

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

February 2020

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Taxi anyone?

A couple of Far Eastern "taxi's", commonly known as tuk-tuks, spotted at Chester Zoo a few years ago.

Most use a two stroke engine but increasing concern over pollution in cities has resulted in many countries passing laws to shift to four stroke engines or change to LPG in an effort to reduce pollution.

FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday 2nd February 9:30am – 12am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	Sigma Ltd Alpine Court, Castleford, WF10 4TL
Monday 3rd February 8pm	MYAM Social Evening Keith Reyner from West Yorkshire Police Collision Investigation	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW See page 7
Sunday 16th February 10 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
Sunday 1st March 9:30am – 12am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	Sigma Ltd Alpine Court, Castleford, WF10 4TL
Monday 2nd March 8pm	MYAM Social Evening Speaker TBA	Carlton Social Club
Sunday 15th March 10 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB

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.

FROM THE EDITOR

By the time you read this Christmas (or Yule for Janice) and New Year will be over and many of you will have returned to work and Caroline and I will be back on childminding duties and looking forward to this year's holidays.

Have you made any New Year's resolutions and if so are you keeping to them? I never make any as I know I'll break them within a few days or weeks.

One change that I will be making is a new computer as support for Windows 7 was withdrawn on 14th January. So this will be the last newsletter sent out from my "old" PC. It's only 6 years old but I'll still be using it as many of the peripherals such as my scanner do not have drivers for Windows 10. I'll be spending the next month getting to grips with the new PC and operating system and seeing what software I can transfer to the new PC and hopefully I'll be able to send out next month's newsletter from the new PC.

The committee are working on this year's events and if you visit our website you'll find the calendar for 2020 with all our events and the dates of our social meetings. We haven't finalised all the speakers yet so if you have any suggestions please let us know. Why not pop along to one of the many events we attend and say hello or bring a visitor to one of our meetings.

If you have any photos, stories or comments on any newsletter item that you think may be of interest to our members please send them to at the address on the committee page.

For those of you who didn't spot the error in the December newsletter take another look at the "What's Included" page. The item on page 8 should have read "November Meeting" not "October Meeting". Another case of cut and paste going wrong!

Keith

Will any Member wishing to have an item, article or picture included in the newsletter please submit it to the editor no later than the 15th of the month, these may be edited to save space. Thank you.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

**Robert Cooke, Alan Hall, Katy Jackson,
Luke Nixon, Clifford Smith**

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

**Bob Hooper - Observer David Rockliff
Bob Passed with a F1rst**

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Windows 7

As I mentioned earlier support for the Microsoft Windows 7 operating system has now ended. This doesn't mean that it will stop working but there will be no further updates for security and to correct bugs. This could leave a PC vulnerable to attack. Microsoft recommend changing to Windows 10 but not all PCs currently running Windows 7 are capable of being updated.

When Windows 10 was introduced in July 2015 there was a free update available but there were many stories of updated PCs having problems. In particular the drivers for many devices, such as scanners or printers, were not available for Windows 10 as they were considered obsolete. I resisted the offers as I did not want to replace a perfectly good scanner and printer. There were also reports of problems with the frequent updates changing settings etc. on PCs.

Provided you are careful as to which websites you visit and do not open any suspicious attachments to emails you should be OK. However the ultimate solution is to update your PC and/or operating system. Having said that I did receive a software update, probably the last one, for my old PC the day after support ended.

If you are running Windows 8 the January 2023 is the end of support date.

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

We are adding to the content all the time so keep dropping in to see what we are doing.



FACEBOOK provides details of events and local news. Go and visit www.facebook.com/midyorkshireiam and like our page.

How about inviting a few of your Facebook friends to like our page too. It helps getting our name out there.

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)

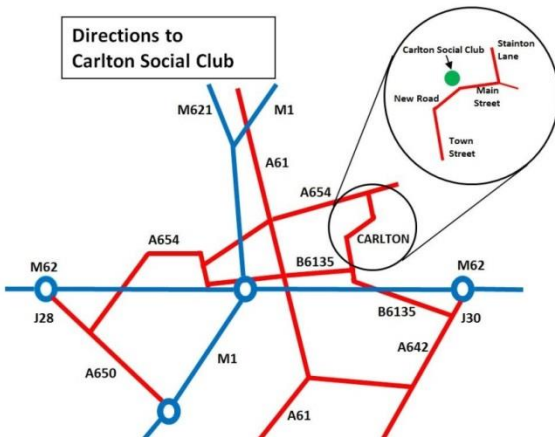
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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

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

Directions to the Carlton Social Club

Main Street, Carlton, Wakefield WF3 3RW



From the M62 West leave at Junction 28 and take the A650 towards Wakefield. At the next set of traffic lights turn left onto the A654 toward Rothwell. Follow the A654, turning left in Thorpe on the Hill. Cross the A61 and continue into Carlton. Turn right into Stainton Lane then turn right into Main Street. The Social Club is on the right immediately after the Unicorn pub.

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

Take the next right, B6135, towards Lofthouse. Follow the B6135 under the M62 onto Ouzlewell Green towards Carlton and Rothwell. Follow the road past Carlton Primary School and the Social Club is on the left just before the Unicorn pub.

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

Speeding Offences

Amongst the usual post-Christmas stories padding out the newspapers, the Daily Telegraph included one about a postcode lottery for speed cameras. Research by John Moores University in Liverpool and the RAC Foundation has discovered a huge disparity in the number of tickets issued by various police forces in 2018-19.

Quite surprising was that West Yorkshire Police actually top the list, with 181,867 tickets, followed by Avon & Somerset, the Metropolitan Police, Thames Valley and Greater Manchester. If you want to speed with gay abandon, try Wiltshire, where the police issued 807 speeding tickets in that year!

One suspects this may relate to the obvious fact that the speed limits across West Yorkshire are being continually reduced, often for no clear reason. Also, there appears to be a programme of updating the cameras, which are no doubt now digital and automatically linked to a central control. No longer are there a large number of boxes and a small number of cameras, which were periodically switched from box to box so that driver could never be sure which boxes were live at any one time. Gone are the days of having to remove the film from the cameras and process the results so as to deliver the Notice of Intended Prosecution within the legally required 14 days. It's all too easy now.

1. West Yorkshire	181,867	20. Warwickshire	52,774
2. Avon and Somerset	159,210	21. Cheshire	52,770
3. Metropolitan Police (inc City of London)	157,494	22. Northamptonshire	49,448
4. Thames Valley	145,447	23. Staffordshire	48,583
5. Greater Manchester	106,839	24. Devon and Cornwall	47,272
6. Norfolk and Suffolk	98,729	25. Lincolnshire	45,712
7. West Mercia	92,335	26. North Yorkshire	41,934
8. Essex	91,849	27. Leicestershire	41,909
9. Surrey	89,079	28. Cumbria	40,104
10. Bedfordshire	76,573	29. Wales (exc North Wales)	35,005
11. Lancashire	74,286	30. Cambridgeshire	34,672
12. Hampshire	73,036	31. Nottinghamshire	24,566
13. Northumbria	67,857	32. Gloucestershire	24,121
14. West Midlands	57,154	33. Dorset	22,716
15. South Yorkshire	55,461	34. Kent	20,366
16. Sussex	54,139	35. North Wales	19,493
17. Humberside	53,679	36. Durham	19,395
18. Merseyside	53,112	37. Derbyshire	12,256
19. Hertfordshire	52,794	38. Cleveland	11,937
		39. Wiltshire	807

Another surprise was that North Yorkshire Police were two thirds of the way down the list, at 26th, which seems at odds with the plague of cameras vans they deploy across the county. Anyone who drives in North Yorkshire regularly will know you are unlikely go far without coming across a van tactically parked to harvest miscreants.

Of course, IAM RoadSmart had their comments included, correctly pointing out that the deterrent should be

consistent across the country. Good luck with that one!

Just remember, if you stick to the limits, you won't get a ticket, although perhaps we should start a campaign to advise the various councils every time we see a speed limit sign obscured by trees, unreadable through filth, or laid dead having been flattened by some means. Backed up with further complaints about absent repeater signs we could soon become a source of considerable annoyance!

Mallard

Thank you Mallard for that I think we've all seen signs that have been obscured in one way or another and just to prove the point here are a few I spotted near to where I live and along the A58 towards the M62.



Obscured by bushes



Obscured by dirt



Speed limit signs obscured by a bus stop, dirty road sign, direction sign and a tree and poles



This sign appears to be aligned to be parallel to the side road. The main road is a 50 limit and the side road has a 60 limit although you'd be hard pressed to be sure which limit applied to which road.



Isn't this sign supposed to have a red border?

Apologies for the quality of some of these pictures but they were taken from stills from my dashcam footage.



And this dual road sign (left), apart from being slightly dirty, had an additional message attached but what does, or did, it say?

On this journey I saw many more signs which were obscured by bushes. They are visible in winter but in summer they are almost completely obscured by leaves. Many of the signs were filthy or had suffered, like the one above, from over exposure to the sun.

I don't know how much thought goes into the positioning of road signs and bus stops relative to speed limit signs but in these examples there appears to have been little thought given to their positioning. Are there any regulations covering the visibility or the maintenance of road signs? Perhaps we should, as Mallard says, complain to the local council.

Local drivers may be familiar with the directions and speed limits but imagine if you were a visitor and were unfamiliar with the area and were relying on the road signs to get around and to keep within the speed limits. And if the proposed speed limiters to be fitted relied on recognising speed limit signs how would they cope with obscured or dirty signs?

Do you have any examples of poorly placed, damaged or dirty road signs? Send me any pictures to the address on page 16.

The Technology in Your Car – 11 Comfort and Convenience

This will be the final instalment of this series where I've tried to explain some of the technology installed in modern cars. I hope you've enjoyed it and have gained some insight as to what is happening under the bonnet and behind the dashboard of your car.

When driving you should be sitting comfortably to reduce any stress which could affect your concentration on the road. To this end the car manufacturers have, over the years, made improvements in the seating and other areas of the car interior. I'm reminded of my first car, a 1974 Mini, with vinyl seats with very little adjustment available. Subsequent cars have had more adjustment being able to set up the back rake, head restraint position and height of the seat. On my latest car I opted for an electric driver's seat which gives fine control of the settings which can then be memorised. The settings can also be different for each key so the seat can be automatically set for each driver. The seat coverings have also changed with most cars having a cloth covering or leather. These are more comfortable than the old vinyl seats especially in summer.

Air conditioning is now standard on most cars meaning the interior will not be excessively hot in summer. Some cars have climate control which allows the interior temperature to be set to a specific value. No more opening all the windows in the heat of summer days. It also helps to clear the condensation on the windscreen in winter.

Electric windows are more common and many have an auto up/down feature meaning to fully open or close them you don't have to keep your finger on the switch. You can even close them on many cars when locking from the remote control. Door mirrors have also been electrified making it easy to adjust the passenger door mirror. How many of us have spent ages adjusting the passenger door mirror leaning over to the passenger door to make small adjustments to get the best view? Some cars have door mirrors that can be folded to minimise damage when parked. The mirrors are often heated making it easy to have a clear view in cold weather.

Interior rear view mirrors have also been dragged into the electronic age with a sensor that can automatically dip them when a bright light is detected.

Automatic headlights and wipers can be fitted. The headlights use a light sensor, on my car it's in the rev counter, to determine when the lights should be on. This is fine but when I start the car in the garage the lights come on only to go out when I move it outside. The auto wipers use a sensor on the windscreen to detect rain and operate the wipers. The speed at which they operate is often speed dependant. The rain sensor can also be used to

close the sunroof, if fitted, and the windows if they are open to prevent the interior getting too wet when it rains. This normally works when the ignition is off.

Other features are linking the rear wiper to the front wipers so if it's raining heavily the rear wiper will intermittently turn on to keep the rear view clear.

These are some of the features fitted to modern cars but what is the technology behind them?

As cars started to be fitted with electronic control units it became possible to link them together to perform all these functions. In earlier cars individual connections had to be made between the various control units. This increased the complexity of the wiring loom causing problems on some cars. On some cars, such as the XJ12 Jaguar, it has been said that it was possible to remove the drivers door hinges and the door would stay in place because of all the heavy duty wiring needed for the electric windows and other items controlled by switches mounted on the door.

The answer was the CAN bus. This is a system where all the electronic control modules are linked by a data bus which passes data between the modules. Each module extracts data from other modules relevant to its operation and passes on its own data to other modules. This means it's possible to link various functions, as an example when I put my car into reverse it turns on the parking sensors, switches on the reversing camera, lowers the volume on the radio, displays rear view from the camera and parking sensor data on the radio display, turns on the rear wiper if the front wipers are operating, turns on the front fog lights if the headlights are on, dips the passenger door mirror, changes the air-con to recirculate the air (to prevent exhaust fumes entering the car), turns on the reversing lights on and puts it into reverse gear! All this is possible because of the CAN bus.

The wiring to the doors is also simplified with the connection to the CAN bus sending commands to open/close all the windows, operate the central locking and the door mirrors.

All this means there is less wiring in the car but at the cost of more complex modules to actually control things like the windows. It also allows more information to be presented to the driver and the whole car to be checked for faults simply by plugging a diagnostic reader into a special connector. This connector is known as the OBD socket and is fitted to all modern cars. One of the first things a garage will do on a service is to plug in a diagnostic reader to see if any faults have been recorded It also allows settings to be changed and software updates to be installed.

The school run needn't be a marathon

Now the festivities are over, it's time to get back to the daily commute – and with it, the dreaded school run!

This week's tips, provided by IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman offers advice on how to manage the term-time road rush better.

- Make sure everyone is seated correctly. If you use child or booster seats, make sure they are fit for purpose and correctly secured. Check out Good Egg for some top tips: <http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com/>.
- Pack for success. Dependent on the age of your little ones, pack some healthy treats to distract them and keep them engaged, even on a short journey.
- Leave enough time. Setting off for school can be a frustrating and hurried experience. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to get ready in the morning, as a half-eaten breakfast can put both you and your child in the wrong frame of mind for the day ahead.
- It's not a race. In many areas with schools, the guide is '20's plenty.' Remember that this is a limit, not a target. Remember to abide by the school crossing patrol, you'll probably receive a friendly wave for your assistance.
- Start them while they're young. Teach your children about road safety so they know how to behave around traffic. Setting a good example as a driver will create a lasting impression when they learn to drive.
- Parking in a safe place and walking the last few metres will not just help with congestion, it will also allow you to teach them the right way to cross a road – which is look right and left, and then right again. This could potentially save a life.

Richard said: "Traffic always picks up again after the school holidays so your journey will take longer and potentially be more stressful. Make sure the car is fuelled up and

ready for the stop-start traffic so you have one less thing to worry about. Be vigilant around schools as there will be children milling around, possibly not being aware you are there.”

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When our children were at primary school we lived in a village near Leicester and our house was about a 500 yard walk to the school and most of the village was within easy walking distance from the school but the road outside the school and the adjacent library car park were filled with cars at school start and finish times. Caroline used to pick them up in the afternoon on her way back from work and it was easier to park at home and walk down to the school than to try to park near the school. In fact she would probably have had to park more than 500 yards from the school then try to avoid the chaos of all the cars leaving to get home.

Should you have to pass a school at drop off or pick up times be careful as the drivers may be distracted by the children in their car and are not concentrating on oncoming traffic. This happened to Caroline when a car pulled out from the right hand side of the road near a local school, hitting the car she was driving. The car responsible had two children in the car and belonged to the husband of the driver. There were a couple of heated phone calls about the accident but I would have loved to see their faces when the insurance company decided, quite correctly, that it was their fault.



This is what happened when someone at work took the last day before Christmas off.

And Finally.....

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Sears hairdryer “Do not use while sleeping.” (Gee, that’s the only time I have to work on my hair)

On a bar of Dial soap “Directions: Use like regular soap.” (And that would be how . . .?)

On Tesco’s Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of box) “Do not turn upside down.” (Too late!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding “Product will be hot after heating.” (As night follows the day)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron “Do not iron clothes on body.” (But wouldn’t this save more time?)

On Boot’s Children’s Cough Medicine “Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication.” (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts)

On Nytol Sleep Aid “Warning: May cause drowsiness.” (One can only hope)

On most brands of Christmas lights “For indoor or outdoor use only.” (As opposed to what?)

On Sainsbury’s peanuts “Warning: contains nuts.” (Really? No kidding?)

On a child’s superman costume “Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.” (I don’t blame the company. I blame parents for this one)

This Month’s Teaser

The imperial ton and the metric tonne are virtually the same but which is the larger unit?

Last Month’s Teaser

Last month I asked. “What is always taken to the FA cup final but never used?” The answer is “The losing teams colours”

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.

URGENT REQUEST

We are still in need of a Speaker Secretary to organise the speakers for our monthly meetings. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested this position.