

# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

September 2018

**iam**  
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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### **Cover Photo – The Austin Metropolitan**

Taken at the Fleur-de-Lys car show at Thornes Park the cover photo shows Steve, my next door neighbour, with his 1961 Austin Metropolitan. Built by Austin at their Longbridge plant, most of the cars were exported to the USA but Steve's car is one of the 9400 right hand drive cars sold in the UK and other "foreign" markets.

## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Sunday 2nd September 9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 3rd September 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> First Aid with Damian Conway	Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW See page 7
<b>Sunday 16th September 10 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB
<b>Monday 1st October 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> <b>Black Circle Tyres</b>	Carlton Social Club See page 7
<b>Sunday 7th October 9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA

Everyone is welcome at these events, this includes partners, other family members and friends, 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.

**Can I remind you that if you change your home address or email address can you let David Rockliff know at the address on the committee page.**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the September “Are We There Yet?”. Since the last issue the weather has changed with some much welcome rain which has revived our lawns and filled the water butts but has caused problems with flooding in some places. However a long dry period followed by rain can cause problems on the roads reducing the grip and increasing the risk of skidding. Modern braking systems with ABS can help but we still need to be aware of the risks.

There are a couple of important announcements in this issue regarding the availability of the committee meeting minutes and the changes to the subscriptions announced last month. We are also investigating the use of direct debits for subscriptions so watch this space for further announcements.

I’m always looking for ideas for articles for the newsletter and have a few that I’m working on for future newsletters. One idea is to feature various classic cars and to this end in this newsletter, on page 11, is an article on the little known Austin Metropolitan. Look out for further classic cars in future newsletters. If you have a classic, or even an old, car and would be prepared to write a short article about it or even have photos suitable for publication, please let me know. Also if you have any ideas for the newsletter I’d love to hear them. They don’t necessarily have to be directly motoring related. If you are unsure as to whether they would be suitable for the newsletter or just need more information just contact me and I’ll let you know.

For those of you who live in the south of our area or regularly travel up the M1 have you noticed that the Emley Moor TV mast now has a twin. This is a temporary mast to allow work on the aerials and transmitters of the main mast in preparation for major changes to the TV channels over the next 3 years.

Like many people whenever I travel up the M1 and see the mast, as I round one

of the bends on the motorway, it means I’m nearly home. The picture above was taken from our house and shows both masts 12 miles away.



**Keith**

# Welcome to the Group

## New Associates

**Victoria Camidge, Frank Farmer, John Latham,  
Sue O'shea, Leigh Eyles, James Wallis**

# Congratulations

## On passing the Advanced Test

**David Belford - Observer Mick Coley**

## On passing the Masters Test

**Paul Orange - Mentored by David Stringer**

**Paul also passed his National Observer test during the same session**

### **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.

# ***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.

**See the notice on page 7 regarding the committee minutes.**



**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)

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**

## **Important Note About the Minutes of MYAM Committee Meetings**

Your committee is keen to ensure that it acts in an open way that reflects the needs and views of the membership. The publication of the minutes of committee meetings is a key part of that aim. However, this must be done in a way that protects the integrity of MYAM as a registered charity. The recent General Data Protection Regulations also mean that we have to be more careful about publishing information referring to individual members.

For a number of years, the minutes of MYAM committee meetings have been freely available on the MYAM website. Current legal advice to charities is that this is not a good idea. The MYAM position is made more difficult because our website is available to anybody who does an internet search, leaving us exposed to hackers.

After discussion, it has been agreed that the creation of a 'members only' area on the website is not practical. It can be done, but every member would need to set up their own security password that can be linked to the email address in the membership records.

In future, confirmed minutes of committee meetings will only be available to a member who asks the Group Secretary for a copy. This can be done at an evening meeting or using the contact details printed in the monthly newsletter. Any minutes currently on the website will be removed. They are archived in a separate and secure system, so are still available on request.

## **Important Note About an Increase in MYAM Subscriptions**

As explained in the note from our Chairman on page 9 of the August Newsletter, it has been agreed that the annual MYAM subscription will be increased to £10.00 for all members - of any age - who renew their annual subscription on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

The discount for members aged 70 or more will also cease for any member who reaches that milestone on or after 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019. This discount was carried over from one of our constituent groups and has been difficult to manage in a Group with over three hundred members.

The discounted subscription for committee members and observers will also cease when they renew their subscription on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

The only exception to this change will be current Honorary Members, unless they are also Observers. (Observers have to pay a subscription fee so that they are covered by IAM insurance during observed drives.) The granting of Honorary membership in future will only be at the discretion of the MYAM committee, in line with recent MYAM practice.

It is recognised that many members pay by standing order. This is one reason why subscription renewal notes are sent at the end of the month - there is nothing more frustrating than receiving a request for payment the day after the standing order was collected. Please help us by amending your 2019 standing orders before the due date. Your committee is also looking at a direct debit system that could make subscriptions easier to manage in future.



We are on the lookout for volunteers in all areas in the group catchment area to join our Observer team.

Our 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.

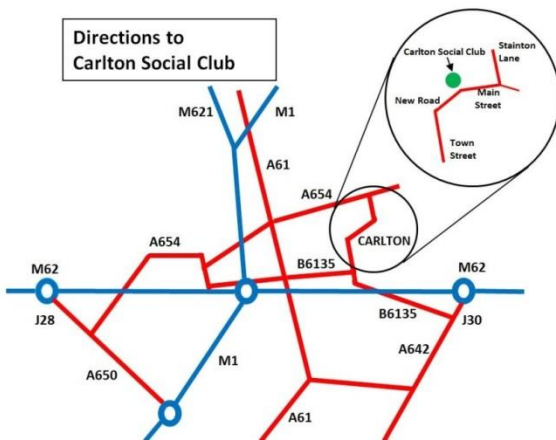
By becoming a 'Local Observer', you will learn a lot more, not just about helping other drivers reach the standard you have achieved, but through a greater understanding of the principles and application of advanced driving techniques. This will also help you improve your own standard of driving and maintain those skills.

Interested? Contact our Chief Observer, David Rushfirth who will provide all the details you need.



# Directions to the Carlton Social Club

Main Street, Carlton, Wakefield WF3 3RW



From the M62 West leave at Junction 28 and take the A650 towards Wakefield. At the next set of traffic lights turn left onto the A654 toward Rothwell. Follow the A654, turning left in Thorpe on the Hill. Cross the A61 and continue into Carlton. Turn right into Stainton Lane then turn right into Main Street. The Social Club is on the right immediately after the Unicorn pub.

From the M62 East leave at junction 30 and take the A642 towards Wakefield.

Take the next right, B6135, towards Lofthouse. Follow the B6135 under the M62 onto Ouzlewell Green towards Carlton and Rothwell. Follow the road past Carlton Primary School and the Social Club is on the left just before the Unicorn pub.

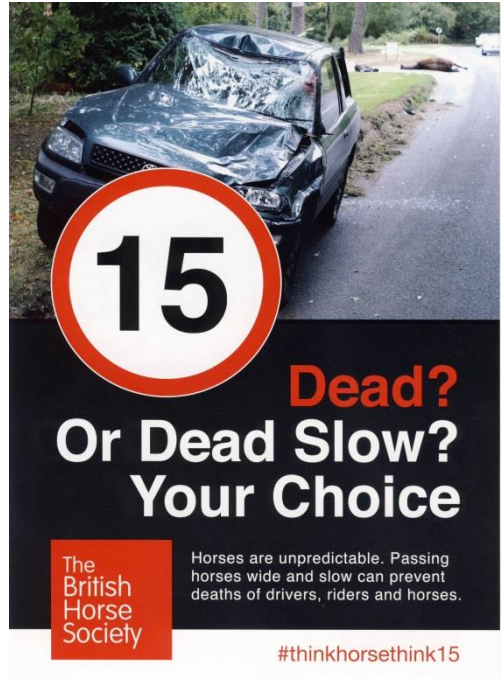
There is a car park with overspill parking available on the grass area opposite the club.

# August Meeting - British Horse Society

Des Payne from the British Horse Society Safety Team presented a well balanced brief on Equine Road Safety for our monthly meet at the Carlton Social Club on the 6 August 2018. For those who could not make the evening here is a brief summary on some of the key messages.

The British Horse Society's Dead Slow Campaign has worked with many partners to increase the safety of horses and horse riders on the roads and has asked us to carry on using our network to pass these messages on. The Dead Slow messages are to educate and influence driver behaviour on how to pass horses safely.

- It is two years since The British Horse Society launched its road safety campaign Dead? Or Dead Slow?
- The BHS launched Dead Slow after shocking statistics revealed the huge number of riders and horses injured or killed on Britain's roads.
- Two years since the BHS launched Dead Slow, the charity has seen a reduction in the number of incidents reported. However, it is still a serious issue with an average of one incident a day.
- The BHS is a leader in equestrian safety and campaigns to educate drivers on how to safely pass horses on the road.
- The BHS launched its Ride Safe Award to educate riders on how to protect themselves and ride safely in all environments, including on the road.



The BHS would encourage all riders who ride out to take our Ride Safe Award. It provides them with the skills and knowledge to ride safely in all environments including on the road. Riders can take the Award at selected BHS Approved Centres throughout the UK.

The BHS's Horse Accidents website reported from November 2010 to March 2018 that there were 2,914 road incidents involving horses. The incidents include any near miss or collision with

a horse. Since the start of horseaccidents.org.uk, there have been reports of 39 riders killed, 230 horses killed or euthanized because of their injuries. 85% of these incidents have been where the vehicle has passed too close or too fast to the horse.

The BHS are using a Behavioural Change Technique called - Implementation Intervention:

If I see a horse on the road, then I will:

- Slow down to a maximum of 15 mph.
- Be patient, I won't sound my horn or rev my engine.
- Pass the horse wide and slow, at least a car's width (if possible).
- Drive slowly away.

The BHS has launched a virtual reality film to show drivers what it's like to be riding a horse when a car passes too fast or too close. Viewing the film gives you the alarming first-hand experience of being on a horse as a vehicle passes too close. The film also demonstrates what drivers experience when approaching a horse in a vehicle that is going too fast.

Horse riders have had the right to be on the road for centuries and unfortunately it isn't always possible to ride off-road. Riders often have to use the roads because the bridleway network is shrinking to make way for new developments and land use.

In fact, all bridleways are under threat. If they aren't officially recorded by 2026, they will be written off the map. We are campaigning to raise awareness of this and have a toolkit which members of the public can download and record bridleways to help protect them.

Horses can be unpredictable. It's not worth making the assumption that all horses on the roads will be confident at all times. They aren't born with an innate understanding of how to behave on the road. Also the only way to make a horse safe on the roads is to expose him to them – they need time to get used to what goes on and be desensitised.

There were also some impressive videos and pictures shown throughout the presentation which was quite unbelievable.

If you require any free leaflets or advice, please email the BHS safety team; [safety@bhs.org.uk](mailto:safety@bhs.org.uk)

## **The Austin Metropolitan**

Back in Leicester at the annual Leicester Mercury Historic Vehicle Pageant in the 1990s we used to marshall vehicles for the parade around the outskirts of Leicester. We normally dealt with the 50s & 60s cars ensuring they were ready for the parade. One of the cars we came across was the Austin Metropolitan, memorable because they always wanted to travel in the parade together so we made sure all three were parked together.

What I didn't realise at the time was that when we moved up to Yorkshire we'd be living next door to not only a Metropolitan owner but the membership secretary of the owners club.

The Metropolitan was originally designed in the USA by William Flajole as a small “second” car. However the major car manufacturers were not interested in it, feeling there was no market for small cars in the USA. Eventually he met with the CEO of Nash Motors who had been exploring the possibility of producing a small car. Because the US manufacturers did not have the facilities to produce small cars it was actually built in the UK at the Austin Longbridge plant from 1954 to 1961 and exported to the USA being sold as the Nash Metropolitan. Both hardtop and convertible models were produced using the Austin 1.2 litre engine as fitted to the Austin A40. From late 1955 cars were fitted with the 1.5 litre B series engine.



**A Rare Black and White Convertible with a Matching House**

then moved to Ipswich until Steve bought it. It needed a bit of restoration but is now Steve’s pride & joy. When his daughter got married in 2006 what other car could be used as the wedding car.

There is, of course, an owners club, formed in 1977, which Steve joined and since 2010 has been the membership secretary helping to run the club with two other committee members. There are currently 136 members spread throughout the UK and worldwide with members in Sweden, France, Australia and Germany as well as the UK.

The “How many left?” website shows 59 Metropolitans in the UK but Steve reckons there are around 100 cars owned by club members although not all are roadworthy and there may be more hidden in garages. The club attends many of the UK classic car shows putting on a display of members cars although occasionally not all cars make it to the shows. A speck of dirt in the carburettor put paid to Steve’s attempt to get to the Thornes Park show last year. This year, after a little maintenance, the car made it to the show as can be seen on the front cover.

**Keith Wevill**

In 1956 Austin started selling right hand drive versions in the UK and other overseas markets with approximately 1200 being sold in the UK. In May 1960 Princess Margaret was presented with a specially prepared Metropolitan as a wedding present but it was stolen in February 1961.

Production ceased in April 1961 with approximately 105,000 cars being produced, most going to the US and Canada but around 9400 cars were sold in other markets.

Steve, my next door neighbour, had seen a Metropolitan as a child and in later life started looking for one, finally buying his 1961 car in 2002. It had started life in the Channel Islands

## Jeffrey Long's Latest Exploit

I've often mentioned Jeffrey Long's exploits in the pages of the newsletter. Over the last few years Jeffrey has walked the length of the Hadrian's Wall, the Leeds Liverpool canal and part of the Thames to raise money for charity. For this year's challenge Jeffrey setting off on 16<sup>th</sup> September aiming to walk 100 miles visiting ten RAF bases to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



### Jeffrey's 100 Mile Walk

In his 87<sup>th</sup> year, ex-PARA Jeffrey Long MBE is preparing for his 11<sup>th</sup> challenge in 11 years and this year, it's his most ambitious route yet.

On Sunday 16 September, Jeffrey will set off from the PARAS'10 in Catterick before walking down the country, visiting a number of RAF bases along the way. He will be welcomed and hosted by the RAF at each base, helping them to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year.

The walk will finish at Netheravon in Salisbury, the home of The Red Devils Army Parachute Display Team. This year, Jeffrey is raising money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and SUPPORT OUR PARAS.



The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity. They exist to support current and former members of the RAF, their partners and dependants, whenever they need. In 2017 they spent £18.8m supporting more than 55,000 members of the RAF Family. [www.rafbf.org](http://www.rafbf.org) @RAFBF

SUPPORT OUR PARAS is a charity which supports The Parachute Regiment through the welfare of serving soldiers and families and those affected by recent operations, and through the maintenance of its regimental efficiency, ethos, spirit and heritage.

[supportourparas.org](http://supportourparas.org) @supportourparas



Sponsor Jeffrey at [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JeffreyLongMBE](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JeffreyLongMBE)

Jeffrey is not only walking to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and Support our Paras but because of his fund raising exploits last year, when he raised over £120,000, he is one of three finalists in the Endurance Fundraiser of the Year category in the JustGiving Awards 2018 with the winner being decided by a public vote.

If you have been reading your newsletters you will recall that earlier this year Jeffrey was presented with a certificate in recognition of his outstanding Volunteering activities by the Prime Minister. While he was down in Downing Street to collect the award he sneaked next door and found the Chancellors red budget box but was caught on camera!



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## **The Pateley Bridge MG Car Show**

A selection of pictures from the show including a couple of Morris Minors one of which is not sure if it's coming or going!

There were fewer stands and the show was not as busy as last year possibly due to uncertainty with the weather but it turned out to be a fine day with plenty of cars to see.



## Stay Safe with Simple Tyre Checks this Summer

Recently I attended the annual Tyre Safety Month Briefing in Coventry hosted by the UK charity TyreSafe, featuring guest speakers raising awareness about tyre safety. It provided a great opportunity for all who attended to learn more about correct car care and maintenance, essential for our safety in any vehicle.

The event highlighted how for many of us, our tyres are not something we think about on a regular basis, and even experienced drivers and riders aren't guaranteed to know how to carry out basic checks.

When we consider that our tyres are the **only parts** of our vehicle in contact with the road, the dangers of having unsafe tyres become much clearer. Moreover, when we realise that staying safe when accelerating, braking, cornering and steering is dependent on only a small area of road contact, it is suddenly alarming to think about how little attention we may give to our tyres.

The audience was asked at the briefing what they believed the most dangerous month was, for tyre-related incidents. Obvious choices were months like October when the weather turns colder and wetter, or January in the dark mid-winter. However, according to data from the Department for Transport, we are in it! Yes, somewhat surprisingly, July is the month when tyre-related incidents are at their most frequent.

One-third of all tyre-related incidents occur in the summer months and TyreSafe believe this could be due to many factors, including changeable weather and a variety of different road conditions. The summer holidays also mean busy roads are full of less experienced drivers, venturing out in cars weighed down with family members and luggage.

These drivers often do not realise that their heavily loaded car needs different air pressure settings in the tyres, and is an important factor to consider before any journey.

The dangers of part-worn or 'used' tyres were also explained, something I previously knew little about. As tyres are arguably the main safety feature on our vehicle, there was a strong recommendation to buy only new tyres that we know would be safe. Taking a risk on our lives to save a few pounds on our tyres isn't worth it, especially when we consider that each year in the UK on average 1,000 road casualties are caused by tyre-related incidents.

I found the whole day extremely interesting and left feeling much more confident about how to look after and check my tyres properly. Then, last weekend, I visited a good friend of mine who



is expecting a baby, and spoke about what I had learned. After mentioning she knew little about tyre care, we went over to inspect her car tyres and I demonstrated how I'd been shown to check tread with a 20p coin. To our shock, the tread on both her back tyres did not meet the UK legal minimum limit of 1.6mm, and was well below the outer band of the coin!

The fact that the first car I looked at following the event had illegal tyres really made me wonder how many other cars are on the roads like it, with drivers unaware of the danger they are in.

TyreSafe note that potentially one-in-four of the 37 million vehicles on UK roads has illegal or poorly maintained tyres. It only takes a minute for us to check, and could save us and many others from a serious and possibly fatal, incident.

So, how do we check our tyres before we head out onto the roads? We can follow three simple steps using the acronym '**ACT**':

Check the **Air pressure** of the tyres – the recommended pressure can be found in the owner's manual, fuel filler cap or inside the door and air can be topped up at most service stations.

Check the **Condition** of the tyres looking for lumps, bulges or cuts and have a tyre professional look at anything of concern immediately. Remove any small stones or objects from the tread, however, if you are unsure whether an object has penetrated through the tyre then take it to an expert to inspect before attempting to remove it.

Check the **Tread** by placing a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of the tyre, in at least three locations around each tyre. If the outer band of the 20p coin is hidden, the tread depth is above the legal limit of 1.6mm. However, if the outer band of the coin is visible then the tyres may be unsafe and illegal.

Following these easy steps will help ensure our vehicles can properly brake, accelerate and corner on the road as well as helping to prolong the tyres' life and reduce fuel bills and CO2 emissions. It will also ensure we avoid a hefty fine and points on our licence, if caught with illegal tyres.

Checks should be carried out by car drivers at least once a month and by motorcyclists at least once a week – and always before long journeys.

When it comes to our cars, a tyre safety check is one of the most important checks we can carry out and yet so many of us don't do it, or don't know how to. Let us change that today and show our family members and friends as well - helping everyone to stay safer on the roads.

**By Anjali Cooper, IAM RoadSmart Marketing team**



## Presentations

At the August meeting Janice presented Shirley Mallett (above left) and Helen Wyche (above right) with their certificates and David Stringer presented Ruth Watson with her Masters certificate.

Congratulations to Shirley, Helen and Ruth.



**Pathfinder Project Yorkshire**



The next Pathfinder Yorkshire Course will be held

29<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 at

Driffild Camp, East Yorkshire, YO25 9LH

Aimed at 15-17 year olds to develop safe driving, learning to manage and control risk on the roads

5 day course costs £170

For more information see [www.under17driver.co.uk](http://www.under17driver.co.uk)

# And Finally.....

A sales rep, an administration clerk and the manager are walking to lunch, when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out in a puff of smoke. The Genie says, "I usually only grant three wishes, so I'll give each of you just one."

"Me first! me first!" says the admin clerk. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world." Poof! She's gone.

In astonishment, "Me next! me next!" says the sales rep. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of pina coladas and the love of my life." Poof! he's gone.

"OK you're up," the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, "I want those two back in the office after lunch."

Moral of the story: always let your boss have the first say!

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## This Month's Teaser

We all know that MG stands for Morris Garages but, for this month's teaser, in which year and in which UK city was MG founded?

## Last Month's Teaser



Last month I asked "What is wrong with the picture?" Look carefully at the display above lane 3 and you'll see it shows a 5, indicating 50mph limit with all the others indicating 40. It was only like that for a second or two so I was lucky to have caught it.

# Your Committee

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

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.**