

ARE WE THERE YET

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

February 2017



Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843



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Cover Photo - Emley Moor TV Mast



This month's cover picture is the iconic Emley Moor TV mast, visible over a wide area of South and West Yorkshire. This is the third TV mast on the site near the village of Emley in Kirklees. The original 135m (443ft) mast was built in 1956 to bring ITV TV broadcasts to Yorkshire. This was replaced in 1966 by a 385m (1265ft) mast in preparation for colour broadcasts. On 19th March 1969 the combination of wind and ice build-up at the top of the mast brought the mast down. Construction of the current concrete mast commenced in 1969 and transmissions began in 1971. At 330m (1084ft) it is the tallest freestanding structure in the UK and in 2002 it was granted "Listed Building" status by English Heritage.

FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
Tuesday 31st January 8pm	David Heath talking on Overtaking	Three Links Club Skipton (See page 14 for more details)
Sunday 5th February 10 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
Monday 6th February 8 pm	MYAM Social evening Sarah Sillars OBE IAM CEO	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 7 for directions)
Sunday 19th February 9.30 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
Sunday 5th March 10 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
Monday 6th March 8 pm	MYAM Social evening	The Manor Golf Club.

We are expecting a large turnout to our February meeting with Sarah Sillars as we have invited members of other local groups.

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.

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Christmas and New Year are over so how many of your New Year resolutions have been broken already? I never make any as I know they'll be broken within a few weeks although I do make a list of things that need doing over the next year. The trouble is that having now retired there are always so many jobs to do I don't always have the time to do them all so those that don't get done will go on the list for the following year!

Perhaps one New Years resolution would be to encourage a friend or family member to join the IAM. Or even take a re-assessment of your own driving. It's surprising how things can change since passing your test and old habits can slowly creep back.

You may want to get more involved with the group by becoming an observer. We have a shortage of observers in some areas. Contact our chief observer for more details. You may also consider joining the committee. It's not that arduous a task, ask any committee member. We still have vacancies for a group secretary and speaker secretary. Contact Martin or Lesley if you are interested.

Alternatively write a short article or letter for the newsletter. I'm always interested to hear from members about their motoring experiences etc. And any newsletter contributions are eligible for the prestigious MYAM award.

All the committee contact details are on page 16.

Can you also make sure your details, postal address, email address etc are up to date as I occasionally get an undeliverable message when I send out the newsletters by email. Should you not receive a newsletter by the date of the next meeting please contact me and I'll do my best to make sure you get a copy. Also make sure your subscription standing order is up to date.

We have received invitations from the Scarborough and Skipton groups to participate in their events, just as we have invited other local groups tour February meeting, so go along if you can, I'm sure they will make you welcome.

Keith

Welcome to the Group

Graham Fortune
Deborah Hewitt
Jamie Horne
Lynne Hockney
John Moate
Louis Shaw

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Lisa Aveyard - Observer Robert Blackshaw
Dave Goodman - Observer Hanni Kaye

Happy Birthday this month goes to

Mike Bell, Richard Brook, Stephen Callaghan, Janet Darlington,
Richard Edge, Sally Emmerson, Jodie Evans, Stephen Furness,
Richard Hawkes, Stephen Kettlewell, Jane Levine, Marcia Martell,
Ronald Mooney, David Parry, Terence Paul, Christian Pithers,
David Roberts, Stuart Robertshaw, Debbie Rosen, Gary Skyrme,
Trevor Smith, Gary Taylor, Paul Taylor, Alan Walker,
Richard Whittaker

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. 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 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

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.

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.



Matthew Beck receives his pass certificate from Martin.

Congratulations Matthew on passing with a F1srt.

Letters

Dear Sirs

I thought that I would share with you an observation made following recently returning back to West Yorkshire from Inverness where I had been living for 15 years. I am quite disgusted at the number of cars travelling at night on West Yorks roads with only one headlight showing. I travel a great deal in the late evenings and can guarantee counting over ten such episodes most nights – the ‘record’ is 14!

As a special constable in the highlands for many years, when on duty we used to pull over cars with illegal lights showing. I have to tell you that most of these were up on holiday from Yorkshire – it was a standing ‘joke’ with the lads and friendly bets were made as to the vehicles origin. Quite often other crimes were discovered as a result of the stop. I do not know if it is still the case that a ticket could be issued for the driver to attend to the lights and report the fact to a local police station to avoid a fine.

Having just passed the advanced driving test at the age of 78yrs I know that I am addressing the converted, but surely something must be done here to improve the situation. The other night I was approached on an unlit road by what I thought was a bike but which in fact was a car with nearside light only and no offside sidelight. This car, in my mind, should have been taken off the road! A biker could have been killed.

I do not know that if the IAM were to run some sort of an awareness drive, we could do something to alert minds. Maybe even the Chief Super or traffic section would care to comment.

Happy, safe driving

J.H. Ford

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I think part of the problem lies with the car manufacturers making it very difficult to change headlight bulbs, the Ford KA is one car that comes to mind, speaking from experience. Also drivers may not always be aware that a bulb has gone. I think it should be compulsory for a bulb monitor system to be fitted to indicate when a bulb has failed. My own car has such a system and can indicate which bulb has failed.

Ed

Clips & Questions

It was good to welcome Gerry Byrne along to our social evening of Clips & Questions on January 9th. Gerry has recently retired from the police force and many members will know him currently as an IAM examiner.

First a few snapshots of some *interesting* road design in Cambridge designed to slow traffic, as reported by the BBC.

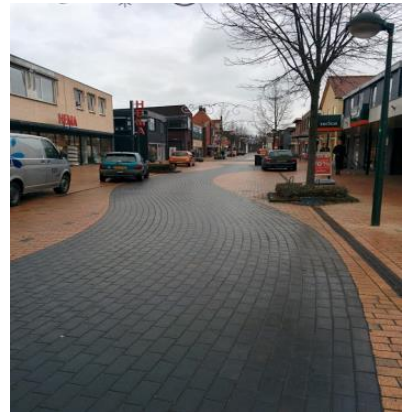


Followed by a shopping High Street in Holland which has no signs, roundabouts, traffic lights, road paint or parking bays. Cyclists have priority always, traffic gives way to the right.

One works, one will struggle. I'll let you guess.

Up next was a medley of dashcam clips from around the area. Partly amusing and with a lot of horn blowing, it gave a good insight to the mentality of some of the drivers we all come across.

Dashcam footage from one of our own associates of a situation he had recently been in was followed by a short section of Chris Gilbert's Ultimate Driving Craft video of him driving large vehicles. This gave an insight to what road space a larger vehicle needed to negotiate junctions, roundabouts etc. Following on with a drive and commentary in a police car on blues and twos.



Keith showed us some of his own dashcam footage of a journey in snow and ice, with some hairy antics by the drivers in front.

Plenty of questions and comments were made throughout the evening and having Gerry there was most helpful.

Some useful comments from Gerry about the test were – make sure you read up on the Highway Code. Know your vehicle capabilities, especially if you have an automatic as it will be expected that you can demonstrate how and when to use manual mode. Give commentary a go (spoken thoughts), it really helps and a must if you are aiming for a F1rst.

Lesley

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There's a similar road scheme in Poynton, 11 miles south-southeast of Manchester where in December 2011, the village road network was reconstructed at the junction of Chester Road/Park Lane and London Road, creating the first "double roundel" for a high traffic intersection. Similar to a roundabout, the new junction reduces the four-lane approaches to two lanes, allowing pedestrians to cross quickly, and safely allowing the elimination of traffic signals.



Multiple coloured and textured cobbles separate traffic from pedestrians areas, however it functions as a shared space, allowing pedestrians to cross anywhere that feels safe. According to the town, businesses have seen increased foot traffic, and congestion has been considerably lessened. The total cost was 4 million pounds, comparable to traditional road repairs which were needed. (Information and picture from Wikipedia)

I've travelled through Poynton a few times over the last few years with both the old and new layouts. It does take a bit of getting used to especially if, like me, you only pass through once or twice a year. I would guess the locals and regular travellers are used to it by now.

Ed

How to avoid MOT palaver: Tips from IAM RoadSmart

A lot of you may be in the mentality of ‘New Year, New Me’ and hopefully fulfilling your New Year’s resolutions, walking down the road of positivity. Some drivers will be going for their MOT checks and it would be a negative start to the year to fail this. This week’s tips give advice on how to avoid failing your MOT, from IAM RoadSmart’s head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

Check your lights. This easily slips through the net becoming a thing that we look at but do not actually see when it needs replacing. Tap each light to make sure there’s not a loose connection which might appear at the test. Most bulbs are easily changed, but you will probably need to look in the handbook to find out how to get at them. Don’t forget to check the headlamp washers if you have xenon (HID) or LED headlamps, if these are not working the car will fail the test

Try and get into the routine of checking your tyres. This would be for bulges and cuts as well as plenty of tread. Uneven wear means they are at the wrong pressure or the wheels are not aligned properly – get this fixed before the tyres are changed otherwise the new ones will wear out prematurely

Handle your wipers with care. Top up the washer fluid, then operate the washers and wipers. If the wipers leave lines on the screen or scrape over the water without clearing it, they need replacing although you could try cleaning them with methylated spirit first

We understand that you may be busy but try not to leave it until the last minute. You can submit your car for a check up to a month before the old certificate runs out. This also gives you enough time to make any corrections should there be an issue.

Make a check list. Having a checklist sounds simple but allows you to remember little things that you need that may have slipped off the radar. Try to read the comments after whether you pass or fail. Prevention is better than cure.

Richard said: "If we maintain our car correctly during the year MOT time will not be as much as an issue, remember a failure means you are driving around in a car that fails to meet the recommended 'minimum' safety standard and that is not how an advanced driver operates."

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Electric cars – the future?

I met up with a friend of mine from university at the beginning of January and he told me he had recently had a test drive in an electric car. The salesman assured him that the car, with a range of 100 miles, would easily make the 80 mile journey he had planned. So having made sure the car was fully charged he and his wife set off on their journey. The charge state meter started dropping but as there were a couple of charging points on the route he didn't worry. Approaching the first charge point he thought "I'll give it a top up charge just to be sure" however the best laid plans etc. as the card they had been given to allow it to be charged didn't work so they had to continue on their journey watching the charge meter dropping and wondering if they would need to call the emergency number they had been given in case they ran out of charge. They finally arrived at their destination with about 5 miles range left.

The route involved uphill and downhill stages but even with regenerative braking on the downhill sections the range was not quite what was claimed. His final comment was to say that his wife said "don't you ever bring one of these home".

So are electric cars the future? At present they cost significantly more than an equivalent petrol or diesel car even with a government subsidy. The batteries are another issue, their life is limited and they can be expensive to replace so leasing the batteries is one option. Charging is another issue, at home they can be charged from a normal 13A socket but for faster charging a dedicated higher current socket can be fitted. That is fine if you have a garage or off road parking but what if you don't? There is also the time taken to charge at public charging points, generally this is longer than filling up with petrol or diesel plus the limited number of public charging points.

In my opinion electric cars are more suited to local city travel than long distances until the issues with range and faster charging can be solved. Until then hybrid cars are probably the better option for lower emission long distance travelling.

Have you any experience of pure electric or hybrid cars? Are the running costs lower, do you get the claimed fuel consumption, would you buy another?

Ed

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Hello,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and to invite you to assist John Buffoni [Chair, York Group] and I with an exciting new project.

From 23rd-27th October 2017 we are going to support The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust in bringing the Pathfinder Project (www.under17driver.co.uk) to a location near York. We are seeking local observers willing to volunteer up to 5 days to support a group of rising 17's in following the Pathfinder Methodology (rooted in Roadcraft) and mastering the technical basics of driving and understanding how to comprehend and manage road risk. Pathfinder has been operating successfully since 2008 and has substantial support from both Policing and IAM RoadSmart

Working with rising 17's is very different to our normal 'observer' activity so volunteers will need to undergo basic training to meet the standards and criteria of The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust, this will include a requirement for DBS clearance.

We also need help with circuit set up and general administration on site. All activity is on a voluntary basis and does not constitute employment. Training for Instructors is compulsory, and will be provided to selected Observers: this will take place at the Spring Pathfinder in Worcestershire - 17 & 18th April 2017.

If you are interested and think you have the qualities and enthusiasm required, or would like to know more please contact me initially: I have just returned from the event held in Worcestershire and would be delighted to provide you with more details.

Kind regards,

Ian Goring

Invitation from the Skipton Group

We've received the following invitation from the Skipton group.

The Skipton Group would like to invite members of your group to our January Meeting on Tuesday 31st January at 8:pm.

The Speaker will be David Heath who is an IAM examiner and has recently retired from the Durham Police. David will be giving a presentation on "Overtaking". This presentation is rated as excellent by those who have seen it.

This is a change from the meeting advertised in our November Newsletter.

We meet in the Three Links Club (Oddfellows Hall) which is situated at the exit from the large car park off the High Street in Skipton. Postcode is BD23 1ER

Regards,
Bob Rowles
Chairman
Skipton & Craven Group

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This Month's Teaser

In last month's teaser I asked how did I take the cover picture of the Scammonden bridge whilst travelling a 70mph on the M62. Those of you who realised I had a dash camera will have the answer. It was a simple matter to play the footage back on the PC, stop it at a suitable point and use the snipping tool to capture the picture. This month's cover picture was simply obtained by driving up to Emley Moor and taking the picture.



So for this month's teaser, what does this sign mean? No extra points for guessing where it was taken.

And Finally.....

Stella Awards 2002

It's once again time to review the winners of the annual Stella awards. The Stella's are named after 81 year old Stella Liebeck who spilled coffee on herself and successfully sued McDonald's. That case inspired the Stella Awards for the most frivolous successful lawsuits in the United States.

4th place.

Jerry Williams of Little Rock Arkansas was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbour's Beagle dog. The Beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard.

The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been a little provoked at the time as Mr. Williams who had climbed over the fence into the yard was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

3rd place.

A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster Pennsylvania \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone)

The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

2nd place.

Kara Walton of Claymont Delaware sued the owner of a Night Club in a neighboring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out two of her front teeth.

This occurred whilst Ms. Walton was trying to crawl through the window in the Ladies Room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

1st Place.

This year's runaway winner was Mr. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Grazinski purchased a brand new Winnebago Motor Home. On his trip home from an OU football game, having driven onto the Freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly the RV left the Freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising him that in the owner's manual that he could not actually do this.

The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new Winnebago Motor Home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit just in case there were any other complete morons buying their recreation vehicles.

Your Committee

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

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.