

# ARE WE THERE YET?



**Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter**

**January 2018**

**iAM**  
RoadSmart

**Group Number 4178**  
**Registered Charity Number 1053843**





## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE



- Page 3**            **All About the Forthcoming Gatherings**
- Page 4**            **From the Editor**
- Page 5-6**        **Group Membership News**  
5. Welcome, Congratulations, Birthdays  
6. MYAM Online
- Page 7**            **Change of Venue for Social Meetings**
- Page 8**            **Pathfinder Project**
- Page 9**            **December Meeting – Quiz and Buffet**
- Page 10**         **Presentations**
- Page 11**         **IAM News Releases and Tips**  
I can see clearly now
- Page 12**         **Observer Report**
- Page 13**         **The Sinclair C5**
- Page 15**         **And Finally.....**  
Last Month's Teaser
- Page 16**         **Your Committee Contact Details**

### **Cover Photo - Piece Hall Halifax**



Opened in 1779 the Piece Hall was built to allow handloom weavers to sell their pieces of cloth. One hundred years later it was acquired by Halifax Corporation and converted into a wholesale market. In 1971 it was seen as unsuitable as a market and demolition was considered but funding was received to make it into a tourist attraction, opening in 1976. It closed in January 2014 for a £19 million refurbishment, reopening on Yorkshire Day (1<sup>st</sup> August) 2017. The refurbished hall incorporates links to the nearby Square Chapel and new Library building.

## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
<b>Sunday 21st January 10 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members.	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
<b>Sunday 4th February 9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 5th February 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> Street Angels	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW See page 7
<b>Sunday 4th March 9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 5th March 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> West Yorkshire 4x4 Volunteers	Carlton Social Club See page 7

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**

#### **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.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Following the changes last year, we are starting 2018 with a major change. As mentioned in last month's newsletter the venue for our monthly social meeting is changing from the Manor Golf Club to the Carlton Social Club in Carlton near Wakefield. This is closer to the geographic centre of our catchment area.

It has been a difficult search to find a new venue and credit must go to Bill Jackson who has used his knowledge of clubs to investigate and recommend the Carlton Club. For his efforts Bill has been co-opted onto the committee. Details of how to get to the Carlton Social Club are on page 7.

The committee works hard to keep the group running smoothly and arrange the speakers for the social meetings but currently this job is shared between the committee members as we do not have a Speaker Secretary. You know what I'm going to say next – would anyone like to step forward to take on the role of Speaker secretary? There are only ten speakers to arrange as the May meeting is the AGM and the December meeting is the Quiz and Buffet. The social meetings are important as it gives you the opportunity to meet other like minded drivers and ask questions directly to committee members with an interesting talk as well.

For those who cannot attend the social meetings the newsletter is the main means of contact. To this end I'm always looking for articles, photos, jokes, puzzles etc. to fill the pages. All contributions are eligible for the prestigious MYAM trophy, presented to Lesley Pollard at our December meeting for her contributions to the group. I can accept contributions in almost any format including handwritten articles. Just send them to me by email at the address on page 16 or contact me by phone for an address to send handwritten items or "real" photos or hand them to me at one of the social meetings. Photos will be returned once scanned.

I'm also interested to hear of anything you would like to see covered by the newsletter. I've a few ideas which will need working on but would welcome suggestions from our members.

Finally a reminder that there is no meeting in January, the next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> February at our new meeting venue.

**Keith**

# **Welcome to the Group**

## **New Associates**

**Catherine Burge, Courtney Gill, Frank Milner,  
Julie Watson, Karl Watson**

# **Congratulations**

## **On passing the Advanced Test**

**Donna Carter - Observer Roger Illingworth  
Rhian Ebrey - Observer Francis Lintott  
Rosemary Jones - Observer Christian Pithers  
Chris Makin - Observer Ruth Watson  
Josh Sharpe - Observer David Rushfirth**

# **Happy Birthday this month goes to**

**Yasmin Ahmed, Clifford Baker, Clive Bateman,  
Andy Brown, Yolande Burns-Sleightholme, Mick Coley,  
Martin Dixon, David Falkingham, Clive Ford, Anthony Hepple,  
Ian Hodgson, Katrina Howden, Roger Illingworth, John Knapp,  
Paul Leishman, Christine Mackenzie, Chris Marrison, Jackie Marsden,  
Hazel Pike, David Potkins, David Rushfirth, Barry Schofield,  
Adam Scroggins, Marina Simpson, Malcolm Stott**

# 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.



**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)

or use the QR code.



On the website you'll find details of our events, courses, the latest news from the group and copies of previous newsletters.



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

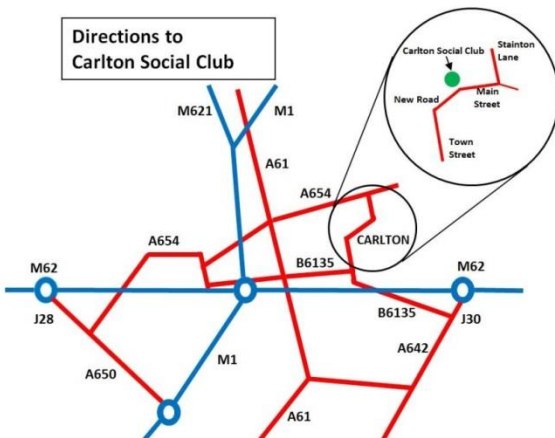
The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

# CHANGE OF VENUE FOR SOCIAL MEETINGS

As announced last month we are changing the venue for our monthly social meetings. After much searching (thanks Bill) the committee has selected the Carlton Social Club in the village of Carlton near Rothwell.

## 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.

# PATHFINDER PROJECT

Dear Members

You will probably have heard of The Under 17 Car Club, a charity that IAM RoadSmart supports which operates in the south of England. They do excellent work coaching teenagers 11+ to learn safe driving skills in a controlled environment, to have a better chance of not being involved in an accident and staying alive once they get out on the roads.

Twice a year, at Easter and October half term, they run the Pathfinder Project, which is a 5 day course aimed at **15 – 17 year olds**. These young people along with their parents/guardians will learn about and practice some of the core driving skills required to become safer drivers, covering observational skills, theory, manoeuvring, Highway Code and management of peer pressure. The Police's Roadcraft is at the core of all learning.

Ian Goring and John Buffoni from York & Scarborough Groups have been working to organise and fetch the Pathfinder Project here to Yorkshire on the **2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018** at Rufforth Airfield, York.

The cost is £170 for the full five day course which is fantastic value for what the young people will gain in safety and could mean fewer driving lessons once on the road post 17.

Please do have a look at the Pathfinder Project website [www.under17driver.co.uk](http://www.under17driver.co.uk) to find out more **or** contact the Yorkshire Co-ordinator, Ian Goring [ian.goring@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.goring@btinternet.com) /tel: [01904 700489](tel:01904700489) **or** John Buffoni [johnbuffoni@ryedalegroup.co.uk](mailto:johnbuffoni@ryedalegroup.co.uk) **or** pass this information on to family or friends which you think it may be of interest to.

The Easter course will also need volunteers for marshalling, cone setting, admin etc please have a think if you could help out in this way, even if it's only for half a day, refreshments will be provided.

Your support would be most appreciated.  
Many thanks

**Lesley Pollard**

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists



# December Meeting Quiz and Buffet

A cracking evening was laid on by the committee for our annual Christmas quiz and buffet.

This year our newsletter editor, Keith, devised and hosted the proceedings with questions covering a variety of genres. Some fiendishly difficult questions were asked such as - the explorers name that had recently been rescued in Papua New Guinea? Go on.....I bet it's on the tip of your tongue.....



Come the answer session there were plenty of groans and 'yes! we got that one!' from around the room, at the final totting up the Spitfires team were the worthy winners. Well done everyone.

A delicious buffet was duly served which gave us chance to have a good chin wag and catch up with friends and colleagues.

Alan once more had been to badger the manager at Halfords and obtained an array of fine raffle prizes, so do give the group a mention if you shop there.

I was totally taken by surprise when I was presented with the MYAM Group Trophy, I feel very honoured to receive it, thank you so much. If you remember the trophy is awarded mainly by a points system. I wrote a few articles last year to go in our newsletter, which is worth valuable points as is attending socials, helping out at events etc. So why not have a go at writing an article yourself, I'm sure Keith will be delighted to include it in a future newsletter edition.

Please remember there is no social meeting in January.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

**Lesley Pollard**

Ps – the explorer's name was Benedict Allen!

There was some controversy over one of the questions "How many lakes are there in the Lake district?" with one team saying there are two but consulting the wikipedia page ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_District)) confirms the question master was correct as only

Bassenthwaite is a lake. All the others are either “meres” eg Windermere, waters e.g. Ullswater or tarns.

As I said “The question master is always right, even if he’s wrong!”

One of the other questions was “Following the same formula for the overall stopping distances specified in the Highway Code, what would be the stopping distance at 100mph?” The formula is simply  $D = S + \frac{S^2}{20}$

where **D** is the overall stopping distance in feet and **S** is the speed in MPH. This gives the stopping distance at 100mph as 600 feet almost twice the distance at 70mph – makes you think doesn’t it?

Ed

.....

## Presentations



At the meeting Charles Holland Keen received his certificate from Janice. His observer was Brian Morley.

Janice also announced the result of the MYAM Trophy and presented the magnificent trophy to our former vice-chairman Lesley Pollard for her contribution to the group over the last year. The picture shows Lesley with the trophy and last year’s winner Bill Jackson.

Congratulations to Charles and Lesley.

## I can see clearly now

### Inside job

Months of air conditioning and dust builds up a grimy layer on the inside of the windscreen, so spend a couple of minutes getting it really clean. Use a window cleaning fluid, newspaper or a microfibre cloth. A squeaky clean surface will eliminate glare from the low autumn sun and greatly reduce the likelihood of the screen misting up. Carefully clean the rear screen so that you don't damage the heater elements and you'll save having to put the heated rear window on so much, which can cost two or three mpg while it's on, says Tim Shallcross, IAM RoadSmart head of technical policy.

### Wipers

If you get that horrible squeaking noise, it's time to change the wiper blades. When the new blades sweep the screen in efficient, rain clearing silence, you'll be grateful you did. On icy days always check that your wipers are not frozen to the glass. Attempting to get them moving can blow a fuse or damage the motors, just adding to your woes. The same problem can sometimes affect electric wing mirrors. If really low temperatures are forecast don't fold them in the night before.

### Washer bottle

Ready-mixed washer fluid can be an expensive convenience; it's typically £5 or so for five litres – more at motorway service areas – and most of it is just tap water. Many supermarkets sell concentrated fluid which will dilute to make at least 20 litres for less cost, even more when the weather's mild and there's no risk of the washers freezing. Alternatively shop online, but don't be tempted by hi-tech sounding premium priced products or the very expensive "specially developed for X make of car." On cold days, don't use the washers until you feel warm air coming out of the heater, otherwise the spray may freeze on your windscreen leaving you driving blind.

### Frost and ice

Many cars now have heated windscreens and don't the rest of us envy them on frosty mornings! If there's no magic windscreen defrost switch in your car, buy a custom made ice blanket or just cover the screen the night before with a sheet. Do not use newspapers for this as they tend to disintegrate into a soggy mush. Invest in a good quality ice scraper and a few tins of de-icing spray and, most importantly give yourself that extra ten minutes to get the car ready to go. Clear the whole screen, not just a letter box area in front of the driver. A badly cleared screen is dangerous and is an offence. Three points and a hefty fine can be the reward for skimping.

While you scrape and spray you can have the engine running with the heater set to maximum demist. But cars are at their most polluting and wasteful when cold, so you won't be doing the

environment or your wallet any good. As soon as the windows are clear, drive off. It is illegal to leave a car running unattended as well as being a huge temptation for the casual thief. Most insurance companies may not pay out if you make it easy for someone to steal your vehicle.

### Damp

Clear damp or snowy boots and coats out of the car when you get home – if you leave them in overnight the water will evaporate and condense on the inside of all the windows. It'll take ages to clear and the car will feel damp and miserable for your morning commute. Even leaving them in the boot will make the windows wet and foggy, so get them indoors where they'll dry out properly.

## 2017 Observer Report

Although it falls to us to make formal reports to the Group at the AGM, the Christmas break seems a good time to review how the past calendar year has gone.

### New Associates

64 new Associates were allocated to us by IAM House in 2017. The table below summarises the way that their location and number varied through the year.

Quarter	Postcode Area				Total
	Bradford	Harrogate	Leeds	Wakefield	
January - March	4	2	13	4	23
April - June	1	4	5	7	17
July - September	2	-	5	4	11
October - December	4	2	2	5	13
	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>64</b>

January and May are often the busiest months and there were nine new Associates in each of them this year.

Not all of these Associates gained the full benefit of their Advanced Driver Course. Some decided that they enjoyed working with their Observer but did not want the stress of taking their test - a situation that we always respect if both sides part amicably. Others joined and were never heard of again. ("You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink ...".)

## Advanced Driver Tests

The best news is that 38 MYAM Associates took their Advanced Driver Test in 2017 (two more than last year) and 37 passed it. This is a **97% pass rate**, made all the sweeter by being assessed by eleven different examiners. The one fail was an elderly driver who failed previously with another Group. IAM asked us to give him a second chance.

Of the 37 passes, a remarkable 24% (nine tests) were marked in the F1rst category – some of the best Associates in the country. All this was done with just a little over twenty active Observers, some taking more than one Associate at a time.

Another test is scheduled for next week, and seven more are planned in January.

Speaking of Observers, we have had 2 newly qualified Observers this year with another very close to becoming qualified. There is always room for more Observers!

A huge thank you to all of you involved in this important contribution to road safety.

**David Rockliff**  
**Membership Secretary**

**David Rushfirth**  
**Chief Observer**

.....

## The Sinclair C5

Do you remember the Sinclair C5, Sir Clive Sinclair's entry into the personal transport market? It was launched in January 1985 and despite high hopes it never took off and has been described as "one of the great marketing bombs of post war British industry".

Clive Sinclair had made his name in the 1960s by selling miniature radios in kit and ready built form. By the 1970s his company, Sinclair Radionics, was selling audio amplifiers and had introduced a calculator, the Sinclair Executive and by the late 1970s was selling a simple microcomputer to the home computer market. In 1980 he introduced the ZX80 computer followed in 1981 by the ZX81 and the ZX Spectrum in 1982. These introduced people to home computing and were very successful although the computers could be a bit temperamental.

Other products, however, were less successful, the Black Watch, the QL computer and numerous small screen TVs.

One of his long standing interests had been electric vehicles and following a change in the law in the early 1980s the C5 personal transport emerged. Following a glitzy launch, bad reviews and safety concerns led to poor sales, not helped by its limitations, a short range and lack of weather proofing.

It used a lead acid battery which gave it a claimed range of up to 20 miles, which was bit optimistic, but the motor could not cope with hills with a slope of greater than 1 in 12. For steeper slopes and for when the battery was discharged pedals were provided.

The basic cost was £399 but this didn't include things like mirrors, indicators or a "Hi-Vis Mast" to make it more visible on the road. These were all available as optional extras which would add up to £140 to the cost.

Despite optimistic sales forecasts only 14,000 C5s were made before production ceased in August 1985. Of those only 5,000 had been sold.



**C5 with a flat tyre in a Birmingham museum - 1986**

The C5 is now much sought after and some owners have modified their C5s with uprated motors to increase the speed. One has even been fitted with a jet engine and speeds of up to 150mph have been claimed. I think 15mph in one is scary enough though!

I have seen six C5s in the flesh, two in Comet showrooms, three in museums and one on a roundabout in Leicester with a very worried looking driver.

Take a look at the Wikipedia page for the more detailed story of this marketing disaster.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinclair\\_C5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinclair_C5)


**Keith Wevill**

## **Free copies of RoadSmart and Advanced Driving**

As Caroline and I are both IAM members we receive two copies of RoadSmart and its predecessor Advanced Driving. It seems silly to keep both copies so periodically I have a clear out taking some surplus copies to our dentist's waiting room but most are sent to the recycling bin. We currently have ten surplus copies dating back to 2013 so before they go for recycling are there any newer members who would like them. They can be collected from South Bradford or I can bring them to one of the meetings.

**Ed**

# And Finally.....

Exercises for Over 55's 

Stand on a comfortable surface.

With 5lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms horizontally & hold for one minute, then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position a little longer.

After 2 weeks, move up to 10 lb potato sacks.

After 1 month try 50 lb potato sacks.

Eventually, you will be able to lift 100 lb sacks in each hand, holding your arms straight for 1 minute.

After you feel confident at this level... *put a potato in each sack !!!*

Thanks to Phill Eaglen for this.

## Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked what length of spacer would be needed to remove the slack in a rope stretched round the earth when extended by 6 feet. To do this you'll have to cast your mind back to those dreaded school maths lessons and the value of pi ( $\pi$ ), approximately 3.14.

The earth's circumference ( $C$ ) in feet is given by the equation  $2\pi R$  where  $R$  is the earth's radius in feet. Adding 6 feet to the circumference changes this to  $C+6 = 2\pi R_2$  where  $R_2$  is the new radius in feet. The difference between  $R$  and  $R_2$  is the length of the spacer needed.

Therefore  $2\pi R + 6 = 2\pi R_2$ . Dividing both sides by  $2\pi$  gives  $R + \frac{6}{2\pi} = R_2$

Therefore the difference between the two radii, and hence the length of the spacers required is approximately 1 foot (11.5 inches to be precise).

No teaser this month. After last month's teaser you deserve a rest!

# Your Committee

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Janice Haigh</b>		Contact via the secretary
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Andrew Simpson-Laing</b>	01132 299522 07743 306654	<a href="mailto:andrewasl@ntlworld.com">andrewasl@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rosie Bricis</b>	0113 2534528	<a href="mailto:rbricis@live.co.uk">rbricis@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>David Rockliff</b>		<a href="mailto:Membership.myamcar@iamGroups.org.uk">Membership.myamcar@iamGroups.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth Contact</b>	<b>Position Vacant</b>		
<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	<b>Position Vacant</b>		
<b>Events Manager</b>	<b>Alan Jones</b>	07714 444595	<a href="mailto:alan.j909@btinternet.com">alan.j909@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	<b>David Rushfirth</b>	01924 211510 07966 134045	<a href="mailto:myam.webmaster@outlook.com">myam.webmaster@outlook.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Keith Wevill</b>	01274 815281	<a href="mailto:kcw2hwc@tesco.net">kcw2hwc@tesco.net</a>
<b>Chief Observer</b>	<b>David Rushfirth</b>	01924 211510 07966 134045	<a href="mailto:myam.webmaster@outlook.com">myam.webmaster@outlook.com</a>
<b>Ex officio</b>	<b>Bill Jackson Julie Langham Bob McDermott</b>		

## URGENT REQUEST

We now have a Group Secretary however we also need a Speaker Secretary to organise the social meetings and could one of our younger members take on the Youth Contact position. To find out more contact the Secretary.