

# **Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter**



## **ARE WE THERE YET**

**January 2016**

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



**[www.iamgroups.org.uk/midyorkshire](http://www.iamgroups.org.uk/midyorkshire)**

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## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 8pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social evening.</b> Speaker is our very own David Rushfirth explaining the information available on the Group's web site and Facebook media pages	The Manor Golf Club. (See page 11 for directions)
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30pm</b>	<b>Theory Session 1</b> For all Associates and any members who have not so far attended	The Manor Golf Club (see page 9)
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 10am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Free tea or coffee.	McDonalds on the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 7.30pm</b>	<b>MYAM Volunteers Christmas Dinner</b>	The Manor Golf Club (see page 5)
<b>Wednesday 27th Jan 7.30pm</b>	<b>Observer Meeting</b>	The Manor Golf Club (see page 10)
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social evening.</b>	The Manor Golf Club
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford.

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.

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



*TO ALL OUR READERS*

**Welcome to the Group**

**Abdukarim Bachu  
Francesca Tennant**

**Congratulations**

**On passing the Advanced Test**

**Keith Tovey** Observed by Bill Jackson

**Gani Shiri Padala** Observed by Hanni Kaye

**Lynne Hill** Observed by Kim Clark

**John Bergin** gaining a F1rst pass

Observed by Leslie Pollard.

My apologies for omitting this achievement in last month's newsletter. Well done John.

## GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

# Happy Birthday this month goes to

Christine Mackenzie, Amanda Peace, John Knapp, Paul Croft, Malcolm Stott, Adam Scroggins, David Rushfirth, Brain Farrar, Lawrence Backhouse, Clifford Baker, David Falkingham, Joel Ward, Yolande Burns-Sleightholme, Michael Fitch, Anthony Hepple, Clive Ford, Ian Hodgson, John Hodgson, William Mayou, Alan Peers, David Holmes, Roger Illingworth, David Johnston, Karen Maltas, Chris Marrison, Jacqueline Marsden, John McNichol, Tina Sterry, Peter McWilliam, David Potkins, Barry Schofield, Miles Beecham Martin Whatmuff, , Gerrard Cowburn, Martin Dixon, Katrina Howden, Marina Simpson, Ian Gordon, Robert Stanley, Maggie Vernon, Judith Wells & Andy Brown

# 2016 Diary Dates

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES FOR MYAM SOCIAL  
EVENINGS FOR 2016

4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY

7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

9<sup>TH</sup> MAY

6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

4<sup>TH</sup> JULY

8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

All volunteers remember to let Martin know if you want to attend the Christmas Dinner on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at the Manor, with your menu choice.

The picture in the December wrongly identified the two recipients the gentleman on the right was Graham smith and the one on the left was Johnathan Clarkson. *Sorry Ed.*

# THE MYAM CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



Judging by the comments from those that attended this year, it was our best yet. We were very fortunate that Adrian Roebuck did a brilliant, well thought out quiz, allowing us all plenty of time to chat and socialise between taxing those little grey cells. Thank you Adrian.

Attendance award winners were handed £10 Thankyou vouchers the recipients were Caroline, Keith & David Wevill, Ken Sykes, Peter Rowley and Roger Illingworth.

The Manor provided us with a tasty Buffet and there was nearly £70 worth of raffle prizes given away. A large percentage of the prizes were again donated by

Halfords. Please see their details on page 8.

Three Advanced Driving Certificates were presented by our Chairman Martin Fillingham.

Pictured left to right

Keith Tovey, Bas Van Der Hoeven (Martin) & Emma Greenhalgh.

Well done to all three.



# Chairman's New Year Message

Expecting a slightly quieter time after last year, it has turned out to be another interesting year for the Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Group. We once again expanded, adding the Harrogate members to the fold. I am pleased to welcome Lesley onto the Committee as Vice-Chair; her input to the work of the Group has been greatly appreciated. Change has also been on the agenda for the IAM as a whole this year as it endeavours to attract a wider cross section of motorists. One example of this is the workshop attended by Kim which focused on expanding the role of women within the organisation. You may have noticed Vicki in the press recently, gracing the front cover of the IAM magazine discussing the issues involved around attracting younger members.

Our Observers have also had a busy twelve months. They have been participating in a national pilot scheme looking at standardising the Advanced Driving Test and training across the country.

As well as our new Vice- Chair, we have been fortunate to add both Bob McDermott and Steve Duree onto the Committee. A particular mention and thank you also goes to Bob Farish and David Rushfirth who have made notable contributions through streamlining the current membership records system and being responsible for the website, respectively. I would encourage any of our members to step forward and consider joining the Committee to ensure that the MYAM continues to flourish as a number of our long-standing members are considering stepping down in the forthcoming year.

I would like to thank you all for supporting the work of the MYAM Group whether or not you have been more actively involved on the Committee, Observing or attending events and social events. Don't forget that our regular and popular social meetings are held at the Manor Golf Club on the first Monday of every month. If you have not been before you will find that our guest speakers are always informative and these events are great opportunity to meet fellow members.

With best wishes for the forthcoming year and .....safe driving!

Kind regards

*Martin Fillingham*

## Thank you Halfords

We now need your to help

As I have mentioned we owe a special Thank you to Halfords, Meadow Road Leeds West Yorkshire LS11 9BX, for their kind donations of raffle prizes to the value of £40.

As a thank you from us to Halfords all they ask is that you call in the store (just off the M621 going into Leeds on the left) and tell them where you heard about them. This is a relationship we have 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

Halfords are open 9am to 8pm Mon Friday 9am -6pm Sat and 10am -5pm on Sundays. They offer the widest range of Halfords automotive, audio and leisure products, inc. tools and GPS systems, Bike sales and repairs. An extensive fitting service on a range of products inc car stereos and roof boxes. And a paint mixing service to match your car Tel:0113 242 8780



## GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### ASSOCIATES AND MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

#### THEORY TRAINING EVENINGS AT THE MANOR.

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**  
**AND**  
**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**



As you are all aware we offer classroom theory session which we strongly suggest all Associates should attend as part of their course.

Both of these sessions cover different topics and it is to your advantage that you attend both.

These evenings are **open to all members** and especially to those who have completed their courses in between the classroom sessions.

## ***MYAM Online***

### MYAM launches its own Forum January 2016

Have you ever wanted to know what all the fuss is about when it comes to Websites, Facebook etc? At our January gathering, David Rushfirth, our Group's resident button pusher, will give a presentation on the Groups resources on-line.

This should also see the launch of our new members on line forum where we can all join in, asking questions and giving answers.



This will be a great opportunity to ask anything about the Group's online presence. Is there something you would find useful and would like to see on there for instance?

# Observers' Page

## OBSERVER TRAINING EVENING 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

An Observer training evening will be held on at 1930hrs on Wednesday 27th January at the Manor. We want to take this opportunity to provide you with up to date information that you require to continue as effective Observers. If you have anything specific that you would like us to cover, please contact the MYAM Chief Observer David Stringer.

## PLEASE RESPOND TO BOB'S REQUESTS FOR DETAILS OF YOUR OBSERVED RUNS OUT

Even if you haven't had a drive during the requested period please send in a quick email or telephone message with a nil return.

## NEW UPDATED DOCUMENT DECLARATION FORM

Please note that there is a new updated Document Declaration form that has been released by Chiswick. Copies are available through the Group web site or at the Sunday skill sessions.

## FAILING TO COMMUNICATE COULD MEAN NO OBSERVING.

Firstly we would like to thank all of you that respond to Bob's emails and to those of you that do send in their observing hours at the end of each month. Unfortunately not everyone does. Any Observers who repeatedly fail to respond to emails from Bob Farish and/or continually do not send in their hours will be marked as inactive as an Observer and will longer be classed as a Group Observer. Please rest assured that if reasonable steps are taken to keep in touch then we value your assistance. **However a policy of "three strikes and you are" out is the Group policy.**

## SUNDAYS PROVING POPULAR

The Sunday skills sessions are proving very popular so please Observers, if you can spare a few hours, your company would be appreciated. Try to encourage your Associates to attend as part of their training and especially if their 6<sup>th</sup> drive assessment is due.

## GROUP NOTICES

# New stock of MYAM Polo shirts

A new stock of MYAM embroidered Polo Shirts is available for you to purchase at the Group Socials. They are black and available in various men's and ladies sizes, embroidered with the IAM logo and Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists. They are proving very popular. COST £5 for a limited period only.

*(Note from editor: "they don't need ironing which is a bonus")*



We have a Facebook page providing 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.



### **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.

## IAM News releases

### Tachometer breaks cause nearly 1,700 road closures in one year alone, IAM Drive & Survive finds 11.12.15

Tachometer breaks, the mandatory rest stops commercial operators must take when driving, were the cause of nearly 1,700 road closures in one year alone, according to newly released figures from IAM Drive & Survive.

According to the Road Haulage Association 85% of everything sold in the UK is carried by truck at some stage of the supply chain (reference 1) with this number set to increase as more retail purchases are made online in the run up to Christmas.

The numbers come from a Freedom of Information request to Highways England into why motorways and major A roads were closed in 2014. Tachometer breaks are one of the top 25 reasons for lane closures, with 1,669 incidents last year.

IAM Drive & Survive says one of the main causes of this problem is road infrastructure – insufficient numbers of laybys, a lack of services for commercial drivers and the impact of long distances of road works.

It adds that drivers and their employers can play their part in ensuring their journeys are as smooth and safe as possible and that planning journeys in advance is key.

Researching routes with good facilities for drivers, looking up road closures and avoiding areas where traffic delays are common all help to avoid the need to stop in unsuitable locations.

Lesley Upham, IAM commercial director, said: “Designing the roads and facilities drivers need to operate safely is essential, but meeting this objective needs a long-term approach.

“Until then employers and drivers must remain aware of the challenges and plan their journeys accordingly. Radio road traffic reports and live traffic functions on satellite navigation systems have a role to play, but planning ahead and having an alternative route in mind is also essential.

“There is also a great responsibility on employers to limit the time-based pressure put on their drivers. Nothing will delay their operations as much as a serious incident and if an accident occurs procedures will be scrutinised.”

Other significant reasons for road closures include abnormal load (3,191) and vehicle shedding its load (6,648).

IAM Drive & Survive is a leading occupational driver risk management provider and helps companies reduce on-road incidents, minimise costs and look after their drivers. To download a copy of its Driver Risk management booklet click here: <http://info.iamdriveandsurvive.co.uk/product-and-services>

## Seventy per cent of people support reduced drink-drive limit, IAM finds 16.12.15

Almost seventy per cent of people would like to see the legal drink-drive limit reduced across England, Wales and Northern Ireland (1), to the same level of that implemented in Scotland, according to a survey by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

The legal alcohol limit in Scotland was reduced from 80 to 50 milligrams of alcohol in 100ml of blood in December 2014. At the beginning of this year, Police Scotland confirmed they saw a 19% reduction in drivers prosecuted for being under the influence of alcohol over the festive period, compared with the same period the previous year.

As well as supporting a reduction in the limit, many people are also keen that drink driving receives a festive focus. Nearly half of those surveyed answered that seasonal Christmas drink-drive campaigns should always be made a priority by the police. The success of this approach is demonstrated by existing research from the Department for Transport which shows that the number of people convicted of drink driving falls in December despite more people being tested over the festive period. The survey of 2,437 visitors to the IAM website, which took place during November 2015, also found that almost half would like the police to be given more power to stop any driver and request a random breath test.

As Scottish drink-drive numbers continue to fall, with a corresponding reduction in alcohol-related accidents (4), the IAM's chief executive officer, Sarah Sillars said: "While the police double their efforts in reducing the number of drink-drive incidents during this time of year, it's important that we look to a solution that can make a positive change over the long-term.

"Many of our survey participants would like to see stricter laws introduced, in order to discourage those who continue to risk one or two drinks when driving. The IAM welcomed the adoption of lower limits in Scotland last year and this change seems to be successfully reinforcing the message that we should all make it none for the road. Christmas is a time when people are more conscious of the risk of drink-driving and the IAM supports campaigns which makes the non-drinker the hero on a night out, so that everyone stays safe."

## Mark Lewis IAM's Director of Standards.

### Yule be snow happy with the IAM's driving hints – no rein (deer) on our parade! 16.12.15

This week's tips from the IAM's director of standards, Mark Lewis, are looking at how you can safely drive around crowded shopping areas this Christmas. Keep up-to-date with our latest advice to ensure your journey is as safe as possible.

- Keep an eye out for pedestrians who will be leaving Christmas parties and shopping centres in the dark. Remember, they may be distracted or drunk so make sure that your dipped headlights are switched on and that you are prepared to slow down if necessary.
- If you're the designated driver dropping friends back home, make a note of their address details before they have a drink – or you may risk agreeing to take them home when they are not sober enough to tell you where they need to go!
- When driving with other people, make sure their behaviour doesn't distract you. Stay focussed on the road ahead and make sure all passengers have their seatbelts fastened.
- You are more likely to feel tired when travelling in the dark and for a long period of time. Make sure you are prepared for this by drinking some coffee or drinking plenty of water to stay hydrated and alert.
- The more people in your car, the quicker the windows will mist up. Make sure you understand how to demist your car internally to help dry out the air and keep visibility clear.

Mark said: "As the designated driver don't feel tempted to consume any alcohol – one drink can be too much. Enjoy the run up to Christmas, but make sure you make it a safe one for yourself, your passengers and all other road users. So long as you reflect these tips in your driving, you can make the festive season a merry one."

#### **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.

# Don't let wet weather rain on your parade, says the IAM

27.12.15



With wet weather continuing to engulf the UK, the Institute of Advanced Motorists' (IAM) director of standards, Mark Lewis, looks at how drivers can best prepare for driving in heavy rain.

1. Before setting off, check for any weather alerts, traffic updates or planned road closures that may affect your journey. Only travel in extreme adverse weather conditions if it is really necessary.
2. Check lights and windscreen wiper blades are clean and working properly. Also check the tyre pressure and tread depth to ensure the best possible grip on wet surfaces.
3. Plan your route in advance and try to avoid any roads that are prone to flooding, even if it extends your journey.
4. Heavy rain often leads to damaged road surfaces and puddles can hide deep potholes – look for clues such as loose chunks of tarmac.
5. In heavy rain, don't forget to switch on your dipped headlights so other motorists can see you easily. Reduce your speed when travelling in the rain to decrease your stopping distance. This will also help you pass through large puddles and potholes smoothly, without spraying other road users or risking aquaplaning.
6. Torrential rain may interfere with the electrics of a vehicle causing a breakdown. Prepare for the worst by keeping your mobile phone charged and with the number of your breakdown service provider already saved on it. While you wait for help keep your bonnet closed as soaking the engine will only make it worse.

# And Finally.....

## Thanks to David Robinson. I know it's a bit late but I liked it

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams.

'We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,' the father says. 'We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'Like hell they're getting divorced,' she shouts, 'I'll take care of this.'

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, 'they're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way.'



(I wouldn't want to be behind that when he applies the brakes! Ed).



## Your Committee

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