

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

June 2017



Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843



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Cover Photo - Bingley Five Rise Locks



Located on the Leeds and Liverpool canal at Bingley, the Grade 1 listed structure, opened in 1774, is the steepest gradient staircase locks in the UK, raising boats 18m (59ft) in five locks over a distance of 98m (320ft) a gradient of about 1 in 5. They are unique as there are no intermediate ponds, as in most other locks, with the lower gate of each chamber forming the upper gate of chamber below. Because of this they are more complicated to use than “normal” locks and a full time lock keeper is employed.

FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
Sunday 4th 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
Monday 5th June 8 pm	MYAM Social evening Mike Bevington from the National Trust - Fountains Abbey	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 7 for directions)
Sunday 18th June 10 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
Sunday 2nd July 9:30 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park,
Monday 3rd July 8 pm	MYAM Social evening	The Manor Golf Club.
Friday 7th July	Thornes Park Car Show	Thornes Park, Wakefield
Sunday 9th July	Heath Common Bus Rally	Heath Common, Wakefield

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 EDITOR

It's been a hectic month in our household since the last newsletter went out. We've had several new walls and steps built in our back garden, our dog hasn't been too well requiring a couple of visits to the vet (she's much better now and almost back to her normal self) plus the usual domestic disasters. We've had the Tour de Yorkshire with a visit from my brother to watch the event, more on that later in the newsletter, I've been sorting out all the paperwork and details before picking up our new cars, oh and we've had the MYAM AGM.

The AGM was well attended and, although we said goodbye to Martin, Lesley and Vicky from the committee, we welcomed Janice Haigh and Julie Langham to the committee as Chairman and Ex-Officio Committee member respectively. Andrew Simpson-Laing was "promoted" to fill the vacant group Secretary position.

For the time being Janice has requested that her contact details are not shown on the committee page. As you will see from her profile on page 9 she is keeping busy with many other activities. Should you wish to contact her you can do so via the Secretary.

We still have a vacancy for a Speaker Secretary to organise the speakers for our social meetings. Please contact the Secretary for further details. As I've said before being on the committee is not too arduous a task and need only take up a few hours of your time each month if editing the newsletter is anything to go by.

Alternatively do you have what it takes to be an observer? We have shortage of observers in some areas so if you can help please contact David Rushfirth.

Even if you do not want to be on the committee or be an observer then please support our social evenings and the various events we attend. We really do appreciate the support of our members.

I'm working on several ideas for the newsletter but if you have any suggestions please let me know by the usual means. The newsletter is not only the primary means of communicating with our members but also a means for members to communicate with the committee and other members.

Keith

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Russell Bowman

Steven Browett

Clive Dresner

Rhian Ebrey

Beverley Cowling

Rosemary Jones

Paul Leishman

Steve Macdonald

Andrew Pearson

Aleksandra Puchala

Frank Riley

New Full Members

Sue Slocombe

Luke Steenson

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Catherine Hollingworth - Observer Bill Jackson

Andrew Smith - Observer Douglas Green

Gordon Smith - Observer Bill Jackson

On passing the Masters Test

Mike Hammond with a little help from David Stringer

Happy Birthday this month goes to

Khuram Akram, Alan Brown, Nigel Butterfield, David Croft, Joan Cutbill,
William Dobbins, Simon Doughty, Douglas Green, George Hardwick,
Chris Hartley, C Howard, Gail Musgrove, Iwona Opyd, Shiri Padala,
Bridget Page, James Peckett, Mr Rawling, Melanie Stockdale,
Michael Straughan, John Trevenna

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.

FORUM The forum is now closed. Any queries regarding this should be passed to David Rushfirth at

myam.webmaster@outlook.com



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 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

The new site is taking shape nicely but we still have plenty to do.



TWITTER We now have our own Twitter account which can be found at twitter.com/MYAM4178.

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.

David Oldroyd

Members of the old Harrogate Group and other members who knew of his contribution to the work of the Institute of Advanced Motorists since 1959 will be sad to hear that David Oldroyd passed away on 14th May. A number of MYAM members attended his funeral.

David was an Honorary Member of MYAM and maintained his IAM membership until six months ago. His wise advice and support will not be forgotten.

MYAM AGM May 2017

The AGM was held on Monday 8th May 2017 at the Manor Golf Club with 29 of our members attending. Reports from the Treasurer and Membership Secretary were available for the members to read before the proceedings started.

The two officers, Chairman and Treasurer, stood down, there being no Group secretary. Rosie Bricis was re-elected unopposed as the Treasurer. One nomination for the post of Chairman had been received and Janice Haigh was elected unopposed. One nomination for the post of Group Secretary had been received and Andrew Simpson-Laing was elected unopposed.

Three of the remaining team were also required to be re-elected under the 1/3rd rotation rule and Alan Jones and David Rushfirth were re-elected. Vicky Croft did not offer herself for re-election. The committee wishes to thank Vicky for her work and support over the past 5 years. One nomination for committee membership had been received and Julie Langham was elected to the committee.

Martin Fillingham was presented with an appreciation certificate from the IAM on behalf of the group as outgoing chairman.

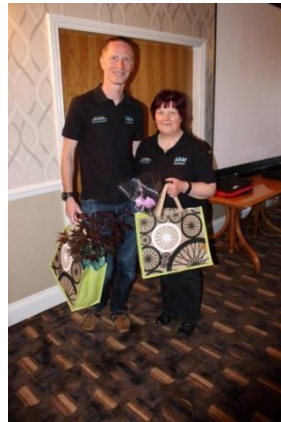
Martin Fillingham and Lesley Pollard were then presented with gifts from the group.

Janice Haigh, as Chairman, then addressed the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed and the buffet was served.



Martin with his appreciation certificate



Martin and Lesley with their gifts from the group

Chairman's Profile

I am delighted to have been elected as the new Chairman of MYAM at the recent AGM, and, as many of you don't know me, I thought this would be a good way for you to meet me.

I learned to drive whilst I was at Leeds University studying modern languages and business studies, and passed my test on the first attempt in May, 1967. At that time, I couldn't afford a car of my own, so I drove my father's car (when he would allow it!). Then, in 1971, my father and I had an argument about which of us would still be able to pass the driving test, and so I secretly contacted the driving instructor who had taught me to drive, and he trained me to take the I.A.M. test. In those days, there were no local examiners, and they came up from London to examine any applicants. Imagine my surprise when, on the first attempt in October, 1971, I was told that I was being "recommended for membership of the I.A.M." Needless to say, my father had to eat his words!

From that date, I remained a member of the I.A.M., but I did not join a local Group. I was too busy working and travelling with my job.

Having finished my degree, I became an export manager for Waddington's Games Ltd. and then in 1987 was offered the post of export director at Spear's Games in Hertfordshire. As a result, I commuted on a weekly basis between Hertfordshire and my home in West Yorkshire, as well as driving all over the world.

During all this time, I had a range of company cars, until in 1999 my husband bought me a restored MGB GT. This was real driving!

Then, in 2000, my husband suffered a major stroke and became a wheelchair-user. He was no longer able to drive, but that didn't prevent us from getting out and about. We had a special swivel seat fitted in my husband's Ford Escort, and then I had one fitted in the MG, too. The wheelchair went in the back of the MG, and you can imagine the surprise on people's faces when we arrived in a sports car with a blue badge!!!

When my husband was in the hospital following the stroke, I had to give up my job and become his carer. One day, there was a car show in the centre of Wakefield, and the local I.A.M. group had a stand. I introduced myself as a national member and was soon persuaded to join the Wakefield Group. Needless to say, it was not long before I was co-opted onto the committee.

I served as Minutes Secretary and Secretary for a number of years until the Chairman of the Wakefield Group retired in 2012 and I was elected in his place. With a strong committee to support me and with my background in sales and marketing, we built a thriving Group in the Wakefield area.

In 2005, having retrained in a number of complementary therapies, I set up my small business. Since then, I have added to the range of therapies, so that I am now a qualified Aromatherapist, Reiki Master/Teacher, Teacher of the Melody System of crystal healing, Practitioner of Neuro Linguistic Programming, Teacher of Language And Behaviour Profiling, and a Practitioner of Thought Pattern Management.

Although I don't do as much driving as in the past, I still love driving both here and in other countries. In fact, I spent the summers of 2014 and 2015 in Canada driving a hired camper van. Although I was driving something the size of a minibus which had an automatic gearbox; I was sitting on the wrong side of the vehicle; and I was on the wrong side of the road, I thoroughly enjoyed it!

At home, I have a 2006 Skoda Fabia Estate, which has done just over 90,000 miles. It is still a great car to drive, and, as long as it keeps going, I will keep it on the road.

In the meantime, I still have my beloved MG, who is now 36 years old, and his name is MJ, which stands for "More Junk"! (The story behind that is too long to tell here!) If you come along to the rallies where MYAM will be having a presence, please come along and meet MJ (and me).

Alternatively, I look forward to meeting friends, both old and new, at the social evenings, which are advertised in this newsletter.

Janice N. Haigh

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Membership Report to the Annual General Meeting

The current membership (as listed on our database on 8th May 2017) is as follows:

Total	364
Associates	54
Friends*	6
Guests*	19

*Friends and Guests include organisations who receive our monthly newsletter.

During the twelve months to the end of April, 63 Associates have been allocated to MYAM by IAM House (the regional average is 19).

In the same period, 39 Associates passed their Advanced Driver Test – eight of them with a F1RST. This is a credit to all of our Observers, but we need some more to share the load. If you can spare two hours a week, please speak to David Rushfirth.

A major task each month is to notify members that their subscription is due. Many thanks to those who have a Standing Order to simplify things. If you use BACS, the Group's bank account details are:

Mid Yorkshire Group of Advanced Motorists	
Sort code	05-04-09
Account number	62921989

Unfortunately, some members forget that their MYAM subscription is separate to their 'national' IAM subscription and often do not read the subscription notice past the first line.

David Rockliff
Membership Secretary

8th May 2017

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IAM News Releases and Tips

Autonomous cars: will we let them be autonomous?



The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee has been considering the implications of self driving cars. One part of their conclusion was this: "...autonomous cars could have negative implications for drivers' competence, making drivers complacent and overly reliant on technology. This is of particular concern in emergency situations, where a driver may react slowly to taking back control of a vehicle."

I'm not sure this will be the greatest concern. As head of technical policy, I do love a gadget and my latest car (three years old, but new to me) has them in spades. I simply tell it what maximum speed I want stick to and it does the rest; it keeps a safe distance behind the car in front, slows down with the traffic, brakes on hills to control speed, stops if the car in front does, starts again when it moves off, follows the white lines above 30mph, or follows the car in front below 30mph. It makes traffic queues quite entertaining, and that's apart from the self-parking magic and some very clever headlights. It uses radar, cameras and ultrasound sensors to explore its surroundings and "sees" easily through fog, rain and darkness.

As I said, I'm a sucker for gadgets; I once bought a Mark IV Ford Zodiac because it had an electric aerial. I couldn't wait to get my first car with electric windows, but most of these hi-tech goodies have real safety benefits; the car doesn't get distracted, the radar measures distances with pinpoint accuracy and it reacts far faster than I can.

However, when it came to ploughing through the vast array of settings, it became clear that the previous owner hadn't really used any of this functionality. The settings for the stereo, sat-nav and so on had been altered, but all the driving assistance systems were still at the factory defaults.

It seems likely the first owner drove it as a standard car and did it all himself. It gets me wondering how many drivers actually use the functionality to the full - and how many will as they become more standard.

Anecdotes from IAM RoadSmart colleagues bear this out; tales of people who never use cruise control because it feels out of control; an interview where the presenter confessed to not using the self-park function on her car "because she didn't trust it," examples of huge manuals with several hundred pages to wade through to figure out what the car will do, and how you make it do it.

The technology is becoming more and more widespread and the potential safety benefits are great - but the problem may not be slow reactions from drivers used to letting the car do it all, as their Lordships suggest. It might be educating people about how the car is designed to be driven in order to get the safety benefits in the first place, at least until the steering wheel goes altogether.

IAM RoadSmart are organising a conference later this year to bring a wide range of expertise to the issues raised by the transition to driverless cars; if we want to reap the safety benefits, this issue may be one to consider.

Tim Shallcross, IAM RoadSmart's, head of technical policy and advice .

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By the time you are reading this I will have picked up my new car and will be getting to grips with setting up the built in sat nav and trying out the park assist and wading through the user manuals to set the car up to how I want it!

Ed

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Leeds Skill Check – The search for somewhere new.

The Skill Check event we hold at the McDonalds on Easterly Road in Leeds has served us well over the years but we are conscious that it is not as well attended as the one at B&Q in Glasshoughton. Is a change of venue required to make it more popular?

We have been looking for some time now for a new location, somewhere in the Northwest of Leeds so that we can better serve our Associates and Members in that area. We have also considered something on the Southwest side.

We are looking for somewhere which gives easy access to all those attending with a focal point for where to meet. We can use the caravan, as we do at B&Q, if that is what is needed and if there is sufficient space for it. Access to a good cross section of drives from the location would also be necessary.

We have in the past approached supermarkets etc. but have not been made as welcome as we would like. They need the space for Sunday shoppers!!

If anyone has any good ideas or contacts for suitable locations then we are ready to listen. Contact any member of the team using the details at the back of the newsletter or via the Contact Us page on the website at www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire.

MYAM needs Observers

Fancy joining the team?

Observing with us is a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable way to help make our roads safer by coaching and mentoring drivers to be the best that they can be. Any of our current Observers will tell you that the pleasure and satisfaction of hearing that your latest Associate has passed their advanced test is a wonderful feeling and the gratitude and thanks you'll receive will make you feel ten feet tall!

As a member of the MYAM volunteer Observer team, you'll provide one to one support to an Associate, or more than one if you like being kept busy, it's entirely up to you. Observed drives generally fall into regular times and patterns to fit in with both you and your Associates other commitments.

Becoming an Observer will also provide you with a recognised skill and qualification for life. All Observers hold an IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry) accredited IAM RoadSmart Local or National Observer qualification. Gaining of these qualifications is funded by IAM RoadSmart too. Observing also keeps your skills up to date, a good way to avoid those bad habits creeping back in.

We are looking for that combination of excellent driving skills plus the ability to communicate and encourage Associates to help them develop their own skills in a positive and encouraging way.

If this sounds like something you would like to find out more about then we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with our Chief Observer, David Rushfirth, for further details or to register your interest.



Tour de Yorkshire

Sunday 30th April, the day stage 3 of the Tour de Yorkshire arrived in Queensbury. Having seen the route and, with experience of watching the Tour de France in 2014, I reckoned the best place to view the action was not on the main road through Queensbury, where they would be going too fast, but on the Cote de Shibden where the gradient is as high as 1 in 4, about a couple of miles walking distance from our house. The previous day we had driven over that part of the route and my brother, who was visiting for the race, agreed that was the ideal spot.

The race was due around 3pm so we arrived at 10:30am to be sure of getting our chosen spot. There were about 20 people around the corner when we arrived, there were a few more by 3pm!



Our viewing spot two hours before the race arrived



The leading riders climbing the hill

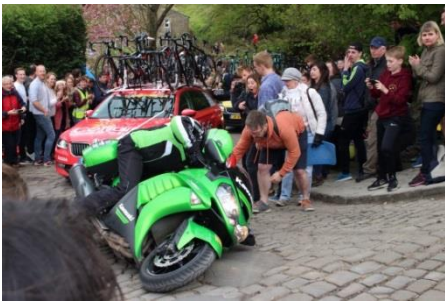
best of times. Then the six leading riders passed without incident followed by the many support cars. A few minutes later the pelaton arrived. With the number of closely grouped cyclists it's incredible that there were no incidents as they rode around the bend which is more than can be said of one of the following motor bikes. It fell over right in front of us blocking the road for a few minutes until one of the support vans came to the rescue. That was when I discovered that the support vehicles not only have

We watched the procession of spectators going up and down the hill and the many amateur cyclists attempting the hill, some more successfully than others, with the crowds cheering and applauding every cyclist who tried.

As 3pm approached the preceding cavalcade of motor bikes and cars heralded the arrival of the competitors. Like the amateur cyclists not all the support vehicles cleared the bend without stalling, it's a first gear bend at the



Followed by the pelaton



Oops

sparcs for the competitors but also spares for the support motor bikes as they proceeded to repair the damaged bike at the side of the road.

Once the route was clear we walked home to watch a recording of the stage. My brother was pleased to briefly see himself on TV as the camera bike passed. Later my brother-in-law found a picture on the internet which showed Caroline and David on the bend and, as a bonus, my brother on the other side of the road.

And Finally.....



This month Andrew Simpson-Laing found this picture and asks

The local council highways department has a directional problem, would you agree?

This is an interesting situation, which has priority, the original road markings, presumably backed up by some official documentation or the temporary diversion notice?

This Month's Teaser

Have you spotted the change to the front cover this month?

Last Month's Teaser

On the M1 there are junctions numbered 1, at the North Circular Road in London, to 47 plus the junction with the A1(M) J43 but no junction 3 plus 7 'a' junctions at 6a, 15a, 21a, 23a, 24a, 29a and 35a making a total of 54 junctions.

Your Committee

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

URGENT REQUEST

We now have a Group Secretary however we also need a Speaker Secretary to organise the social meetings at the Manor Golf Club. To find out more contact the Secretary.