



Mid Yorkshire



**Advanced Motorists
Newsletter**



ARE WE THERE YET

June 2016

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



www.iamgroups.org.uk/midyorkshire

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Page 3** **All about the forthcoming gatherings**
- Page 4** **From the Newsletter Editor**
- Page 5-9** **Group Membership News.**
5. Welcome, Congratulations, Birthdays
6. Annual General Meeting reports
9. MYAM Online
- Page 11** **Group Notices Inc. Directions to the Manor**
- Page 12-14** **IAM News Releases and Tips.**
- **Safety Around Mobility Scooters**
 - **Hiring a Vehicle Abroad**
 - **Coping with Hay Fever**
- Page 15** **And Finally.....**
- Page 16** **Your Committee contact details**

FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
Monday 6th June 8pm	MYAM Social evening. Doug Masterton from Harrogate Advanced Bikes is coming to talk. 'A Bikers Perspective' A bikers view of the road and what us car drivers could look out for.	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 11 for directions)
Sunday 12th June 9.30 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
Sunday 19th June 10am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Free tea or coffee.	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
Friday 1st July	Thornes Park Car Show	Contact Alan Jones for more information
Saturday 2nd July	Drighlington Gala	Contact Alan Jones for more information
Sunday 3rd July 9.30 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
Monday 4th July 8pm	MYAM Social evening.	The Manor Golf Club.

Everyone is welcome at these events and they are an ideal opportunity to meet new people socially, find out about what is going on within the Group and listen to an interesting talk on a variety of topics, sharing our skills with other serious drivers and keeping up-to-date on club and driving matters.

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

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

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As you may be aware, at the AGM Kim stood down from the editorship of the newsletter after 11 years of sterling service. If you were there you may have noticed she was smiling because a willing volunteer had been found to take over - me. Last year I was made redundant and rather than start looking for another job I decided to call it a day and retire from the world of work. I'm finding it's true what is said about retirement, you have so much to do you wonder how you had time to go to work. So in between fixing juke box amplifiers and other vintage equipment, sorting out the garden, researching the family tree and walking the dog I've now taken on the editorship of the group newsletter. Whether this was a moment of madness only time will tell!

My association with the IAM began nearly 40 years when, one Sunday in 1977, I took an assessment drive with the Bedford group. Although I didn't do too badly on the drive I was about to move to North Wales and couldn't take it any further. However in 1985, after I had moved to Leicester, I was "accosted" one Saturday at the local shopping centre by the Leicester group publicising one of their road safety events. I joined the group and took, and passed, my IAM test in June 1986, more on that in the next newsletter. Within a year I had been invited to join the committee eventually becoming the Awards Co-ordinator, basically in charge of the signing in book. After I met and married Caroline she passed the IAM test and was also "invited" to join the committee and we became one of three married couples on the committee. We took part in many of the group events including the Leicester Mercury Historic Vehicle Pageant from 1990 to 1999 where we helped marshall the vehicles at the start of the parade. I was also the Leicester IAM representative for the last two parades after the group chairman left in 1997.

The group chairman also edited the newsletter and when he left Caroline became the newsletter editor and I was the unofficial assistant editor. We held those positions until we moved up north in 2001. Although we kept up our membership of the IAM we didn't join a local group until 2011 when we received a letter inviting us to join the Dewsbury and Batley group and after five years of avoiding committee membership I've now succumbed.

Because it's not possible for everyone to get to the meetings, the newsletter is our key means of communicating with the membership, not only the local news and events but news from IAM headquarters. It's also your newsletter so if there is anything you wish to see please let me know. I'd also welcome any contributions, pictures, articles or items you'd like to share. Just send them to the email address on the committee page or hand them to me at the monthly meeting.

Keith

Welcome to the Group

Philip Kirby

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Gary Pearson - Observer Les Horsman

Will Dobbins - Gained a F1rst - Observer Les Horsman

Diane Russell - Observer Gerald Byrne

Happy Birthday this month goes to

The newsletter handover hasn't gone as smoothly as it should have so I'm unable to bring you this month's birthdays. So if it's your birthday in June have happy birthday.

Hopefully normal service will be resumed next month.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on Monday 9th May 2015 at the Golf Club with around 25 members attending.

As in the past the reports were available for the members to read before the proceedings.

The three Officers stood down and with Martin Fillingham and Rosie Bricis having been nominated according to the rules they were re-elected unopposed. No nomination for the position of Group Secretary had been received. Three of the remaining team were also required to be re-elected under the 1/3rd rotation rule, so Bob McDermott, Alan Jones and David Rockliff had also submitted their nominations according to the rules and were re-elected. With the AGM proceedings completed we had time to socialise and enjoy the buffet.

THE CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

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 Mc Dermott and Steve Duree onto the committee. A particular mention and thank you also goes to Bob 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 andsafe driving!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Congratulations—we have reached the two year mark for the MYAM group! There have been lots of changes across the group and the IAM with more in the pipeline.

The IAM is evolving with the introduction of the IMI qualification for observers and new training material with the aim of achieving consistent standards. The rebranding of the IAM is now complete and we will be looking to promote and raise the profile of the organisation.

Once again the monthly socials have been well attended and have provided insights into a wide variety of topics from training guide dogs to the work undertaken by the White Knights in their vital role in transporting blood by bike to hospitals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Farish, Kim Clark and Francis Lintott for their hard work and outstanding contribution to the IAM over many years. They will be greatly missed when they step down from the committee in the near future.

I look forward to working with committee and wider membership in the year ahead.

Martin Fillingham - Chairman



Kim and Bob receiving their leaving gifts from Martin

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9TH MAY 2016

It's been an interesting year in MYAM since our last AGM in May 2015 through to the end of April 2016.

Membership - At the beginning of May last year we had around 450 members following the integration of the last of our four groups – Harrogate - then dropped to around 375 within a short time as the group stabilised, and has dropped since, now standing at 338. These results are not unexpected, and reflect the churn which occurs as what is effectively a 'new' group settles.

During the year we've had 47 Associates who have joined the group, which has resulted in 36 test passes, 6 of which were Firsts, and with 2 fails. Now you may ask "why not 47 tests?" – which is one of the realities of group life, in that we always have Associates who train up and do not wish to go on to take the Advanced Driving test. That's fine; at least we and they feel they are better drivers than when they started. But we also have a growing number of people who sign up for Skill for Life and then resist all attempts to get in touch with them. Some of those Associates are unwilling participants, who have been given Skill for Life as a gift (perhaps as a not-so-subtle hint), and there are those put in for it by their employer. These eventually fall by the wayside in spite of efforts by the Observers. It's also one of those strange things that we sometimes get Associates joining in 'bunches', which puts further strain on our Observers.

Observers - And this leads nicely on to our band of Observers. We started the year with 32 Observers, and as with members, we've had some leave, and some join, and we now have 25, with 4 of those being trainees. Most of our Observers are now registered with the Institute of Motor Industries (IMI), while many have become qualified under that scheme. At any one time, however, we do operate with less than our maximum due to Observers not being available for whatever reasons. Associates are often amazed to be told that all our Observers are volunteers (for which read 'unpaid'), who give up masses of their time to help others become better drivers. During the year, our Observers have completed around 900 hours of training of all types between them all, each session being 1-2 hours in duration. That's a lot of work! This results in us having a current pass rate of 97%. During the year we also needed to take on the IAM's initiative of providing free 'Love Driving' taster sessions. These were very similar to our usual free assessments, and resulted in several new Associates joining us. All of this took place while MYAM was piloting the new test standards which are now being rolled out nationally.

The day-to-day performance of the group is tracked by the IAM in Chiswick on a monthly 'scorecard', which compares our group with the rest of the region. Some of the regional average figures sometimes raise our eyebrows, and lead us to wonder just what some other groups are doing, but MYAM consistently performs very well indeed on virtually every single

statistic. This is due to the superb standard of our Observers, who are to be commended for their efforts.

Group Subscriptions - The subscriptions ('subs') we receive are used for the day-to-day running of the group, and help with postage, stationery, printing, room bookings, guest speakers etc. etc. During the year, we changed from having all membership subs renewed at the same time, to 'rolling' renewals, based on each individual member's joining date. This is because it had become unwieldy to administer the old system, as there was a huge 'bulge' of renewals to sort out all in one go, and it was confusing for members, as well as the membership secretary and the treasurer. There is still some ongoing confusion however, in that some members do not always understand that group subs are totally different from subs to the IAM itself, and we take every opportunity to point out the difference. Having said that, once again the group subs have been held at the low price of £8 a year. This works out at about 66p a month – not bad value. Renewal reminders are sent out automatically in advance of expiry dates so as to prompt members, but this does mean that they are also sent to those who have set up standing orders, which can cause an overlap between the renewal reminder and any standing order actually arriving in the MYAM account. This is perhaps one area which could be looked at to be somehow changed in future.

We also brought in the process of only sending two renewal reminders to each member a month apart, before we considered a member as having declined to renew, at which point (3 months after the first reminder) their records are 'archived' off. This is because more often than not it was taking a lot of time spent on phone calls, texts, and emails in chasing people up to remind them to renew. There is no pattern to these – very often members just simply choose to ignore the reminders on the assumption that we would know from their lack of response that they no longer wanted to remain a member of the group. But, as with all these things, this is kept under constant review. So in summary, the group's membership is in a reasonably good state of health, and can again look forward to another successful year.

Bob Farish May 2016



Congratulations to Jaci Peary seen here after receiving her certificate from Martin Fillingham.

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 by the Committee. So please feel to check them out. They can be found in the 'about us' Committee section on the right hand side.

FORUM is open up to all MYAM members at myam.icyboards.net. Just register, answering a few easy questions and David Rushfirth will get you up and running in no time. Soon you can be exchanging comments and ideas with other members and keeping up to date with what's going on.



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

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

WEB SITE As part of the changes at IAM to introduce the new IAM RoadSmart branding, we now have an all new look website and a new address. If you use the old address you will be taken to the Local Groups page on the new IAM RoadSmart website. To go to our new page enter :-

www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire

We are still working on transferring everything from our old website to the new one so please bear with us.

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

GROUP NOTICES

Directions to the Manor Golf Club,
Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB

The carpark is well lit and for those who find walking difficult please park to the right hand side of the entrance where there is a ramp up to the doors.

Directions

The Manor Golf Club is situated on the B6135, half a mile off the A650. If travelling from M62, M621 exit at Junction 27 onto the A650 to Bradford. At the second roundabout take the third exit onto the B6135, the entrance is on the left, immediately after the change in speed limit to 40.

From the A58 Leeds turn right at the traffic lights in Drighlington towards Bradford and the entrance is on the right immediately before the national speed limit sign.

From A58 Halifax turn left at the traffic lights in Drighlington towards Bradford and the entrance is on the right immediately before the national speed limit sign.

Disclaimer

The items contained in this newsletter are the views of the Members who contribute and not necessarily the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (I.A.M) or MYAM.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

MYAM holds Membership detail records on computer, these are confidential and for club use ONLY. The information is used to run the Group and consists of various details such as class of Membership, date of joining & subscription expiry dates. It is also used for the production of address labels for the distribution of the newsletter and recording training for Observers.

Dear Group Members

Please bear with us whilst our new committee members get to grips and settle into their new major roles.

Our own MYAM website is now nicely taking shape as to how we want it to look. There's still work to do; so keep logging in as it is ongoing.

The IAM RoadSmart rebrand means the group will need to spend money on new clothing, pull up banners, marketing items etc and the committee is sourcing the best options for the group.

With no Secretary in place other committee members are having to take on extra work to make sure the official stuff gets done. Not ideal I'm afraid.

Some of us folk work and we have hit the holiday season!

I'm sure normal service will resume asap! ☺

Your Committee

Safety Around Mobility Scooters

Staying mobile is incredibly important. Losing the ability to get around has a proven link to social isolation and depression. Mobility scooters offer a new freedom for many people.

They can however pose challenges for other road users. Understanding the challenges on both sides and sharing the road is the key. IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman, shares his advice on driving safely around mobility and electric wheelchair users.

- Be mindful of larger mobility scooters. They can only travel at 8 mph but may be using the road. Give them space and only overtake when it is safe to do so.
- Smaller mobility scooters are restricted to using footpaths and pavements. Dropped kerbs are the only way mobility and electric wheelchair users – not to mention parents with prams – can cross a road easily. It's also an offence to obstruct these crossing points. When parking consider whether you're inadvertently making it trickier for a less mobile person to get around.
- Mobility scooters aren't allowed to use cycle lanes or bus lanes so try not to get impatient if it seems they're blocking the road – they're obeying the law.
- While larger scooters must have full lights, the smaller ones intended for pavement use don't need to. In addition, waterproof covers can affect the vision of the driver. Never assume you've been seen. And always double check before pulling out.
- You might be surprised to learn drivers in mobility scooters can technically use dual carriageways. Always expect the unexpected and be prepared for someone around the corner who may be travelling slower than you.

Richard said: "All road users have subtly different challenges and problems tend to arise when these challenges clash. But the groups aren't mutually exclusive. The driver of a mobility scooter probably used to own a car. The Mum with the buggy might drive a bus for a living.

Time is always too short but a bit of understanding of these conflicting needs goes a long way in making us more amicable road users. And a bit of empathy can make us feel better too. Who doesn't get a warm glow from a friendly thank-you wave from the driver you allowed to go first? Keep an eye out for your fellow road users and improve your own day as well as theirs."

Hiring a Vehicle Abroad

Planning a road trip for your next holiday abroad? Then be sure to read our latest tips from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman, who will guide you through hiring a vehicle abroad.

- Take some time out to familiarise yourself with the rules and laws of the country you'll be travelling to. The European Commission's website has everything you need to know about differing regulations across continental Europe: <http://bit.ly/1fUlidw>.
- Don't forget to go online and get a 'check code' for your driving licence up to 72 hours before you travel: <http://bit.ly/1Mes73Q>. This is so you can give it to the hire car company if they ask for it. Codes are valid for 21 days, and can only be used once - so if you will be making more than one hire, you need to get more than one code.
- Upon collection, give the car a thorough inspection. If you spot any signs of wear and tear, damage to the bodywork, windscreen or wheels inform the rental company. If you're still not 100% happy, don't be afraid to ask for another vehicle.
- Keep some handy telephone numbers with you – particularly of a breakdown recovery service in case of an emergency. And should you inadvertently find yourself on the wrong side of the law, the Foreign Office has some useful information about what you should do: <http://bit.ly/1giXBwX>.
- Pack your sat nav and programme in your destination beforehand. But don't forget to switch off any speed camera information as it is illegal to use in many countries.

Richard said: "It's an easy one to overlook, when you're trying to fit your suitcases in the car and the kids need the loo. Again, always check the boot before you drive off. Some countries require a warning triangle by law. Others a high-vis jacket. Do your homework so you know what you need. And make sure you're given it.

Also, if you have a smartphone (*or camera - Ed*) take some pictures of all four sides of your hire car beforehand – this can be useful evidence if any damage claims arise. Have a read of the small print in the hire agreement so you know exactly what is covered, who can drive and what the excess will be. Most importantly, enjoy the drive – happy travelling!"

Coping with Hay Fever

A runny nose, headache and constant sneezing – these are just a few of the symptoms hay fever sufferers deal with during the summer. These symptoms can affect motorists in a number of ways. Here's some advice from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman, about what you can do to better cope with it before taking to the road.

- Try to minimise the effects by ensuring your car is clean and dust free and that you operate the air conditioning or ventilation to your advantage, making use of air recirculation where possible.
- For anyone who hasn't been diagnosed with hay fever and is feeling under the weather, avoid driving or riding and arrange to see your GP as soon as possible. What you might think is just a slight cold can become a major distraction – so get it checked before it gets worse.
- While over-the-counter medicines will help with a runny nose and sneezing symptoms, a lot of these tend to contain codeine, which can blur vision and make you feel drowsy – check with your GP what the best course of action is.
- Your GP may advise you to take anti-histamines to control the symptoms, but make sure you take the non-drowsy ones. If you're unsure, read the leaflet or speak to your pharmacy for more advice.
- If you need to get somewhere but don't feel well enough to drive or ride then see if someone you know can take you and drop you back. Whatever you do don't take yourself - you may just end up sneezing and travelling up to 50ft with your eyes closed and losing control of your vehicle!

Richard said: "If you are stopped by the police after taking a hayfever remedy and driving whilst impaired you could find yourself falling foul of drug driving regulations.

See attached link - <https://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law>

Be sure to check the medication thoroughly and see if it is suitable. But most importantly, concentrate on your route to recovery so you can get back onto the road sooner rather than later."

And Finally.....

One of Florida's finest senior citizens went down to his local Chevrolet dealer and bought a brand new Corvette convertible.

Heading off the car lot and down the road, he floored it and enjoyed the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head. "This is great," he thought as he roared down I-75. Then he looked in his rear view mirror and saw a Florida State Highway Patrol Trooper behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him with no problem" thought the man as he stood on the gas pedal -- 80, 120, 150, 180mph. Then, he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing."

He pulled over to the side of the Interstate and waited for the trooper to catch up with him. The trooper pulled in behind the Corvette and walked up to it. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "My shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked at the trooper and said: "Fifteen years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper, and I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir," said the Trooper.



Have you any amusing motoring related stories, jokes or pictures you'd like to share? Just email them to me at the address on the committee page or hand them to me at one of the meetings.

As an example here's a picture of a notice outside the Crown Plaza in Guadalajara taken during a business visit a few years ago. We were not allowed to drive in Mexico and having seen the way they drive I can understand the reasons. They have speed bumps but not as we know them. They are hemispheres about 4 inches high

and should be painted yellow but all the ones we saw were devoid of paint as everyone just drove over them. No idea what damage that did to the suspension!

Your Committee

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

URGENT REQUEST

We still need someone suitable to stand for the post of Group Secretary, if you would like to find out more please ask the Chairman or Vice Chairman at the meeting. The Group will be in unusual position of not having a Group Secretary and the Committee and the Group needs someone competent to take on that role as soon as possible. All of the Group's integrated processes are now in place and a full guide is available. Everything these days is electronic which helps with the time management side.