

# ARE WE THERE YET

NATIONAL MEDIA MUSEUM



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

March 2017



Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843



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

- Page 3**      **All about the forthcoming gatherings**
- Page 4**      **From the Editor**  
**Under 17s Pathfinder Week**
- Page 5-7**    **Group Membership News.**  
5. Welcome, Congratulations, Birthdays  
6. MYAM Online  
7. Group Notices inc. Directions to the Manor.  
    The MYAM awards
- Page 8**      **A Note from the Membership Secretary**
- Page 9**      **Letters to the Editor**
- Page 10**     **Sarah Sillars Visit**
- Page 12**     **Car Clamping Soars After DVLA Scraps Tax Disc**
- Page 13**     **VW Diesel Emissions Issue**
- Page 14**     **This month's teaser**
- Page 15**     **And Finally.....**
- Page 16**     **Your Committee contact details**

## **Cover Photo - National Media Museum Bradford**



Located in the centre of Bradford, the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television opened in 1983. Its original remit was to explore the art and science of the image and image making with floors devoted to photography, television and film. It also houses the first IMAX cinema screen in the UK. It is part of the Science Museum Group which also includes the National Railway Museum in York. In 2006 it was relaunched and renamed as the National Media Museum.

## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Sunday 5th March 9.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 6th March 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social evening</b> Philip Solity - Amusing Side of Road Traffic Law	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 7 for directions)
<b>Sunday 19th March 10 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
<b>Sunday 2nd April 9.30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 3rd April 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social evening</b> David Rockliff - Road Surfaces	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 EDITOR

You can't always get what you want, so sang the Rolling Stones in 1969. The same can sometimes be said for cars. Since I retired my mileage has dropped to 5-6000 miles per year which is not really suited to a diesel car. So I've decided to change to a petrol. Because of where we live, above the snow line in Queensbury (there used to be a Queensbury website "itsonwsuphereinjune"), it is advantageous to have four wheel drive, half the households in our cul-de-sac have a 4x4. I went to my usual dealer to find that they could not order the only petrol 4x4 Yeti Skoda produce. This was confirmed by customer services. However I've visited another dealer who said there was no problem in placing an order, so I've ordered one. Hopefully to be delivered in May, fingers crossed.

As with insurance it appears to pay to shop around when it comes to buying a car.

We've got a full programme for the next few months including the AGM in May. I make no excuse for repeating the request for volunteers to fill the vacant committee positions for Group Secretary and Programme Secretary. We urgently need people to fill these positions to take the pressure off Lesley who is currently undertaking both roles in addition to the Vice chairman role. Contact Lesley or Martin for more information or to volunteer.

**Keith**

## Under 17's Pathfinder Week

Following on from last month's request from the Scarborough Group regarding the Under 17's Pathfinder project we have received the following information.

Following the previous details about this initiative planned for October there will be a meeting on Wednesday March 8th, 7.30pm at the Toby Carvery, Malton Road, York YO32 9TE (off the Hopgrove roundabout).

If you are interested in or would like to find out more on observing, marshalling or admin help with this please come along or contact Ian Goring [ian.goring@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.goring@btinternet.com)

# Welcome to the Group

**Khoroom Akram  
Miranda ArieH  
Simon Gartside  
Catherine Hollingworth  
Mary Lawson  
Martyn Shepherd**

# Congratulations

**On passing the Advanced Test**

**Hannah Gooch - Observer David Rockliff  
Gemma Holroyd - Observer Chris Marrison  
Joe Miller - Observer Rob Blackshaw  
Ruth Watson - Observer Bill Jackson**

# Happy Birthday this month goes to

**Miranda ArieH, Alison Barron, Matthew Beck, Rob Blackshaw,  
Richard Brankin, Sandra Brockie, Helen Brown, Victoria Croft,  
Richard Dewhirst, Richard Hook, Angela Horsfall, Mark Ikin,  
Trevor Jones, John Kelly, Philip Kirby, David Kitching, John Moore,  
Keith Morgan, Matthew Nixon, Kate Palmer, Patrick Snowden,  
Sheila Southam, Ken Sykes, Stuart Symons, Rachel Temple, Mick Wood**

# ***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** is open up to all MYAM members at [myam.icyboards.net](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/midyorkshireiam) and like our page. How about inviting a few of your Facebook friends to like our page too. It helps getting our name out there.

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

[www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire](http://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire)

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](https://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.

## **The MYAM Awards**

Later in the newsletter you'll see five of our members being presented with attendance awards. These are awarded to any member who has attended at least ten of our social meetings.

We also have the MYAM award, introduced last year. This is awarded to the member who has shown commitment to the group by attending meeting and events, contributing to the newsletter, introducing new members or organising an event. Full details were given in the December newsletter.

# A Note from the Membership Secretary

Sadly, there comes a time when age and poor health means that some of us have to stop driving and give up their DVLA licence. What you may not know, is that the formal IAM Articles of Association (a complex legal document) mean that you must hold a valid driving licence to be a member of IAM. In theory at least, you must resign from the IAM as soon as you give up your DVLA licence.

Those of you who heard the excellent presentation by Sarah Sillars at our February meeting may recall that I raised the status of 'retired members' during the questioning. This is something that I questioned a number of times in my former role as Chair of the North East Groups Forum. Sarah has followed up my question and has confirmed that IAM Council is to discuss a paper about the creation of a 'retired member' category at its next meeting.

In the meantime, if you are a Group member who has stopped driving please let me know so that we can help you decided what to do next.

**David Rockliff**

.....

At our recent meeting Sarah Sillars raised the topic of 'driverless cars' and concluded that they are unlikely to have a big effect in our lifetime.

A week or so later I gave a talk about the IAM to a local church group. A registered blind person - with a broad smile - asked me if a driverless car would allow his guide dog to take the family for a day trip to Scarborough ...

**David Rockliff**

.....

**Right** - Lisa Aveyard receiving her certificate from Sarah Sillars at the February meeting.





# Letters

Dear Editor

Some months ago you asked for stories about ones first car! At last here is my story.

In about 1964! I went out shopping with my basket over my arm. Having passed my test first time the week before, I went into a small garage.

There were two cars sitting there, both Ford Populars, one black, one green. I asked the man which was the best one. He replied "the Green one". So I bought it - £45!! I named it Jessie Trollop!

I drove it home and then went for my first solo drive from Sittingbourne (Kent) to the isle of Sheppy (because it was a long straight road!)

It had to be double de-clutched.

My Dad said "If you can drive this, you can drive anything!"

Anyway in April 1966 I drove it up to Leeds from Kent with two children and a cat on board!!

Those were the days! I sold it for £35. Not bad eh!

I never forget Jessie Trollop, though I've had many cars since.

**Ann Pearce**

.....

Ah the Ford Popular, my father had one as the first car we had as a family. In 1959 we went on holiday to Looe in Cornwall. There were five of us in the car, my parents, my brother and I and my grandmother. It took us all day to travel from Birmingham to Cornwall, no M5 in those days.

Ed

# Sarah Sillars Visit

A busy room greeted Sarah Sillars, IAM CEO, at our February social. Sarah presented *well deserved* Advanced Driving certificates; as well as five Attendance Award vouchers to those who had attended 10 or more socials in the previous year.

Sarah started by asking our thoughts on driverless cars. Autonomous vehicles will eventually play a part on our roads but are still a very long way off, they will give, albeit an expensive, choice to some who don't/can't wish to drive.

Behind the scenes are the IAM RoadSmart Council of Trustees. They meet five times a year to set objectives, agree policy/strategy for the CEO and staff to follow. Set budgets, monitor progress and make sure our charitable objectives are being met.



They do bring many different skill sets to further the IAM but they don't play a part in the day to day running and they don't get paid.

On the future of the IAM, there are 30 million+ licence holders in the UK, approximately 92,000 are members of The IAM, 6,000 of these are active volunteers. Hence the new look IAM RoadSmart

launched; to streamline and update itself.

Research and surveys were taken to non IAM members, the majority had no interest in an advanced driving course but did have concerns about certain aspects of modern driving, off this 6 new modules have been put together (have a look at the website for details). As IAM RoadSmart is a charity there are restrictions with our affiliation with the DVSA, hence our observers 'coach or mentor' our associates, not 'teach or tutor'. The groups and observers will play no part in these modules, it will be left to ADI's. It's hoped that a few 'joe public' will enjoy them though and will look into doing an advanced driving course, where we will play our part.

Safer driving/riding is at the forefront of IAM RoadSmart, they have a place on the Road Safety Ministers meetings, they are reaching out to younger drivers with young ambassadors, deliver a recognised drink/drive rehabilitation courses.

Their remit is to – ‘Improve the standards of driving/riding, improvement and promotion of road safety, administer a nationally recognised advanced test’. The vision – ‘To be the best, most recognised provider of training and advice for all post licence drivers and riders’.

Sarah is passionate about the volunteers and Advanced Driving/Riding Course but it is in a small niche we find ourselves – we are never going to reach all the people all the time.

As qualified advanced drivers we are always on the lookout to further our own knowledge, not happy to sit back in a smug state because we have passed the test, urging others to do their best, safety foremost but hopefully with more enjoyment.

For me, I found Sarah to be very approachable and thought she came across with honesty and clarity. Many questions and queries were asked during the evening which Sarah answered and asked me to email to her for a fuller response to you all. These I will pass on, in the next newsletter. *(We have now received the responses which will be published in next months newsletter – Ed)*



**Caroline Wevill, David Wevill, Ken Sykes, Martin Dixon, Roger Illingworth receiving their attendance awards**

# Car Clamping Soars After DVLA Scraps Tax Disc

The number of drivers whose cars have been clamped because they've failed to pay vehicle tax has doubled since the paper tax disc was axed two years ago.

Figures obtained by BBC News through a Freedom of Information Request show there are now more than 9,000 clampings a month. The data shows that only around 5,100 cars a month were clamped in the six months leading up to the physical tax disc being abolished in October 2014.

It is thought some drivers forget to renew because they no longer have a disc in the windscreen to remind them to do so.

If clamped, drivers can expect to pay a fee of £100 and vehicles are often taken to a pound where they face additional fees for every day before the car is recovered.

The DVLA is cracking down on drivers who have not paid, and use a fleet of vehicles fitted with number plate recognition technology to identify road users without valid tax.

The organisation's chief executive, Oliver Morley, told the BBC: "The law is that you pay your tax. The vast majority pay with no problem at all."

In 2014, when the tax disc was removed in favour of an online system, it was hoped the move would save the DVLA millions of pounds a year. However, it was revealed earlier this year that the Government's income from vehicle tax dropped by £93 million following the switch.

According to information from DVLA, revenue from vehicle excise duty (VED) fell from £6.023 billion in 2014/15 to £5.930bn the year after.

The drop sparked calls from the RAC for a further investigation, amid fears that the abolition of the tax disc has caused an increase in vehicle tax evasion.

The RAC said several factors could help explain the fall in VED income, such as the increase in low carbon emission vehicles – which are cheaper to tax – and unfamiliarity with the new system.

But spokesman Simon Williams said the drop still represents "a significant sum", and urged the DfT to conduct a further survey to build up a better picture of the problem.

With acknowledgement to the RAC website.

## VW Diesel Emissions Issue

Do you have a VW group (VW, Audi, Skoda, Seat) vehicle that is affected by this issue? The engines affected are 2ltr and 1.6ltr diesel engines with the designation EA189. As you may be aware this stems from the discovery that the engine management systems for these engines had software that detected the emission test conditions in the USA and adjusted the engine settings to allow the test to be passed as the emissions testing in the States is more stringent than in Europe.

The reason I ask is that my car has one of these engines and I have had the letter to say the software update is now available and I am invited to take my car in to have the update applied.

I am a member of the Yeti Owners Club forum and there are divided opinions on the effects of having the update done. The update is supposed just to have removed the cheat software and not affect performance, mpg etc. but several members have reported the DPF (Diesel Particulate Filter) light coming on or the EGR (Exhaust Gas Recirculation) Valve failing after the update, both being very expensive to fix.

These issues may be down to the use of the car but if this hasn't changed and none of the above failures occurred before the update then, to me, it is suspicious that there is an increase of post update failures. I've never had the DPF light come on since I had the car.

I have decided not to have the update done as it is only recommended and not compulsory, this having been confirmed by the dealers service manager, but have any of our members with an affected vehicle had the update done and have you noticed any significant changes in the way the car drives?

### **Keith**

Shortly after I'd written this I received a phone call from Skoda regarding the update as have several members of the YOC forum. It appears Skoda are aware that some people have had the issues I mentioned and there is further service action to be taken. This only goes to show that the process of "debugging" software is replacing one error by another. I'm still not having the update done.

However it may be a little academic as I've now decided to change the car.



Spotted in the Lake District a few years ago

.....

## This Month's Teaser

We are all very familiar with traffic lights but where and when were the first three colour traffic lights used in Britain?

## Last Month's Teaser



Last month's teaser picture was taken near the Great Orme in Llandudno so no prizes for guessing the language. Here's the picture with the English subtitle.

Having spent a number of years at university and working in North Wales I've always wanted to put a "Dim Parcio" sign outside my house. Most people would assume it's the house name but it's Welsh for "No Parking"!

# And Finally.....

A farmer goes out to his field one morning only to find all of his cows frozen solid. As far as the eye can see are cows, motionless like statues. It had been a bitterly cold night, but he'd never thought anything like this would happen. The realisation of the situation then dawned on him.

With his entire livestock gone, how would he make ends meet? How would he feed his wife and kids? How would he pay the mortgage? He sat with his head in his hands trying to come to terms with his impending poverty. Just then, an elderly woman walked by, "What's the matter, love?" asked the old lady.

The farmer gestured toward the frozen cows and explained his predicament to the woman.

Without hesitation the old woman smiled and began to rub one of the cows noses. After a few seconds the cow began to twitch and was soon back to normal and chewing the cud.

One by one the old woman defrosted the cows until the whole field was full of healthy animals.

The farmer was delighted and asked the woman what she wanted as a repayment for her deed.

She declined his offer and walked off across the field.

A passer-by who had witnessed the whole thing approached the farmer. "You know who that was don't you?" asked the passer-by.

"No" said the farmer.

"That was Thora Hird"

## Your Committee

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

## 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.

We also need a Speaker Secretary to organise the social meetings at the Manor Golf Club. To find out more contact the Chairman or Vice Chairman.