



**Mid Yorkshire**



**Advanced Motorists  
Newsletter**



**ARE WE THERE YET**

**December 2016**

**Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity No. 1053843**



**[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire)**

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## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
<b>Sunday 4th December 9.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b>	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 5th December 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social evening.</b> Christmas Quiz and Buffet	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 7 for directions)
<b>Monday 9th January 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social evening.</b> Clips & Questions - Short video clips to watch /discuss/question, IAM RoadSmart examiner Gerry Byrne will be with us to take your questions.	The Manor Golf Club.
<b>Monday 6th February 8 pm</b>	<b>Sarah Sillars OBE</b> <b>IAM CEO</b>	The Manor Golf 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 an interesting talk on a variety of topics, sharing our skills with other serious drivers and keeping up-to-date on club and driving matters.

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.

## Dates for your diary

The dates for the remaining 2017 Social meetings are

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**August 7<sup>th</sup>**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**September 4<sup>th</sup>**

**May 8<sup>th</sup> (AGM)**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**November 6<sup>th</sup>**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**ISSUES OF 'ARE WE THERE YET' ARE ON THE GROUP WEB SITE**

## FROM THE EDITOR

2016 has been a year of change for the Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists. We've had several changes in the committee including myself as the newsletter editor. You may have noticed a few small changes to the newsletter over the last six months but next month I'll be introducing a new look for the front cover which I hope you will like.

As the newsletter is your newsletter I'll ask the audience, is there anything you would like to see included?

We've also introduced a new award with a magnificent trophy for the member 'who has gone above and beyond' for their commitment to our group. This year it's to be awarded to a member nominated by the membership but from January we will be introducing a points based system. This is similar to the award system used by the Leicester group when I was a member and is open to all MYAM members. You can read more about how we'll award points on page 11. Towards the end of the year in the Leicester group it became quite interesting as people who were in contention for the award started writing for the newsletter to ensure they stood a chance of winning the award. I did manage to win the award in my last year in Leicester.

Writing an item for the newsletter is one way of accumulating points, and we all know that points mean prizes! This can be anything which you think may be of interest to other members of the group. Have you been anywhere you think others may like to visit or do you wish to thank your observer after you've passed your IAM test? Have you bought something for your car that you found useful or taken an interesting photograph? Whatever it is, send it to me at the email address on page 16, hand it to me at one of the monthly meetings or contact me for alternative methods. I can accept most PC compatible formats, printed or typewritten even handwritten items. Any "analogue" photos sent will be returned after scanning.

You don't have to be a professional author, I'm certainly not, as I can edit and format it to suit the newsletter.

It only remains for me to wish you all on behalf of the MYAM committee a very merry Christmas and happy New Year and to thank you for your continuing support of the group over the last year.

**Keith**



# Welcome to the Group



Alison Barron  
Donna Carter  
Paul Robinson  
Ruth Watson



# Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

William Beacroft - Observer Bill Jackson  
Phillip Kirby - Observer Ken Sykes  
Bridget Page - Observer George Tickle  
Scott Baker - Observer David Stringer

# Happy Birthday this month goes to

Lisa Aveyard, Karim Bachu, Geoff Baines, Christopher Bown,  
Mark Brown, Barrie Buckley, Bruce Carlin, Jan Creswell, Karen Day,  
Stephen Dent, Stephen Duree, Helen Eves, Stephen Goodair,  
Rebecca Hainsworth, Craig Jones, Jill Lowe, Brian Martin, Alan Munro,  
Patricia Pickles, Alexander Procyk, David Robinson,  
Anne-Marie Shevlin, David Stamp, David Stringer, Philip Thompson,  
George Tickle, Mohammad Variava, Marjorie Wilkinson

# ***MYAM Online***

## **MYAM COMMITTEE MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS**

The Committee has now agreed that in the interests of transparency the minutes from the MYAM Committee meetings will now be available to Members on the Group website once they have been accepted as a true record by the Committee. So please feel free to check them out. They can be found on the Committee Members page under Our Team. The minutes are located at the bottom of the page.

**FORUM** is open up to all MYAM members at [myam.icyboards.net](http://myam.icyboards.net). Just register, answering a few easy questions and David Rushfirth will get you up and running in no time. Soon you can be exchanging comments and ideas with other members and keeping up to date with what's going on.



**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.

**WEB SITE** As part of the changes at IAM to introduce the new IAM RoadSmart branding, we now have an all new look website and a new website address. If you use the old address you will be redirected to the Local Groups page on the new IAM RoadSmart website. To go to our new page enter:-

[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire)

The new site is taking shape nicely but we still have plenty to do.



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

**The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969**

## GROUP NOTICES

### **Directions to the Manor Golf Club, Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB**

The carpark is well lit and for those who find walking difficult please park to the right hand side of the entrance where there is a ramp up to the doors.

#### **Directions**

The Manor Golf Club is situated on the B6135, half a mile off the A650. If travelling from M62, M621 exit at Junction 27 onto the A650 to Bradford. At the second roundabout take the third exit onto the B6135, the entrance is on the left, immediately after the change in speed limit to 40.

From the A58 Leeds turn right at the traffic lights in Drighlington towards Bradford and the entrance is on the right immediately before the national speed limit sign.

From A58 Halifax turn left at the traffic lights in Drighlington towards Bradford and the entrance is on the right immediately before the national speed limit sign.

#### **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.

#### **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

MYAM holds Membership detail records on computer, these are confidential and for club use ONLY. The information is used to run the Group and consists of various details such as class of Membership, date of joining & subscription expiry dates. It is also used for the production of address labels for the distribution of the newsletter and recording training for Observers.



**Janet Darlington receiving her certificate from her Observer Bill Jackson.**

# Happy Birthday to the M62

The 107 mile Liverpool to Hull motorway celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The trans-Pennine road linking the two cities had been first proposed in the 1930s but construction finally started in the 1960s, opening in stages between 1971 and 1976.

The original intention had been for the Liverpool end to link to an inner city motorway but this was never built so it terminates on the outskirts of the city. This explains why there are no junctions 1 to 3. Seven miles of its route are shared with the M60 Manchester orbital motorway. Along its route it also links to the M6, M61, M66, A627(M), M606, M621, M1, A1(M) and M18. I'm sure that some of the junctions around Manchester are more complex to navigate than Spaghetti junction, but that's just my opinion.

Between junctions 22 and 23 the motorway reaches a height of 1221ft (372m) above sea level making it the highest motorway in the UK. Also between these two junctions is the Scammonden dam constructed from the earth removed from nearby Deanhead cutting. Stott Hall Farm, where the motorway carriageways diverge around the farm, is also located in this section. The common myth is that the farmer refused to sell to the authorities but the truth is that it was always planned for the carriageways to diverge as geological surveys had found the local ground could not support the two carriageways side by side thus sparing the farm from demolition.



The Yorkshire section carries around 144,000 vehicles a day\* and is prone to becoming gridlocked during peak times. Because of this, the section between junctions 25 and 30 has been converted to Smart motorways using the hard shoulder as an extra lane when necessary. The section around the M60-M62 is currently being converted.

It is a magnificent feat of engineering overcoming many obstacles during its construction including the winter weather in the Pennine section. Although many of us will complain when we get stuck in the frequent traffic jams just think what roads we would have to use if it weren't there and how long would it take us to cross the Pennines.

While researching the M62 I found this website which allows you to see how the traffic is flowing on the UK's motorways.

<https://m.highways.gov.uk/#flow>

So next time you travel on the M62, wish it a happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday!

\*according to Wikipedia



# Winter Driving

Winter was starting to make its presence felt when our own David Stringer delivered 'Winter Driving' at Novembers' social.

It's always good to have a reminder on what to think about beforehand and when we set out on the roads at this time of year.

David's slides were from an old IAM Confident Driving set but still relevant for today's motorist. Low sun at this time of the year can be a pain - keep sunglasses to hand - be aware of hidden hazards - eye strain with reflection off wet surfaces, sunlight flashing through trees, bright light to shadows - dipped lights on for others to see you, remember TakeUseGive don't rely on DRL's - Windows clean!! All of them!!

Rain - surface water - aquaplaning - spray on motorways - stopping distances increase drastically - slow down - increase your gap - consider using fog lights if visibility is below 100m's but don't forget to switch them off if conditions improve!

Flooded roads - how deep? - are there any potholes? - maybe watch another vehicle go through first - look for clues with kerbs, posts, hedges, seats etc - do you know where your engine's air intake is? - drive through slowly, keep revs high, on automatics select 1 if available and keep a foot on the brake and revs up on the accelerator - avoid bow waves off other vehicles - keep a firm steady grip on the wheel, flowing water can pick up a car - check brakes afterwards for efficiency.

Micro climates - there are walls, trees, bridges casting shadows, there may be slipperier surfaces lurking, whether surface water, frost, leaves or black ice. Travelling past a body of water such as a lake, pond or river will have an effect on the temperature of the road nearby, expect it to be lower.

Mist & fog - it's easy to get mesmerised if you are following tail lights in front - increase your gap - dipped lights, fog lights if needed - drop your side window slightly, especially at junctions, you may hear before you see. Windows clean!! All of them!!



Snow, frost & ice - you should guess what's coming ..... Windows clean!! All of them!! Also clear your bonnet, roof and boot of any snow, no fun if 2-3" of snow slides down or flies over the windscreen! - loosen or clear your wiper blades before switching them on, break them and you're going nowhere and possibly have scratched glass - check your soles for a build-up of ice or snow - allow extra time for the journey - there may be abandoned/broken down vehicles - in the car, radio on for travel alerts, securely in the back a high vis jacket, a warm coat and boots/wellies (don't drive in these) maybe food and a hot drink, torch, a charged mobile. In the boot a shovel and old carpet/sack pieces can be useful, jump leads (but check first if these can be used on your vehicle) - consider having winter tyres fitted, can be as good as having a 4x4 - driving on snow keep slow and steady, keep momentum going but remember stopping distances are going to be 10x + greater. Automatic boxes may let you creep to get traction, manuals try setting off in 2<sup>nd</sup> gear - don't use cruise control in slippery icy weather - vehicles one at a time on tricky hills.

High winds - will affect high sided vehicles, bikes (all), even pedestrians. Under/over bridges, look at the lay of the land either side in front of you - take care if overtaking, you will have been temporarily shielded - falling trees, flying debris, hoardings.

Vehicle checks are most important, consider having your vehicle serviced before winter sets in - good tyres are essential - know your warning lights - under bonnet fluid levels vital, especially the windscreen wash, some reservoirs are placed under the wing and may struggle to keep defrosted so keep to the recommended winter ratio when filling.

Plan your journey - Sat navs can be useful to find an alternative route - and finally... **You!** Are **you** in good health? Could any medication you've taken affect your driving? .....now off to clean my windows.....

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All good sensible advice but I'll add one further item to be wary off - Gritting lorries. Don't follow a gritter too closely when it's gritting and be careful if you overtake one unless you like pebble dashed paintwork!

I also remember the Ford Escort we had. It was fitted with a heated windscreen and heated washer jets, so where did they fit the wash bottle? Yes under the nearside wing as far away from the heat of the engine as possible. I did think about fitting a heater to keep it from freezing but, using some simple O-Level calculations, the amount of power needed to unfreeze the bottle was far too high to be practical so I abandoned the idea.

Ed.



# MYAM Trophy 2017



This year the newly instated MYAM trophy is to be awarded to the member 'who has gone above and beyond' for their commitment to our group by nomination from the membership. Starting in January we will be introducing a points based system for this award. After discussion by the committee the following rules will apply.

1. The award is open to all members of the Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists, both full members and associates.
2. Committee members are eligible, subject to certain exclusions.
3. The award will be presented at the December social event to the member who has accumulated the greatest number of points over the preceding 12 months.
4. In order to accommodate the December presentation, the 12 month period over which points are accumulated will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> December to the 30<sup>th</sup> November of the following year. However contributions for the newsletter will be for the January to December issues.
5. Points will be awarded as follows
  - a) One point for attending any MYAM event. This includes the monthly social meeting, driving sessions, shows and events where MYAM is in attendance. All attendees must sign an attendance book to be eligible.
  - b) Three points for writing an item for the newsletter. Items written by committee members as part of their normal committee duties will not be eligible e.g. reports for the AGM, newsletter editor "from the editor" and "and finally" sections. However reports on the monthly meetings or general articles would be eligible.
  - c) Three points for introducing a new member. To claim these points let the membership secretary know if you introduce anyone to the group.
  - d) Six points for organising an event. The programme secretary, or acting programme secretary, would not be eligible for these points. Examples of eligible events are the questions for the Christmas quiz, visits to skid pans or track days.

We will run this points system throughout 2017 and review it next December.

## IAM News Releases and Tips



As previously announced, the IAM RoadSmart headquarters is leaving its home of nearly 60 years in Chiswick and moving to Welwyn Garden City over the coming months. The new customer care team is already set up in Welwyn and a lot of the team from Chiswick will be moving to the new office over the next two weeks. You can expect business as usual during this time, but please be aware there may be some delay from individuals as they move over.

Please get in touch in the usual way, 0300 303 1134, or via the website,

[www.iamroadsmart.com/contact](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/contact).

### **IAM Surety adopts a zero tolerance policy towards penalty points for mobile phone usage whilst driving**

The risk of using mobile phones while driving has been very prominent in the media recently, following the tragic quadruple fatality caused by an HGV driver using a phone at the wheel. From this point forward our insurer, IAM Surety, will be unable to offer our exclusive 'members only' insurance scheme to any members who obtain points for using a phone while driving. This will be a permanent exclusion. Please do be sure to inform your local groups, so everyone understands the position. We support this positive step towards making using a mobile phone while driving socially unacceptable.

## Nextbase Dashcam – an Update

Last year I wrote in the newsletter about the Nextbase dashcam I'd bought so I thought I'd update you with my recent experiences of it.

Again I've had no "exciting" incidents that were worth saving but I did recently edit a journey to Keighley for my daughter to use for a lesson at the school where she teaches. However I did experience a problem with it earlier this year. When switched off, by disconnecting the power plug from the power socket in the car, it should display a screen saver then shut down, but it started to just shut down then restart usually several times before it finally went off. I also found it didn't close the last video file correctly making that file unviewable. This got worse and occasionally I'd get a "Low Battery" message, especially after a short journey. I put up with it for a while then a few weeks ago I rang Nextbase. Although the operator suggested a few things, most of which I'd tried, he wasn't able to help and gave me the number of their technical office in South Wales. I rang them and within a few minutes the problem was identified as a failing battery, which I'd started to suspect, and a replacement battery was to be posted to me at no cost. They also emailed instructions for replacing the battery which looked fairly easy to do but needed a tool to open up the case. I was also told it needed some soldering. No problem I said as I've been used to using a soldering iron for the best part of 50 years!

The battery arrived first followed by the tool kit for opening the case (it also does phones, Ipods and anything which has an apparently sealed case). I sat down and within about 15 minutes had opened up the case, replaced the battery and re-assembled it. Now it shuts down and closes all the files correctly. So it's a big thumbs up for the service I've received from Nextbase. I don't know if you'd get the same service from some of the other companies that manufacture or distribute these cameras.

## Supermoon

Did you see the recent supermoon and try to take a photo of it. I've tried taking photos of the moon over the last few years and it's not easy to get a good picture. The moon is incredibly bright which can upset many cameras.

Several years ago I sent a picture of the moon above the Emley Moor transmitter mast to this BBC website.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bradford/content/image\\_galleries/emley\\_moor\\_gallery.shtml?23](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bradford/content/image_galleries/emley_moor_gallery.shtml?23)

My claim to fame!

If you did take a picture of the supermoon we'd love to see it. Send it to me at the address on page 16.

## Last Months Quiz

The first British production car to be fitted with fuel injection was the Triumph TR5 in 1967. This used a Lucas mechanical system which could be a bit temperamental.

Later when fuel injection systems were electronically controlled, manufacturers often added EFI to the badges on the rear of the car. I wonder why they never added MFI badges on cars fitted with the earlier mechanically controlled systems?

## What Caused This?

I took this picture of the kids car a few years ago after an overnight frost. The windscreen was covered in frost apart from a small circle near the middle.

So the question is, what caused this circle? The picture was taken on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at around 3:30pm. The car is a Ford KA with a heated windscreen, but that is just a red herring!



I have my theory as to what caused it but do you have any ideas?

# Thank You Halfords

We'd like to thank the Halfords Meadow Road, Leeds and Ings Road, Wakefield branches for their generous donations of raffle prizes for our December meeting.

As a thank you from us to Halfords all they ask is that you call in either store and tell them where you heard about them. This is a relationship we can build on with your help. So please visit and let them know where you heard about them even if you don't buy anything. The manager needs to know that our members have visited his shop, which let's face it is only fair

See their website at <http://www.halfords.com/> for their full range of products. They also offer a price match which I used when I bought my dashcam, matching a well known internet retailers price, and were very helpful when I had a problem with it after a couple of months.

# And Finally.....

## The Pirelli Calendar 2017

		
January	February	March
		
April	May	June
		
July	August	September
		
October	November	December

## Your Committee

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Martin Fillingham</b>	01274 584899	fillin_m@hotmail.com
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Lesley Pollard</b>	07752 881555	lesley.pollard173@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Position Vacant</b>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rosie Bricis</b>	0113 2534528	rbricis@live.co.uk
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>David Rockliff</b>		Membership.myamcar@iamGroups.org.uk
<b>Youth Contact</b>	<b>Vicky Croft</b>	01924 404095	vickycroft@sky.com
<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	<b>Position Vacant</b>		
<b>Events Manager</b>	<b>Alan Jones</b>	07714444595	alan.j909@btinternet.com
<b>Website</b>	<b>David Rushfirth</b>	01924 211510 07966 134045	myam.webmaster@outlook.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Keith Wevill</b>	01274 815281	kcw2hwc@tesco.net
<b>Chief Observer</b>	<b>David Stringer</b>	07768 620208 0113 350 8625	d_stringer@btconnect.com
<b>Ex officio</b>	<b>Bob McDermott</b> <b>Andrew Simpson-Laing</b>		

## URGENT REQUEST

We still need someone suitable to stand for the post of Group Secretary, if you would like to find out more please ask the Chairman or Vice Chairman at the meeting. The Group will be in unusual position of not having a Group Secretary and the Committee and the Group needs someone competent to take on that role as soon as possible. All of the Group's integrated processes are now in place and a full guide is available. Everything these days is electronic which helps with the time management side.

We also need a Speaker Secretary to organise the social meetings at the Manor Golf Club. To find out more contact the Chairman or Vice Chairman.