

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

June 2018

iAM
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Gibson Mill

Gibson Mill, built around 1800, is situated within Hardcastle Craggs woodland beside Hebden Water near Hebden Bridge. It was one of the first mills of the Industrial Revolution.

Acquired by the National trust in 1950 it is now a visitor attraction and an example of an environmentally sustainable building.



FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
Sunday 3rd 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 4th June 8 pm	MYAM Social Evening Ian Goring – Pathfinders Under 17 Club	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW See page 7
Sunday 17th June 10 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members.	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
Sunday 1st July 9:30 am	Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
Monday 2nd July 8 pm	MYAM Social Evening	Carlton Social Club See page 7
Friday 6th July 4pm to 9pm	Thornes Park Classic Car Show	Thornes Park, Wakefield
Sunday 8th July 9:30 am	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.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the June newsletter. With the longer and sunnier days it's time to start thinking of days out and I hope that some of the places featured on the front covers have given you a few ideas for a day out.

Don't forget to prepare your car for any journeys. It's not just winter when checks need to be made. One important item to check is the windscreen. Make sure it is clean on the inside as well as the outside as a film can build up on the inside which can affect your view especially around sunset when driving into the sun. I was made aware of this earlier this month when returning home and I discovered the windscreen had built up a film on the inside as well as a layer of dead insects on the outside. I find that supermarket own brand glass and window cleaner works well to remove the film. It's also good for cleaning your door mirrors.

At the AGM we said goodbye to Julie Langham but welcomed Julie Watson, Paul Orange and Paul Macro to the committee so now we have a committee of 11 members who will be working hard on your behalf to run the group.

Please note that the email address for the newsletter is changing. This issue is being sent from the old address but this will be closing during June so please use the new address for any future communications.

Can I also remind you to make sure the contact details we have are up to date as this is the only way we can contact you with the newsletter and any important MYAM communications.

Keith

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.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Alex Barker, A Shah, Elise Thornton

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Jamie Horne - Observer Lesley Pollard

Happy Birthday this month goes to

As I mentioned last month we are no longer listing member's birthdays
but if it is your birthday this month

Happy Birthday

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.

Following the announcement in the last newsletter about closing our Facebook account, our webmaster David Rushfirth conducted a survey with the result that the account will not now be closed. However our Twitter account is now closed.



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

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.

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

MYAM AGM May 2018

The AGM was held on Monday 14th May 2018 at the Carlton Social Club with 28 of our members and one guest attending. The minutes of the 2017 AGM, published in last month's newsletter, and the accounts for the last 12 months were available for members to read.

The three officers, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, stood down with David Stringer temporarily chairing the meeting. Janice Haigh, Andrew Simpson-Laing and Rosie Bricis were as re-elected unopposed.

Two of the remaining team were also required to be re-elected under the 1/3rd rotation rule but as Julie Langham had offered her resignation just Alan Jones offered himself for re-election. Nominations were received from Paul Orange, Julie Watson and Paul Macro and they were all duly elected to the committee and Bill Jackson was formally elected to the committee.

Chairman's Report

I have now completed my first year as Chairman of MYAM, and it's lovely to see so many Members, Associates, and friends here at the AGM. Welcome to you all, and I hope you are enjoying learning how much has been achieved in the past year and some of our future plans.

Unfortunately, the Committee and I inherited many areas which had been sadly neglected, and this has meant a great deal of work on everyone's part in order to put matters back on track. I can now report that everything is running much more smoothly.

As many of you know, my background is in export sales and marketing, and my first priority was to raise the profile of the Group in order to attract new Associates. Thanks to David Rushfirth (our Chief Observer), Alan Jones (our Events Co-ordinator), and all the National and Local Observers, the Skill Check Drives in Leeds and at Glasshoughton were already running very successfully. However, we needed to increase our exposure in the wider area by appearing at more public events. So, this year we plan to have a presence at nine shows and car rallies. Needless to say, this takes up a great deal of time, and I am very grateful to all the volunteers who give up their weekends to come along and man the caravan and/or stands. In particular, I am grateful to David Rushfirth, who tows the MYAM caravan to Glasshoughton and to the various rallies. I am also grateful to David's wife, Jackie, who loans David her car to pull the caravan.

During the year, a great deal of work has been done on the governance of the Group to make sure that we comply with the requirements of the Charities Commission and the IAM. This has necessitated many hours of studying, writing, and rewriting the Group Rules of Affiliation and the Group Local Rules or Standing Orders. This work has now been completed, and the new Group rules were adopted at the last Committee meeting.

In the same vein, we are also looking at the new General Data Protection Regulations, which come into effect later this month. It is our job to ensure the Group complies with the new rules and that any data we keep is secure. I have attended several seminars on this subject, and our Membership Secretary, David Rockliff, has done, and is continuing to do, a great deal of hard work to ensure we, as a Group, are well up to speed! As a result, I can assure you that MYAM is far ahead of many other Groups and organisations in ensuring that we are compliant with the new regulations, and you, the Members and Associates, can be sure that your data is safe.

Shortly after the last AGM, it was decided to adopt a new logo for MYAM. The old "white rose" for Yorkshire was not special enough, and, again, thanks to Jackie and David Rushfirth, a new logo was designed. The new badge shows a white rose surrounded by a red circle (a sign we all must obey). This is divided into four quarters - blue for the lakes and rivers of Yorkshire, gold for the grain and oilseed rape grown in the area, silver for the steel industry, and green for the moors and dales. The black cross denotes coal and the white surrounds denote the woollen industry, both of which are special to Yorkshire. We hope you like the new logo as much as we do!

As well as looking at our achievements over the past year, it is my job to look forward and plan the future for MYAM.

We have large tasks ahead of us during the coming year, and, without the hard work and commitment of the Committee we cannot begin to plan the year ahead. My two fellow Officers, Rosie Bricis, who as Treasurer, keeps a firm hand on the purse strings, and Andrew Simpson-Laing, our Group Secretary, who takes so much of the organisational detail off my shoulders are both invaluable. Alan Jones, our Events Co-ordinator; David Rockliff, our Membership Secretary; David Rushfirth, our Chief Observer and Webmaster; Keith Wevill, our Newsletter Editor; and Bill Jackson, a National Observer and new Committee Member, who spent a great deal of time finding this excellent new venue for us. Unfortunately, Julie Langham, whose support and common sense have been invaluable over the past year, has decided to resign from the Committee, and I would like to thank her for her service.

Looking around this room, I see that most of our Members and Associates are, like me, mature, and your experience and knowledge are invaluable. However, we do need to attract younger Members. This is not peculiar to MYAM or, indeed, to the IAM. Most voluntary organisations are seeing a lack of younger volunteers. So, I see one of our main tasks in the future is to help young people (even before they obtain a driving licence) to see the advantages of becoming safer drivers. It's not "cool" to be a bad driver and put your own life and those of your friends in danger. Just passing on a copy of "Are We There Yet?" to a younger person may be enough.

And speaking of our Group newsletter, I would like to thank our Editor, Keith Wevill, for his tremendous work in making sure that we have an interesting, informative, and up-to-date publication every month.

I am also pleased to welcome the new members of our Committee, Julie, Paul and Paul, which means we now have a working Committee of eleven. I think most other Groups would be very envious!!!

I give my thanks to all the members of our Committee (and to their partners and families) and to you the Members and Associates for all your support. Let's make sure that MYAM achieves even more in the coming year.

Janice N. Haigh
Group Chairman

Group Secretary's Report

A year ago, we gathered together as a committee and faced the task of putting a great deal of outstanding work and items into place and playing a catch-up game. We had in fact inherited a major task to re-address.

This year there have been major changes in rules, organisation, even a new image and logo from IAM HO to incorporate. We have had, on top, Group changes, a new MYAM logo and considerable changes in the admin and structure of our organisation. This coupled with our inheritance has been a major task, which I am pleased to say has been very successfully accomplished. It goes to show the amount of hard work and effort applied.

There has been a great deal of organisation, much of which has been completed. There are requirements to comply with IAM HO regulations and affiliation, more changes now in progress to accommodate more legislation and organisation, for example the new GDPR regulations coming into force on the 25th May 2018.

My task has been made much easier due to three significant benefits. These are, firstly a very pro-active Chairman who has rolled up her sleeves and got involved with much of the organisation I have had to face and considerably reduced the burden I have had. She has always done far more than a Chairman should do, has given the same support to my fellow committee members. This is dedication and commitment above and beyond the role of leadership and management which are the tasks of a Chairman.

The second benefit is the support, help and consideration I have received from all the members of our committee, true teamwork, enthusiasm and kindness, without which, it would have made my job less productive and less enjoyable. This shows, the harmony, team spirit and the genuine desire we have, to help each other, to achieve our common purpose, that, of which is

moving MYAM forward in a positive and very successful direction. I am pleased to say we are, very much going forward, in that direction with many successes to be proud of.

The third benefit is the response from you the members who when I have needed some help, I am pleased to say that many of you have stepped forward or been keen to offer help whenever the need has arisen. That does you proud and shows clearly the common ground we all share, that of camaraderie, support and desire to be proactive and kind to one another.

Treasurer’s Report

As Rosie Bricis was unable to attend, David Stringer, who had audited the accounts, presented the report on her behalf.

Summarising from the presentation, our income from member’s subscriptions, associate fees plus donations, interest and other sundry income is down on the previous year and our expenditure was greater than it was in 2017 with the result that there was an overall deficit for the year. In spite of this we are still in a good financial position because of our reserves.

Membership Secretary’s Report

As of 30th April 2018 we have 281 group members and 33 associates split between the following areas.

	Bradford	Huddersfield	Harrogate	Leeds	Wakefield	Other
Members	38	8	27	107	86	15
Associates	7	-	2	13	11	-

Chief Observers Report

We currently have 31 observers comprising 1 Chief Observer, 9 National Observers, 16 Local Observers and 5 Trainee Observers. Our pass rate for the last year is 97% which compares very favourably with the local and national statistics. In spite of our success we still need more observers especially in the North Leeds, North and East Bradford and Harrogate areas.



“You’re wasting your time, son, what did you say you call it—a Wheel?”

Wanted

This year we are attending several events in our area to publicise the IAM and our group, you may have seen them. Although we have a number already booked, we are always looking for any future events within our area which might benefit from our attendance. If you know of any such events please let us know.

Do you know about the changes coming to the MOT test?

There are several changes coming to the MOT test, starting on 20 May (apart from in Northern Ireland, where they have a separate MOT system). The most obvious will be a new, more elaborate way of classifying defects. Currently, each item is simply marked as Fail or Pass. In future, defects leading to the car failing the test will be categorised as Dangerous or Major. Most cars are taken for a test before the current certificate runs out, meaning the car can still be driven provided it's not unroadworthy. However, the definition of 'unroadworthy' is not absolutely clear, so the new categories at least give owners some guidance about whether or not it is safe to drive the car until it's repaired. However, a major fault can still mean the car is unroadworthy, so it's important to check with the garage before you drive it away.

Minor faults are noted on the MOT certificate, but will not mean the car fails the test. Advisory comments will also be recorded as items to keep an eye on. As an example, a loose brake disc will be a dangerous defect, a brake disc worn to below the minimum thickness will generally be a major defect and both of these will mean the car fails the MOT test. The car must not be driven at all with a dangerous defect meaning that it must be repaired on the spot or recovered to another garage. The cap missing from the brake fluid reservoir will be a minor fault (but remember to replace this as soon as possible as the fluid may absorb water), and will not result in a fail (although it would under the current test rules), while a brake disc worn close to the minimum thickness will be an advisory defect. Both will be noted on the test certificate and on the online MOT record.

Some of the items checked on the test will change as well, to reflect changes in what must be fitted to cars from various dates. So, headlamp washers must be working if they are fitted (for cars first used from 1/9/2009), reversing lights (1/9/2009) and daytime running lights (1/3/2018). A brake pad warning light on will be a fail for any vehicle.

In order to stop people removing a troublesome diesel particulate filter (DPF), the car will fail if the tester sees any sign that the filter has been tampered with or if there is smoke of any colour coming from the exhaust. Any fluid leak posing an environmental risk, such as an oil leak will also be a major fault and the tester will check the brake fluid for contamination (it should be changed according to the manufacturer's service schedule, usually every two years). If any of the tyres look underinflated, the car will fail the test, so check the pressures.

The MOT certificate itself will look different and for those of us west of the border, there will be a Welsh only option instead of the current bilingual version.

Finally, cars over 40 years old will no longer require an MOT, although it's still the cheapest overall safety check you'll get, so it's not a bad idea to get one anyway, especially if you're a less than expert classic car owner.

The maximum price for the test won't alter and there are still two very useful, and free, services available from DVSA: an MOT reminder by text or email here: www.gov.uk/mot-reminder

And an MOT history check, very useful for a car you're thinking of buying www.gov.uk/check-mot-history

[Click here](#) to read our fact sheet which includes more information.

By Tim Shallcross, head of technical policy and advice

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Gibson Mill – The Good Life?

There are some things we take for granted such as running water, electricity, gas. In fact all the things which make our lives comfortable. These are normally provided by a well developed network of providers. But there are places where none of these utilities are available. One of these is Gibson Mill situated within the Hardcastle Craggs woodland just outside Hebden Bridge. So how do they cope?



The Mill Pond Behind the Mill

Gibson Mill was built around 1800 as one of the first cotton mills of the Industrial Revolution. Driven by a water wheel it produced cotton cloth until 1890. Its workers lived in the nearby workers cottages.

In the early 1900s its use changed to an entertainment venue for local people. There were dining rooms, a dance hall, roller skating rink, refreshment kiosks and boating on the mill pond. A hydro-electric turbine was installed to

provide power. The building slipped into disuse after the Second World War and was acquired by the National Trust in 1950 but remained unused for many years.

Around 2005 a project began to preserve the building and make it independent of mains services. Located in a deep valley, providing these services could have proved expensive as a new electricity substation would have been required. Running water is provided by a natural spring from Hardcastle Crag. It is filtered before being used for drinking water, flushing the toilets and washing up in the on-site café. The restored hydro-electric system provides electricity along with roof mounted solar panels. Surplus electricity is stored in a large battery system for use at times of high demand. The solar panels also provide hot water.



The Complex Control System for the Electricity Generation

The main source for the hot water and heating is provided by a wood burning stove which is also used for cooking. The wood comes from the surrounding woodland which provides the annual requirement of 17 tonnes.

A dry compost system is used for the waste from the toilets which is used as fertiliser on the property.

The building incorporates several measures to conserve energy, insulation in the roof and walls of the café and low energy usage appliances plus the café design maximises the use of natural light.

The whole site is therefore independent of the “normal” services and being located in a deep valley there is also no mobile phone signal but there is a single phone line for communication to the outside world.

In spite of the lack of mains services the site works well and the café is always busy and you wouldn't know it was “off grid”. However there is a notice stating that occasionally at times of peak demand some hot food may not be available.

To achieve virtually complete independence from mains services does require a significant infrastructure to support the site something that is not always available to the average householder trying to be more environmentally friendly. However it is worth visiting to see what can be done.

Keith Wevill

And Finally.....

George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi, was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked, "Is someone in your house?" and he said no. Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available.

George said "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again. "Hello. I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them all." Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips residence. Of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the policemen said to George: "I thought you said you'd shot them!"

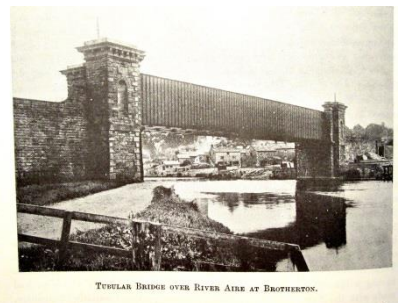
George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

This Month's Teaser

The current MOT test applies to vehicles over 3 years old but when it was introduced what age of vehicles did it apply to?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month, courtesy of David Stringer, I asked "Where was the sixth tubular bridge to Stephenson's design. The bridge, shown right, carried the Swinton and Knottingley Joint Railway, built by the North Eastern and Midland Railways and opened in 1879, over the River Aire. Strictly, it wasn't designed by Robert Stephenson, who died in 1859, but it was the only other bridge of that type, which he originated. The bridge was converted to the present form many years ago and still carries the railway today.



Your Committee

Chairman	Janice Haigh		Contact via the secretary
Secretary	Andrew Simpson-Laing	01132 299522 07743 306654	myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis	0113 2534528	rbricis(at)live.co.uk
Membership Secretary	David Rockliff		Membership.myamcar(at)jamGroups.org.uk
Youth Contact	Position Vacant		
Speaker Secretary	Position Vacant		
Events Manager	Alan Jones	07714 444595	alan.j909(at)btinternet.com
Website	David Rushfirth	01924 211510 07966 134045	myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
Newsletter	Keith Wevill	01274 815281	myam.newsletter(at)outlook.com
Chief Observer	David Rushfirth	01924 211510 07966 134045	myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
Ex officio	Bill Jackson Paul Macro Paul Orange Julie Watson		

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