

# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

November 2024



Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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### **Cover Photo – MGB at the Cow and Calf**

My brothers 1966 MGB Roadster at the Cow and Calf. Both have featured on previous front covers but here they are together. The photo was one of a series I took for the front cover of the MG Owners Club magazine.

## Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Monday 4th  
November 2024  
8pm**

**MYAM Social Meeting**  
Stuart Lovatt  
Chair of Tyre Safe

Birkenshaw Liberal Club  
10 Croft Street  
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Monday 2nd  
December 2024  
8pm**

**MYAM Social Evening**  
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.

For our November meeting our speaker will be Stuart Lovatt Chair of 'TyreSafe' - Tyres being a very pertinent subject for this time of year. This will be a Zoom meeting at the Liberal club but will also be available via Zoom to members who cannot attend the meeting at the club.

If you wish to join us via Zoom please download the Zoom application or if Zoom is already installed on your computer or phone ensure it is the latest version and join us by scanning the QR code or following the link below which will be open from just before 8pm on 4th November.



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5851212145?pwd=0yEB3Wb0f2m3g6mLDDesCdFpBTILxq.1&omn=84063041630>

Our December social meeting will follow our usual format for our Christmas meeting. A general knowledge quiz and a raffle followed by a buffet. You are welcome to bring a guest to the meeting but can you let myself or Sally, our speaker secretary, know if you will be attending and how many guests you will be bringing and if you have any specific dietary requirements for the buffet.

Please note there is no social meeting in January. Our first meeting in 2025 will be on Monday 3rd February.

## From The Editor

As you can see from the previous page our next social meeting will be via Zoom at the Liberal club. It also will allow members who cannot attend the meetings at the club to join in. It is an experiment but if it is judged to be successful it opens us up to be able to have a wider variety of speakers which would also be available to more of our members.

If you do join us via Zoom can you let us know how you got on with it and what you think of the process of attending meetings this way.

We do not intend to cancel our Social meetings as the committee feels that it is important to have direct contact with our members but using Zoom would allow more members to “attend”.

Christmas is fast approaching and we will be having our usual Christmas meeting with a quiz, raffle and buffet. This will not be a Zoom meeting!

We are starting to plan our activities for our social events and attendance at car shows for next year. If you have any suggestions for speakers, or if you can provide a talk for our monthly social meetings or if you know of any events we could attend please let us know.

Likewise if you have any photos suitable for publication in the newsletter or could write a short article for the newsletter please send them to me or hand them to me at one of our meetings. Please contact me if you need any guidance for articles or photos for the newsletter.

**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

New associate - Kaye Sandall  
New member - Adrian Wilkinson

# Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Dudley Bush - Observer Paul Everest  
Geoffrey Hollies - Observer Ian Corner

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## **EU Rolls Out Tougher Tyre Rules In A Bid To Save 128m Tyres Annually**

The European Union has decided to implement a new regulation to reduce the tyre industry's carbon footprint. Under the new rules, used tyres with a tread depth of 1/16 inch must meet the same wet surface braking standards as brand-new tyres.

The European Union has opted for significant changes, requiring tyres to ensure stable driving and braking performance, whether new or with tread worn down to 1/16 inch. However, practice shows that, in many cases, drivers don't require much persuasion to change their habits.

From my observation, during the summer, people don't react to tread height at all, nor do they pay attention to the wear indicator; they simply drive until the end. When it comes to winter, they listen when told that below the indicator the tyre is unsuitable because it must have a minimum of 5/32 of an inch, said Małgorzata Krawczyk from Eko Gum S.C.

# 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 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.



# October Meeting -

## Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes

Who are the Whiteknights? On October 7th their Volunteer Command Manager, Matthew Beynon-Tullett, came to the Liberal Club to tell us about their activities

**We support local Hospitals**  
**Urgent deliveries by Volunteer Bikers**  
**FREE to local Hospitals & Hospices**

**Whiteknights**  
**YORKSHIRE**  
**Blood Bikes**

PLEASE SCAN



DONATE HERE

**Blood Samples**  
**Pharmacy Items**  
**Donated Breast Milk**  
**Vital Supplies**

**On-call every night & 24 hours at weekends**

facebook.com/yorkshirebloodbikes

Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes: Registered Charity No. 1124510  
www.whiteknights.org.uk All riders are vetted and DBS approved

The Yorkshire Blood Bikes are a voluntary organisation who provide a transport service for blood and other items for the NHS in Yorkshire 365 days a year.

During normal working hours, the NHS and Charitable Health Organisations use their own transportation systems to move Blood, Plasma, Tissue Samples, Documentation and other vital supplies between Hospitals, Hospices and Supply Centres.

Out of hours these systems maybe limited, and the hospitals reliance can fall upon private hire taxi companies, commercial couriers and in exceptional circumstances, hospitals may have used emergency services such as the Police or Ambulance services.

This is a huge cost to the NHS and Charitable Health Organisations and this is where the Whiteknights Service Provision comes into its own. Their volunteers provide an out of hours service which not only saves a substantial amount of money, but money that can be passed on to provide more appropriate frontline patient care. It is estimated that for each £1 received in donations to the Whiteknights, the NHS will save at least £5.

They are just one of many Charitable Associations that provide a similar service around the United Kingdom and are governed and overseen by the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes. NABB, who share the mission to provide reliable, free and high quality provision to NHS trusts and hospices throughout the UK.



The service is Free of Charge and operates out of hours through the night, Monday to Thursday 7pm to 7am and Friday 7pm all the way through the weekend until 7am Monday morning. We operate a Full 24hr Service during Bank Holidays including the Festive Period (Christmas and Boxing Day) and New Year's Day.

Not only do they transport samples and documents for the NHS but they can also deliver urgent medications to patients if needed.

Despite having Full Time Jobs, many of the members still give their spare time to help run and maintain what is a truly worthwhile charity, and an organization who are intent on making a difference.

Although they a bike based charity they do have cars available which tend to be used in adverse weather conditions which could be hazardous for bikes.

To some people they are the 4th emergency service.

They are always looking for new volunteers and the necessary qualifications, one of which is membership of the IAM, can be found on their website along with more information on their organisation.

[Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes](#)

At the meeting Matthew had a collection box and managed to raise £100 from our members and the Liberal club members in the other bar.

Should you wish to make a donation either follow the link below or scan the QR code on the previous page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/whiteknightsyorkshire-bloodbikes>

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**A Conundrum**

We have two cars between Caroline and myself. I have keys to both cars in my pocket so why is it that whenever I go to our garage to drive one of them I put my hand in my pocket and most of the time pull out the key to the other car?

## EU Demand For Electric Cars Continues To Fall As Sales Collapse In France And Germany

Earlier this year I wrote about falling EV sales asking “Has The Electric Car Bubble Burst”. Well it looks as if EV sales are falling across Europe with sales being around 44 per cent down in the last year with Germany seeing a 69 per cent fall in that time.

This could mean that the car manufacturers could face multi-billion euro fines for failing to meet the targets for sales of EVs. One way for them to avoid these punitive fines of £15,000 per non electric vehicle in the UK is to cut the production of ICE vehicles. However this could mean fewer new cars are available and the possibility of some manufacturers deciding to stop production in the UK with the consequent loss of thousands of jobs in the UK both in the manufacturing and supply sectors.

In addition the price of secondhand electric cars is falling which could be good news if you wanted to buy a used electric car. However this “good” news for buyers is not such good news for the leasing companies. When they buy cars the price of leasing the car is set so that they can cover the cost difference when they come to sell the car at the end of the lease. If the value at the end of the lease is less than they expected they would lose money so they are having to put up the cost of leasing an electric car.

It has also been reported that electric cars are some of the fastest depreciating cars with 60% of the top 10 depreciating cars in the UK being electric, retaining around 30% of their cost new after 3 years.

Many reasons have been given for the slow uptake of electric cars, the initial high cost and the poor state of public charging infrastructure being two of the main reasons.

In addition many manufacturers are putting on hold development of future electric cars due to the fall in demand.

It all goes to show that the government, of any flavour, can legislate on the supply of electric cars but they can't make people buy them if they don't want to.

However there is one unlikely advantage of an electric vehicle, if an American report is to be believed. They are unlikely to be stolen! It seems that car thieves, like car buyers, don't want them.

There are also reports that some manufacturers are looking more seriously at hydrogen as an alternative fuel. Using hydrogen has the advantage that refuelling times could be comparable with refuelling a petrol or diesel vehicle and would not require vast areas of the earth to be devastated by mining for the components of batteries used by battery electric vehicles.

Then there are e-fuels. Porsche believes synthetic e-fuels could account for “a significant share” of petrol usage by the end of the decade, boosted by increasing support for the technology from potential customers and governments.

The German firm has invested heavily in developing e-fuels, working with HIF Global and other partners to start a trial production facility in Chile. That pilot project is intended to show that e-fuels can be produced in a carbon neutral fashion, at a time when there are doubts over its viability.

Porsche is attempting to showcase that e-fuel production can work at scale, with its focus as much on addressing how to reduce emissions from the existing global car park. Millions of existing combustion engine cars will remain in use for years to come, and Porsche believes e-fuels are a key step to reducing their environmental impact.

The e-fuel plant in Chile is run using renewable energy and currently produces e-fuel that is used in the Porsche Supercup race series and a number of other applications.

Porsche originally viewed e-fuels as a potential way to ensure its old cars could remain on the road in the future, rather than as a direct alternative to electric cars.

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**Associates and Observers**

The current situation is that we have 14 observers and 40 associates with 11 waiting for an observer.

As mentioned last month if you are an associate waiting to be allocated an observer please be patient.

### Clear Vision, Safe Journey: The Vital Importance of Maintaining Your Windscreen

Maintaining your windscreen and regularly checking it is crucial for road safety. A clear, undamaged windscreen ensures optimal visibility, helping you to spot hazards and react promptly. Regular inspections can catch small chips or cracks early, preventing them from worsening and compromising the structural integrity of your vehicle. Remember, a well-maintained windscreen is key to a safe and smooth driving experience.

#### IAM RoadSmart has some top tips for maintaining your windscreen:

- **Regular Cleaning:** Clean your windscreen regularly, both inside and out, using a mild detergent and a soft cloth. Avoid abrasive materials that can scratch the glass.
- **Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** Avoid using harsh chemicals, such as concentrated windshield washer fluid or abrasive cleaning agents, as they can damage the glass.
- **Check for Chips and Cracks:** A damaged or cracked windscreen could result in an MOT fail. If there is windscreen damage of 40mm or more in size, anywhere on the windscreen, your vehicle will fail its MOT, and it will have to be fixed before being re-tested. Even 10mm-sized damage on a cracked windscreen results in MOT failure if it falls within what is known as windscreen Zone A. This zone is the section of the windscreen that is 290mm wide and centred on the steering wheel - in other words, directly in the driver's line of vision. If your vehicle is not of MOT age as it is less than 3 years old, or MOT exempt as it was built or first registered more than 40 years ago, it must still be in a legally roadworthy condition.
- **Repair Promptly:** If you find a chip or crack, have it repaired as soon as possible. Professional repair can prevent the damage from spreading and may be covered by your insurance.

- **Protect Against Sun Damage:** Consider using a windshield sunshade to protect your windscreen from harmful UV rays, which can cause discoloration and weaken the glass.
- **Check Your Insurance:** Many insurance policies include cover for windscreen damage, often with a low or no excess. Review your policy to see if you're covered and understand the terms and conditions.

**IAM RoadSmart's Area Service Delivery Manager Pete Doherty** says, "Your windscreen is your first line of defence, keep it clean, both inside and out, keep it legal, and it will help to keep you safe".

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## **Pay Per Mile**

I'm writing this before the budget and keep reading that one option being considered is to replace Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) with a Pay per Mile system. Several other countries have adopted such a system but how would it work in the UK?

What may not be apparent is that we already have a system that is effectively Pay per Mile. It's called Fuel Duty. The government currently taxes petrol and diesel at 52.95p per litre. VAT is added to this making the government's income from this "tax" 63.54p per litre equivalent to £2.89 per gallon. A car doing 40mpg would therefore be paying 7.22p per mile. At 30mpg this increases to 9.63p per mile and at 50mpg it reduces to 5.78p per mile.

There is also the question of how would such a system be implemented as every vehicle would need to have its mileage recorded but how would this be done? One suggestion is to use ANPR cameras to track vehicles but this raises questions of privacy. There would also need to be a significant increase in these cameras, possibly one on every corner, again raising questions of invasion of privacy. Another option would be to record the mileage annually at the MOT but how would vehicles under 3 years be recorded. Also would fuel duty and VED be abolished? I don't think so.

Fuel duty applies to petrol and diesel vehicles so could the pay per mile system be applied to only electric vehicles as these effectively do not pay fuel duty. If the government wants us all to drive electric vehicles they will have to do something to replace their income as money from fuel duty decreases.

## Oops I've Fallen Over!



We heard a loud bang from outside our office a few years ago, looked out of the window and this lorry had overturned while negotiating the roundabout.

At lunch time we went outside to watch the lorry being righted although most of its load was spread over the road.

## Is There Too Much Technology In Cars?

Do you ever feel that there is too much technology in your car and that it is taking over or do you use all of the technology fitted to your car?

When I started driving in the 1970s cars were very simple with the radio, if fitted, being the only electronics in the car. Over the years many of the functions have been taken over by electronic systems, many of them linked together. True many of them, such as the modern engine management systems, have improved the performance, fuel economy and emissions of the engine and ABS has made cars safer but modern cars are being fitted with a plethora of electronic systems either as standard or as factory fit options which can automatically turn on the lights, operate the windscreen wipers, reverse park the car, allow hands free phone calls, connect to the internet and many other functions which the car designers think will enhance our driving experience.

To use many of these functions to their best you need to read the manual for the car which can run to several hundred pages but having used it once if you don't often use the function you forget how to use it and have to find the manual and then find the appropriate pages to relearn how to use it.

My car is fitted with many of these systems as standard but I very rarely use the parking function, except to demonstrate it. So do you use all of the technological functions fitted to your car or do you yearn for a car that is simple to understand without all these functions that the car manufacturers think are necessary. Let me know what you think.



# And Finally.....



**Where to park if the car park is full**

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## **This Month's Teaser**

We've all seen barcodes on products but in which year was the barcode first used on a product in the UK?

## **Last Month's Teaser**

Last month I asked "When was the Forth Road Bridge opened and when were tolls on the bridge abolished?" The bridge opened in 1964 and bridge tolls were abolished in 2008.

## Your Committee

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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.