



Mid Yorkshire



**Advanced Motorists
Newsletter**



ARE WE THERE YET

September 2016

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



www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire

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FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
Sunday 4th September 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 September 7.30pm	MYAM Social evening. Quiz evening based on the Highway Code	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 7 for directions)
Sunday 18th September 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
Saturday 24th September 10 am	Harrogate Car Enthusiasts Car Show and Family Fun Day	Treacle Jug Farm Ferrensby Knaresborough HG5 0QJ
Monday 3rd October 7.30pm	MYAM Social evening. IAM CEO Sarah Sillars will be addressing the group	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

Are you a fan of technology? Specifically technology in cars. Modern cars are being fitted with more and more “features” as the cost of the electronics involved falls. Are all these features necessary or are they a distraction?

Legislation has had a big part in the level of technology in cars and other road vehicles, the compulsory fitment of catalytic converters in the early 90s to reduce emissions required the use of electronically controlled fuel injection to precisely control the amount of fuel used by the engine. This precise control also led to an improvement in fuel consumption. ABS is another system which is now compulsory and relies heavily on electronic control.

Other systems that are now common include auto lights, auto wipers, cruise control, satellite navigation systems and radios with touch control. The radio display now acts as a general information screen. Parking sensors can indicate how far away from any obstacle the car is and can even be used to park the car. Some cars even have multiple cameras that can give an all-round view of the outside of the car.

How do drivers get on with these systems, if you have them fitted how often do you use them. My car, a 2012 Skoda Yeti, has auto lights, wipers, cruise control which I do use, but I have to admit I do like some of the technology features on the car. One other feature which I had fitted and has proved useful is a tyre pressure monitor. This is now mandatory on new cars but does work and has found slowly deflating tyres before too much damage to the tyre has been caused.

Many of these systems may be unfamiliar to drivers so it is worth checking them out under controlled conditions before they are used in anger. How many people are unfamiliar with ABS and how it works, do they think there is a fault when they hear it rattling and the brake pedal pulsates, then release the brake pedal not knowing they should keep the pressure on to ensure the system works as intended.

My car has a “hill descent system” which is intended to control the descent of the car downhill by braking individual wheels to maintain the required direction in snow. All I have to do is steer. As it was a new feature I tried it out down our cul-de-sac before the bad weather so when I used it in the snow I was aware of how it worked.

So do you know what features are fitted to your car and more importantly how do you use them to best advantage without causing a distraction to your driving?

I’ve compared my current car with my first car, a 1974 Mini 1000, and the Yeti has many more features than the Mini but there is one item that was fitted on the Mini that the Yeti does not have, so for this month’s quiz, what is it? Answer next month.

Keith

Welcome to the Group

Janet Darlington
Kathy Sewell
Andrew Smith

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Richard Brankin - Observer Brian Morley
Sally Emmerson - Observer Chris Marrison

On passing the National Observer Test

Bill Jackson

On passing the Commercial Advanced Test

Clive Ford

Happy Birthday this month goes to

Once again I'm unable to bring you this month's birthdays but we're working on it. So if it's your birthday in September have happy birthday.

Hopefully normal service will be resumed soon. (Crosses fingers and touches wood - again)

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. 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 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.

Motoring Related Websites

Here are four websites you may find useful. The first two allow you to check the status of your insurance, tax and the third will give the MOT history of your car since 2005.

Insurance database - <http://www.askmid.com/>

Car tax - <https://www.vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk/>

MOT - <https://www.check-mot.service.gov.uk/>

And this one allows you to check if there have been any recalls for your car

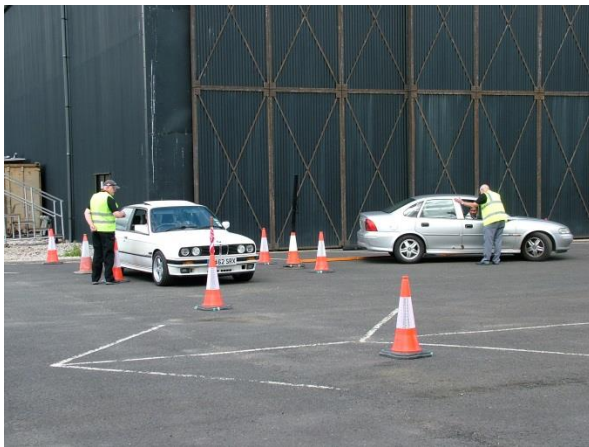
<http://www.vosa.gov.uk/vosa/apps/recalls/default.asp>

Elvington Skills Development Day

Saturday the 30th July turned out a perfect day for the North East Regions' Skills Day at Elvington.

Based at the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington we had use of a large area for parking & manoeuvring skills plus one of the huts for the seminars which took place throughout the day.

All motoring levels were catered for, from non-members to those thinking about doing the Masters course. Half the gathered folk went out driving in the morning with the rest taking in the varied seminars or having a go at the parking & manoeuvring course, a short lunch in the Naafi then the groups swapped over. Our highly qualified observers from the region each took out 2 attendees, giving both a good session driving round the area, catering for what they wanted from the day. Coming back in to swap vehicles, everyone found there was as much to learn sitting in the back whilst the other person drove.



The seminars covered Speeding – taken from the Speed Awareness Courses IAM RoadSmart deliver. Country Driving – what a challenging and dangerous environment it can be and very useful were the videos discussing limit points and overtaking. The third seminar was titled Analysis of an Accident which was a ‘who did it’ - based on a real motorway incident. This was led by one of IAM’s examiners from the North East who is a police officer and an Incident Investigator, he talked us through photos of the incident and what the police have to take into consideration when at the scene of a crash. Everyone was soon into Miss Marple mode! Most enjoyable and enlightening.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in putting the day together and a special thanks to those out in the car park who did a sterling job with the parking & manoeuvring course.

If you get chance to go on a Skills Development Day, I’d fully recommend it no matter what your level of driving is.

An Evening with the Chief Observer

David Stringer gave us an interesting presentation of our new theory offering for associates joining the group. Whether you're a long standing member, an observer or newly passed the Advanced Driving test it's always a good idea to have a regular refresher.



David in full flow

David talked us through applying IPSCA at roundabouts, overtaking, limit points, commentary and country roads – the most challenging, but also the most pleasing when we get it right! Safety of course is foremost, making good safe progress is a satisfying bonus.

Our training team plan to have these on our website before long, so keep a look out for them.

A good selection of short videos were shown covering the above subjects. Our

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire>

Thank you David

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Surplus equipment available

The Group has a fairly new flipchart stand, two pads of paper and a set of pens that is surplus to requirements. If any member can find a use for it, please let David Rockliff know.

Ford Plans the Driverless Car

Ford has said it will mass-produce a fully autonomous self-driving car without a steering wheel by 2021.

The bold ambition was outlined by the company's president, Mark Fields, at an event in Palo Alto, California. Ford said it would double its investment in its research centre in the city, as well as making sizable investments in technology companies in the autonomy industry. The firm said the car would be in use by customers by 2021.

In partnership with Chinese firm Baidu, Ford has made a joint investment of \$150m (£115m) in Velodyne - a company that works on light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology. LiDAR is the system used for accurately detecting objects around the car. Ford was also part of an investment round that raised \$6.6m for Civil Maps - a digital mapping company - as well as money put towards neuroscience research.

Ford said it would be focusing on "Level 4" autonomy in reference to the standards put in place by the US-based Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The levels represent the sophistication of self-driving technology. At Level four - "high automation" - the car is able to operate, unmonitored, in a particular use case. For Ford, the use case would be a city area. Level 5 would mean full autonomy in any driving condition. The company said it was not interested in offering Level three driving. Level two means some level of automation that requires the driver to monitor the car at all times.

Isolated Tesla

Tesla's Autopilot, which changes lanes and monitors traffic flow, is officially Level two - although critics say human nature means drivers are instinctively treating Autopilot as if it were in fact Level three automation. Level three is when constant monitoring is not required, but drivers should be ready to take control in emergencies. Tesla's technology is under investigation by US road safety regulators after it was **blamed for causing the death of a driver earlier this year**. Tesla chief executive Elon Musk defended the roll-out of Autopilot in a recent blog post: "When used correctly, it is already significantly safer than a person driving by themselves and it would therefore be morally reprehensible to delay release simply for fear of bad press or some mercantile calculation of legal liability," he wrote.

At its announcement, Ford chief technical officer Raj Nair said the company wasn't satisfied that drivers could safely take control from a level two or three vehicle at a moment's notice. "We don't yet know how to manage hand over back to the driver

and have him engage and have him situationally aware, and be able to do that in a safe aware manner," he said. This approach chimes with the views of Google which in the past has expressed concern about the safety implications of semi-autonomous driving. It leaves Tesla, with Autopilot, isolated among auto makers. "Tesla is unique in that it's allowing its users to be beta testers," said Wayne Cunningham, managing editor of motoring news website Road Show. "No other company thinks that way."

On Ford's 2021 pledge, Mr Cunningham told the BBC it was a feasible goal but one that was intentionally narrow. "It's not as an aggressive step as it sounds," he said. "This is really a car designed for very specific urban environments. It's a car that's going to take people at 20-30 mph through city centres."

With acknowledgement to the BBC news website

So what do you think of driverless cars? There are many unanswered questions, who is responsible for "driving" the car? Is it someone in the car or the engineers that wrote the software? How would they cope with unusual situations on the road? The accident with the Tesla was apparently due to the system failing to see a truck that crossed in front of the car confusing the light side of the trailer for the sky.



A couple of Lotus Cortinas seen at the Halifax show

Are you sitting comfortably?

The hustle and bustle of the UK commute isn't always the easiest. With the summer holidays here, neither is driving the kids around for various activities. Here are some comfy driving tips from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

Be mindful of your posture. As a driver it's important to avoid positions that can cause muscle ache. Before you move off try adjusting your car seat but in a secure position that allows you to stay alert and maintain good visibility. An incorrect seat position will not only be uncomfortable but may affect your ability to operate the vehicle controls.

Sometimes a nibble goes a long way. Pull over and have something to eat, however try and make sure that your snacks aren't too sugar loaded – you may experience an energy crash later on. Stay nourished and hydrated – your brain needs food to maintain concentration.

Wear the right attire to ensure you are fully comfortable whilst on the go. Avoid uncomfortable footwear that provides little sole support, such as high heels and especially flip flops. In an event were you may need to brake firmly, the support of the soles of your shoes always help.

Travel safe. It's always a good idea to take out travel insurance so that you're covered in the event of accidents and emergencies.

Get the games out! Journeys do not always have to be dull and repetitive. Plan ahead and get some fun games organised for the younger ones on board. This will make the journey feel miles faster and smoother, allowing you to concentrate on your driving.

Rebecca Ashton, commercial learning and development manager said "It's important to get as much rest as possible before you start driving. When driving with children or commuting it is vital that your driving position doesn't cause you any discomfort. Just a few moments spent being correctly seated and wearing the right clothing could save you from the hassle of muscle aches and help you to enjoy the drive."

It's that time ... road trip!

Summer is here and the holiday season is upon us. A lot of travellers try to kill two birds with one stone by driving and sleeping in the same place. Here are some road trip driving safety tips for you caravan and motorhome users from, IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

Plan for the best and the worst. We recommend having an emergency kit such as fuses, spare keys, a spare phone charger, a tool kit, spare bulbs and a spare tyre or tyre repair kit.

Get prepared! Plan your route and journey before heading off, making note of all the attractions and places to eat so that the journey can be easier and feel miles smoother. Also consider the size of your motorhome or caravan – some roads may be challenging if you meet oncoming traffic.

Choose your stopping areas carefully, making sure you are safely away from the traffic and not trespassing.

Sometimes sickness strikes. If your passengers suffer from travel sickness, they can take a travel sickness pill but read the label as some cause drowsiness and you may have to avoid them.

In case of an emergency, the number to call in Europe is 112 and that will put you through to the emergency services. It also works in the UK.

Don't forget your documentation, car/ motorhome insurance certificates, log books, proof of MOT and fundamentals such as your driving licence and passport (and visa if needed).

Richard said "Recent events at the Port of Dover have showed how travel plans can go wrong. Make sure you have a supply of water and snacks to cater for delays. If you are stuck pop the kettle on but not while moving. If you can make the journey the holiday, the destination is less important."

MYAM Group Trophy – A Reminder



Another reminder about the new group trophy for the member 'who has gone above and beyond' for their commitment to our group.

If you wish to nominate any member, excluding the committee, to receive this magnificent trophy please send your nomination to our Chairman Martin Fillingham, either in person at a meeting or by email - myam.chairman@outlook.com

The trophy will be presented at our Christmas Social meeting.

YOUR GROUP IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A SHORTAGE OF OBSERVERS.

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE OBSERVERS - DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

You must have the ability to pass on knowledge in a patient and professional manner and have a real interest in raising the standard of driving in others.

The post of observer is a very rewarding one. All it requires is a few hours of your time. It is also a very good way of maintaining your standard, because whilst advising, you are constantly aware of both your own driving techniques and those in others. There is no financial cost to observers, but it enables you to give something back to your group in return for what has been done for you.

Becoming an Observer is not for the faint-hearted. It is not something that everyone is able to do, but, if you are at all interested, contact our chief observer David Stringer.

And Finally.....

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if you can raed tihs psas it on !!

This was passed round at work and one reply began with a 'b' and ended with 's' but with the other letters mixed up. No prizes for working that one out!

OOPs

Most of us will have misread a satnav's turn instructions on occasion, all of us will have been lost at some point, but I'm struggling to understand how anyone could have driven down this



steep and very narrow concrete ramp and thought they could make the 180 degree turn near the bottom in a large car!

But that's what this hapless motorist tried to do as he drove down the pedestrian only ferry access ramp at Dunquin where boats leave for the Blasket Islands off the west coast of

Ireland. And he was sufficiently determined that he managed to wedge his car between the walls and spent the night stuck, blocking access to the pier, until police arrived the next morning.

Thanks to David Robinson for this one.

Answers to last months teaser. The car at David Rockliffs daughters wedding– An Alvis

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@iamGroups.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@iamGroups.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.