

# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

CHURCHILL

January 2020

Group Number 4178

Registered Charity Number 1053843





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



<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Forthcoming Gatherings and Events</b>
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>From the Editor</b>
<b>Page 5-6</b>	<b>Group Membership News</b> 5. Welcome, Congratulations 6. MYAM Online
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>Directions to the Carlton Social Club</b>
<b>Page 8</b>	<b>December Meeting – Christmas Quiz</b>
<b>Page 9</b>	<b>Chairman's Letter to Members</b>
<b>Page 11</b>	<b>December Presentation – MYAM Trophy</b>
<b>Page 11</b>	<b>The Technology in Your Car – 10 Safety</b>
<b>Page 12</b>	<b>A Little More on Gearboxes</b>
<b>Page 13</b>	<b>IAM News Releases and Tips</b> What to do if you're involved in a collision
<b>Page 15</b>	<b>And Finally.....</b> This Month's Teaser and the Answer to Last Month's Teaser
<b>Page 16</b>	<b>Your Committee Contact Details</b>



### **Cover Photo – Winston Churchill statue**

This statue of Sir Winston Churchill is in Parliament square in London. Unveiled in 1973 by his widow, Baroness Clementine Spencer-Churchill, its pose is based on a photograph of him inspecting the chamber of the House of Commons after it had been destroyed by bombing in 1941.

Photo taken by David Wevill

## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

<b>Sunday 19th 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 2nd February 9:30am – 12am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	Sigma Ltd Alpine Court, Castleford, WF10 4TL
<b>Monday 3rd February 8pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> Keith Reyner from West Yorkshire Police Collision Investigation	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW See page 7
<b>Sunday 16th February 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

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.

### IAM RoadSmart Skill Checks

In addition to our regular skill checks IAM RoadSmart also run skill check days for both cars and motorcycles at several motor racing circuits around the country. Most are at Mallory Park or Thruxton circuits but there is one at Croft in June. It's either on the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>, the website has both dates.

For more information and clarification of the Croft date see the IAM RoadSmart website

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/media-and-policy/newsroom/news-details/2019/12/03/whet-your-appetite-for-driving-and-riding-at-an-iam-roadsmart-skills-day-in-2020>

## FROM THE EDITOR

Did you spot the error in last month's newsletter? If you did well done, if you didn't you'll have to read it again. In spite of re-reading it several times I didn't spot it until I'd sent it out. I'll let you what it was next month.

I spoke to our chairman, Janice, shortly before writing this and she was telling me that our group is probably one of the more successful groups in the country. We put this down to the dedication of our observers and the committee who do work hard to ensure the group runs smoothly. This is more remarkable when you consider that many of the committee have daytime jobs. As Janice says in her "letter to the members" our success means we are always in need of more observers and committee members. In particular we need a minutes secretary to take the minutes at committee meetings once a month. If you would like to find out more of what is involved with being an observer, committee member, or both, contact any of the committee. Having been on the committee of both the MYAM and the Leicester groups I find it very interesting to see what is involved with running the group.

We are also planning the events for next year so if you have any ideas for speakers or shows we could attend please let the committee know. You don't necessarily have to organise the event, unless you want to.

If you have any interesting or amusing photos or stories that are suitable for publication in the newsletter please send them to me.

Finally on a personal note I was saddened to hear of the death of Professor David Last, one of my lecturers at university, when the private plane he was flying went missing off the coast of Anglesey. He was well respected in the world of navigation and was an expert witness in GPS and other navigation cases. You may ask what has this to do with motoring but he and another colleague at university developed the heated rear window aerial for Ford back in the 1980s. This was fitted to the Orion, Sierra and Escort models and it was reported that they were doing embarrassingly well out of it.

### **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

Amanda Connolly, Alexander Hudson, Sheila Macpherson,  
Terence Pearce, Mike Sivocha

# Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Barrie Bradshaw - Observer Ruth Watson



A Different Form of Transport - The Toboggan Run on Madeira  
2km Downhill in a Wicker Basket

# 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](http://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](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.

**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.



# December Meeting - Christmas Quiz

## December Social Evening – A question of...well everything!

December social evening this year was yet again a quiz led by our erstwhile Newsletter Editor Keith Wevill. The quiz consisted of 6 rounds covering a wide range of topics and some really quite puzzling questions! For example:

### Motoring and Transport

What is the font used on UK registration plates? - Charles Wright

Where is sea-level measured from in the UK? - Newlyn in Cornwall

### Sport, TV, Entertainment and the Arts

Which character did Colin Bean play in Dad's Army? - Private Sponge

Who played the 1<sup>st</sup> Dr Who? - William Hartnell

### The UK

Which is the nearest point of the UK to France? - Alderney (Channel Islands)

Who is the only UK Prime Minister to have been assassinated? - Spencer Percival

### General Knowledge

Name Captain Pugwash's ship? - The Black Pig

Where is the Ross Sea? - Antarctica

### Name the TV programme from its initials

SOAH – Still Open All Hours

DTDD – Drop The Dead Donkey

JGF – Just Good Friends

EOOTCDC – Eight Out Of Ten Cats Does Countdown

### Dashboard lights/symbols



Choke



Heated front windscreen



Rear fog light

During the break we had an extensive and delicious supper whilst we scratched our heads over the last remaining answers!



After the quiz there was the annual Christmas raffle with prizes, which included buckets, car washing equipment and screenwash, together with a bottle of wine and IAM Roadsmart umbrellas. As previously many of the prizes were very kindly donated by Halfords, to which the Committee are very grateful. A special mention also goes to the woolly hat prizes donated by Mrs Stringer!

Overall turnout was very good with a number of members bringing their partners and family members which is always great to see.

Overall, it was a great way to end 2019!

### **Paul Macro**

Having been involved with pub type quizzes for over 35 years both in teams and organising them it's not as easy as you may think. You have to know your audience and adjust the questions appropriately. You also have to make most of the questions relatively easy so as not to dishearten the teams, then there are a few hard questions and one or two difficult questions to separate the top teams. Then you have to ensure the answers are correct especially if there are several correct options (I've fallen foul of this one once or twice!). Then there are the groans from the teams when you go through the answers and they realise how simple the answer to one question really was. Having just done a quiz at another society I'm a member of, as a team member, I'm going to steal one of their question ideas for next year's quiz, always assuming you want me to take on the role of question master again!

### **Keith**

## **Chairman's Letter to Members**

As I write my Yule Cards and trim my Yule tree, I ponder on how the seasons seem to come round more and more quickly each year. Some people say it happens as we get older, but I think it happens because our lives get busier, and so time seems to pass more quickly. Whatever the reason, I just know that this year has gone by, and I can't believe it's almost 2020.

At MYAM, we have had a very successful year. We attended about twelve events during the course of the year - mainly classic car rallies - and, as a result, we signed up a number of new Associates, as well as those who signed up directly through Head Office. However, the increase in new Associates does mean that we need more Observers in order to meet the demand and keep waiting times to a minimum.

In addition to the events, we also held regular social evenings at Carlton every month throughout the year, which included interesting speakers and even a visit from Sir Paddy

Hopkirk. The club at Carlton makes us very welcome, and, on the 2nd December, we enjoyed an excellent Christmas Evening. A lovely buffet was provided by Debby's Place, followed by a brain-wracking quiz set by our newsletter editor, Keith Wevill. Prizes for the raffle were donated by Halfords, and two beautiful knitted hats were made and given by Mrs. Stringer. During the evening, I had the pleasure of announcing the winner of the Group Trophy, which was awarded to Hanni Kaye. Hanni is one of our Observers, but she also ensures that the caravan is well stocked and she attends every event, driving David Rushfirth's beloved MG, helping to put up the gazebo, and encouraging members of the public to learn more about the IAM. A worthy winner of the trophy!

Our next social evening is in February, and everyone is welcome to attend. Please remember the evenings are free and are open to Members of MYAM and guests.

During this year, we have also introduced a couple of new ideas in order to keep the Group running efficiently. Changing the method of paying your Group subscription from Standing Order to Direct Debit will make life much easier both for our Treasurer and Membership Secretary and for you, the Members. Many of you have already signed up to this, and we are very grateful.

The other idea we have introduced is that of asking those Members who are UK tax payers to sign up to Gift Aid. Many people think you can't sign up to Gift Aid with more than one charity, but, in fact, you can sign up with as many as you like! It doesn't cost you anything, but it does give the charity quite a lot of additional income. I signed up just to see whether I could cope with the on-line form, and I was amazed at how easy it was. If I can cope with the technology, anyone can!

Please embrace these two new ideas and help to keep MYAM running well.

The eight members of the MYAM committee work extremely hard to keep the Group running well, and we have been commended by the IAM on several occasions as a model group. All the events, services, and representational work carried out by the Group are the result of the Committee's work. However, we are always looking for Members to support that work - either in the role of Observers, volunteers, or Committee members. Please think about giving just a little of your time and knowledge to help your Group, and contact any of the Committee to find out more. You will be made very welcome.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a very happy Yule and/or Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

With very best wishes,

**Janice**

## December Presentation - MYAM Trophy

Last year the prestigious MYAM trophy was presented to Charles Holland Keen. This year the committee decided unaminously to award the trophy to Hanni Kaye who has attended all our public events making sure the caravan is well stocked with our publicity material as well as being an observer.

Congratulations to Hanni seen here receiving the trophy from Janice.



## The Technology in Your Car – 10 Safety

There is no doubt that modern cars are safer than cars from the sixties. Over the years more and more safety features have been introduced to reduce injuries to the car's occupants in the event of an accident.

In 1968 it became compulsory for cars sold in the UK to be fitted with three point seat belts for front seat occupants although wearing them was not made compulsory until 1983. There are two types of seat belt, static types where the user has to adjust them to ensure they "fit" correctly. These were superceded with the inertia reel seat belt in the 1970s where the belt adjusts itself to the occupant and in the event of an accident the belt is rapidly pulled off a reel in its mounting. The rapid movement causes the mechanism to lock preventing any further movement of the seats occupant. The seat belt absorbs the energy of the occupant moving forward by stretching as it slows down the forward movement. This means that if the car is repaired following an accident any seat belts in use at the time must be replaced.

In the 1970s airbags were introduced firstly for the driver then later for the front seat passenger. They are often called Supplementary Restraint Systems (SRS) as they work in conjunction with seat belts to cushion the seat occupant. They are controlled by a system which detects rapid deceleration and electrically fires them, inflating them in around 30ms (30 thousandths of a second) they then deflate slowly. The system can also tension the

seatbelts. These days cars have many additional airbags fitted to the sides of the car and some have an airbag under the dash board to minimise injury to the drivers knees. All these measures are designed to reduce injury to the occupants.

Cars are also constructed with crumple zones, namely the bonnet and boot areas. These are designed to absorb the energy of any impact and keep the passenger compartment intact and allow the doors to be opened. There are often side protection bars in the doors designed to minimise the protrusion of the doors in the event of a side impact.

You'll see NCAP ratings for cars, these result from a series of standardised tests conducted on a sample of each car. The tests include a frontal impact test, side impact test, pedestrian impact test and a side impact pole test. For more information and to see the results, including a video, for your car see <https://www.euroncap.com/en>

### **A Little More on Gearboxes**

Following on from the November newsletter item on automatic gearboxes I received this from a well respected member.

Reading the piece in the last Newsletter on automatic gearboxes, it seemed to me to suggest that 'flappy paddles' were a feature of DSG gearboxes. Not quite so, they are steering wheel mounted switches that control the gearbox manually in a similar way as the main central control. They work with both DSG and torque converter gearboxes. Generally, but not always, they permit unfettered manual control.

As a question for our older members, however, does anyone remember the preselector gearbox, probably last featured in Daimler cars of the 1950's. These featured a torque converter connection with the engine and a selector lever on the steering column similar to that fitted with early automatic boxes, but marked R-N-1-2-3-4 rather than P-R-N-D-L of a fully automatic box. There was also a third pedal where the clutch pedal normally sits that actually engaged gear. So to start the selector lever was set to 1, or 2, the engagement pedal was depressed and released, which, as implied, engaged the gear and away the car went. The driver could immediately move the selector lever to 3 and change up when ready by again depressing and releasing the pedal. Stopping at traffic lights the driver would select 2 during braking, and engage using the pedal once stopped ready to move away.

It may sound a little complex but it worked well compared to a manual gearbox once familiar with it. It was a product of the 1930's and was adopted by several manufacturers, largely of those who made 'premium' cars, as they would now be known. It eventually lost out to the all conquering automatic gearboxes which developed into the consummate installations we enjoy today.

**Mallard**

## What to do if you're involved in a collision

If you've been involved in a collision, you'll know how scary it can be. But do you, and your family and friends, know what to do? Hopefully you will never need this advice but just in case, Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards has written some helpful tips on the steps to follow:

- Stop your vehicle as soon as it is safe to do so. Your hazard lights may have already come on but if not, switch them on to alert other motorists. And remember, failing to stop is an offence.
- Speak to the other driver(s) involved. You need to supply your name and address, the details of the owner of the car and the insurance details if you have them. Make sure you record these details from the other driver(s) as you will need them if you make an insurance claim.
- Take photos of any damage on your car and theirs. Try to get at least one photo which includes the registration number.
- If you're involved in a collision on the motorway and you're uninjured, and able to get the vehicle to the hard shoulder, make sure you move to a safe place like behind the Armco barrier. If you are in a live lane and unable to move, put your hazard lights on and call for help. Knowing which carriageway you are on (either A or B) will help the emergency services locate you.
- If you're in a residential area, ensure your hazard lights are on and move to a safe place to inspect your vehicle. If you or any other party is injured call an ambulance.
- Try to remain calm. You may be in shock and it's normal to feel shaken after a collision, but it's important you do not drive away until you feel safe to do so.
- Do not admit liability. Stick to the facts and report these accurately to your insurance company.

- If there are witnesses make sure you speak with them and get their details, they may be able to give a statement to the police or to your insurance company.
- If you have dashcam, this footage could be useful to police and your insurance company to help apportion blame.

### **When should you call the police?**

- If anyone involved is injured, the road is blocked, or the location is such that a danger is being caused then call the police.
- If the collision involves a large animal or a dog and the owner is not present.
- If you think the other driver is under the influence of drink or drugs or is guilty of a traffic offence.
- If the driver doesn't stop or refuses to exchange details or leaves the scene.
- If you have any suspicions speak to the police, they may not attend but will record the call and give advice.

If you've been involved in an incident, and have lost some confidence on the road you may benefit from an [Advanced Driver Course](#). Or if you want some support with particular aspects of driving, our [Driver Assessment](#) may be for you.

Richard said: "Being involved in a collision can be stressful, even a minor bump can disable a car and may be costly to fix. Make sure you get as much information as you can from the other driver and any witnesses.

"Try to stay calm. It is likely that no matter who is to blame, the other party is feeling the stress as much as you are. The main priority is to make sure you are all safe whilst dealing with the collision."



Here's a picture of an accident that occurred just outside the building I was working in back in 2004. The lorry overturned on the roundabout spilling its load and at lunchtime we watched it being righted.

# And Finally.....

## TV quotes. Will it ever catch on?

Not more than 10 per cent of the population will take up television permanently.

*Raymond Postgate, 1935*

The average American family has no time for television; people must sit and keep their eyes glued on a screen.

*New York Times, 1939*

Television won't last because people will get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.

*Darryl Zanuck, 20th Century Fox co-founder, 1946*

Television is a new medium. It's called a medium because nothing is well-done.

*Fred Allen on the American radio programme, The Big Show, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1950*

Television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your home.

*David Frost*

I've learned from my mistakes; I can repeat them exactly.

*Peter Cooke and Dudley Moore*

.....

## **This Month's Teaser**

What is always taken to the FA cup final but never used?

## **Last Month's Teaser**

Last month I asked. "Which is Britain's longest motorway and which is Britain's shortest motorway? The longest is the M6, running from Catthorpe in Leicestershire right up to the Scottish Border and measures a total of 236 miles. The shortest is the A635(M) in Manchester which is just 274yds (300m) long.

## Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Paul Macro		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis	0113 2534528	myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
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Youth Liaison	David Speight		
Speaker Secretary	Position vacant		
Events Manager	Alan Jones	07714 444595	alan.j909(at)btinternet.com
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Chief Observer	David Rushfirth	01924 211510 07966 134045	myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		

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.**