progress. Accelerate into blank spaces when you can. Of course this can be adapted to wherever you walk - across a supermarket car park, on the canal towpath or along the corridors of your workplace. For associates who need reminding to keep two hands on the steering wheel, I suggest supermarket trolley pushing practise. The objective is to keep both hands on the trolley handle until stationary and then only releasing one hand to take an item from the shelves.

While taking any walk near a road you can self-test on the highway code. Spot the road signs and markings and ensure you know what they mean, even if they don't apply to you as a pedestrian. Could you confidently explain what those signs and markings mean to someone else? Can you identify areas where it is legal to park and when it is not? Who should give way to whom? (In theory as a pedestrian you should have right of way crossing at that junction, but please don't die unnecessarily, assuming that drivers will honour this rule).

Critiquing other drivers can be done whether driving, being driven or walking near a road. Having played back some of my dash cam footage, I was enlightened by hearing me talking about the driving of others and when it was advanced, not advanced or downright awful. Critiquing doesn't have to be done out loud, although at some point an associate has got to get used to speaking their inner thoughts. What do they think of following distances, and how drivers give information to others? Can they spot approaches to cornering and when the foot comes off the brake? (made easy by observing the brake lights).

I have asked my associates for their feedback on "not-driving" practices and so far they have been positive. I would welcome hearing other observers' ideas for unusual means of gaining experience that would be helpful to gaining an advanced qualification. If these ideas are new to you, then perhaps try them out for yourself.

**Chris Tomes**

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## **The Most Expensive Place To Own A Car**

Where do you think the most expensive place to own a car is? The USA, Japan, Monaco?

It's actually Singapore. Home to 5.9 million people you have to pay £87,000 for a Certificate of Entitlement (COE) before you can buy a car. This certificate is valid for 10 years and is used to control the number of cars in the state. In addition car prices are high with an example of a Toyota Camry Hybrid, costing £23,688 in the USA, costs £150,232 in Singapore.

The median salary in Singapore is around £72,400 and a small government subsidised flat costs around £74,000. I think I'll stay in the UK!

# Be Tyre Safe This Autumn

Did you know 1 in 5 drivers have never checked their tyres? This October we are supporting [TyreSafe](#) in their campaign to remind drivers of the benefits of proper tyre maintenance. The humble tyre plays a huge part in road safety, including steering, braking, and acceleration.

IAM RoadSmart has some tips to keep your tyres in top-notch condition.

### **Pressure**

Make sure your tyres have the correct pressure. You can find this information in the vehicle handbook and on the inside of the fuel filler cap or driver's door sill. Having the correct pressure in your tyres will ensure even wear and will also help with handling and fuel efficiency.

### **Tread**

Ensure that your tyres have a tread depth of at least 1.6mm. Remember that this is a legal minimum, but a newer tyre with deeper tread will perform much better in wet conditions. Use the wear indicators on the tyre itself, or a tyre tread depth gauge, to check if your tyres are safe. If you're unsure, take them to a specialist.

### **Condition**

Cracks and bulges in a tyre's sidewalls indicate damage and this means the tyre should be replaced, even if the tread depth is still within the legal limit. A damaged tyre can be a ticking timebomb; it's best to get it replaced as soon as possible.

### **Overloading**

Overloading your vehicle can cause excessive heat and wear on your tyres. Ensure that your vehicle's overall weight does not exceed its Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) rating – this can be found on your VIN plate. Heavy loads can also lead to poor braking and stability, so even if the weight is below the GVW rating, it's important to adjust your driving style to match these decreases in vehicle performance.

## **Remember...**

Protect yourself and your passengers by ensuring that all the tyres on your vehicles are fit for purpose before embarking on your journey. By keeping your tyres in top condition, this won't just prevent costly repairs, but will also save lives.

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## **Insurance**

I've recently renewed my car insurance and yes it has gone up since last year but I've found that some insurance companies have withdrawn insurance for electric cars and those that will insure them are quoting premiums of up to £5000.

Reasons given include:- Electric cars can be particularly expensive to repair, costing around a quarter more to fix on average than a petrol or diesel vehicle. Experts have previously warned electric vehicles are being written off after minor bumps because of the cost and complexity of fixing their batteries.

Jonathan Hewett chief executive of Thatcham research said: "The challenge is that we have no way of understanding whether the battery has been compromised or damaged in any way.

"The threat of thermal runaway means that a catastrophic fire can take place if the cells of the battery have been damaged in a collision.

Vehicle repair costs rose 33% over the first quarter of 2023 compared to 2022, helping to push annual premiums to record highs, according to the Association of British Insurers.

Average electric car insurance costs rose 72pc in the year to September, compared to 29pc for petrol and diesel models, according to Confused.com.

Mr Hewett said premiums would eventually begin to level out and match those of petrol and diesel cars once actuaries had the tools needed to better understand the risks of insuring electric cars, saying the issue would likely be "short term".

However, he added: "The battery is an extremely expensive component of an electric vehicle and until we find efficient ways of dealing with it we have the challenge of high premiums for electric vehicles, which nobody wants."

# And Finally.....

A petrol station owner in Dublin was trying to increase his sales, so he put up a sign that read:-

## **'Free Sex with Fill-Up!'**

Paddy pulled in, filled his tank and asked for his free sex. The owner told him to pick a number from 1 to 10. If he guessed correctly, he would get his free sex. Paddy guessed 8, and the proprietor said, "You were close. The number was 7. Sorry. No sex this time."

A week later, Paddy, along with his friend Mick, pulled in for another fill-up. Again he asked for his free sex. The proprietor again gave him the same story, and asked him to guess the correct number. Paddy guessed 2. The proprietor said, "Sorry, it was 3. You were close, but no free sex this time." As they were driving away, Mick said to Paddy, "I think that game is rigged and he doesn't really give away free sex at all." Paddy replied, "No, no, it's genuine enough Mick. My wife won twice last week."

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## **This Month's Teaser**

We all use this item but what is the origin of the name WD40 and what was it originally used for?

## **Last Month's Teaser**

Last month I asked " Which brass band is associated with Queensbury? And the answer is the Black Dyke Mills band.

Congratulations to David Rockliff who emailed me with the answer.

## Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
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Membership Secretary	Graham Crawshaw	0113 314 9969	myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Younger Members	Lewis Wetherill	07359 630705	myam.youngermembers(at)outlook.com
Speaker Secretary	Sally Lawrence		myam.speakersecretary(at)outlook.com
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GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		
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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.

### **URGENT REQUEST**

**We are in need of a Minutes secretary for our committee meetings and someone to look after the Website. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in any of these positions.**