

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

March 2023



Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Middleham Castle, North Yorkshire



The statue of Richard III at Middleham Castle. Richard lived at the castle occasionally before and after he became king as he had married Anne Neville whose family owned the castle at the time. Richard was the last of the Plantagenet monarchs being defeated at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 by Henry Tudor.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

Monday 6th March 2023 8pm	MYAM Social Evening Alison Wright from The Wright Will Company	Birkenshaw Liberal Club 10 Croft Street Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT
Monday 3rd April 8pm	Beijing to Cononley by Train Paul Haywood	Birkenshaw Liberal Club
Monday 5th June 8pm	MYAM AGM and buffet	Birkenshaw Liberal 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 interesting talks on a variety of topics, sharing our skills with other serious drivers and keeping up-to-date on club and driving matters.

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Our March meeting is a return visit by Alison Wright, who runs the Wright Will Company. Alison last visited us in March 2019 when she went through the process of making a will and setting up Lasting Powers of Attorney to ensure your estate is distributed how you want it to be. This time she will be updating us with recent changes in the laws regarding inheritance.

Please note there is no meeting in May as our normal meeting date is a Bank holiday to celebrate the coronation of King Charles.

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Oops

The gremlins crept in on this page last month. Did you spot the error? Our June AGM meeting is on the 5th, not the 6th. Thanks to all who pointed it out at the last meeting. Of course I could say I deliberately put in the occasional error to make sure you read the newsletter from cover to cover!

From the Editor

As newsletter editor I'm always interested to see other IAM groups newsletters and other societies newsletters. One I saw recently was the Summer Bulletin of the Yorkshire Dialect Society. The society was founded in 1897 following a project by Joseph Wright to create an English Dialect dictionary. Their "newsletter" is published once a year (if only...!) and all I can say, speaking as a non Yorkshireman, is the spell checker must have had fits and as it looks like a foreign language!

A few years ago I did a survey of the IAM groups and their newsletters. About 40% had a newsletter available on their websites although several were just a few pages giving details of the committee and test passes. As I've said before a newsletter is an important part of any group as it is often the only way of communicating with our members as not everyone can attend our social meetings, especially as we serve a very large area. I believe we have one of the better newsletters with a mixture of news from IAM RoadSmart and our local group, articles on various motoring matters and items to amuse and entertain you.

Having said that, I always welcome letters, articles, or suggestions for articles, from our members. Photos are also welcome. Send them to me at the email address on the committee page.

As you will see from the committee page our newest committee member, Sally, has taken on the role of speaker secretary. We currently have speakers for most of our meetings this year but if you have any ideas or requests for speakers, not necessarily motoring related, please have a word with Sally at one of our meetings.

Keith

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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.

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.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

No new members this month

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Jane Beaumont - Observers: Brian Morley & Les Horsman

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Following on from showing this picture last month I had an email from David Rockliff about the legality of parking on the inside of the double yellow lines. I had shown the picture to my brother, a retired police traffic officer, and he said he would have “done” the driver for parking like this. It’s probably a grey area of the law but would you take the chance?



RoadSmart Magazines

As both Caroline and I are both IAM members we receive two copies of the RoadSmart magazine. We really only need one copy so we currently have around 15 copies of the magazine from the last few years surplus to requirements. Before we recycle them would anyone, possibly a more recent member, like to take them off our hands for free. Contact me if you are interested.

MYAM Online



WEB SITE Our website is packed full of information and is the go to place for everything you need to know about our events, courses, meetings and news about us as a Group. How about copies of the newsletter going back a few years.

Need to know who the Committee are or see our Observer team? We are all on there.

See us at www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/midyorkshire

We are adding to the content all the time so keep dropping in to see what we are doing.



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.



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

Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

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.

Directions to the Birkenshaw Liberal Club

10 Croft Street, Birkenshaw, Bradford, BD11 2HT



From the M62 West leave at Junction 26 and take the A58 towards Leeds. At the second roundabout turn left into Bradford Road (A651) after about 700yds by the George pub, turn right into Town Street. Croft Street is approximately 60yds from the junction (top photo left) but to avoid the potholes carry on up Town Street and turn right into Old Lane. After approximately 100yds turn right into Croft Street (middle picture left between the car and the house next to it).



From Bradford follow the A650. Turn right onto the A651 at the traffic lights just before Tong Academy. Then just after the George pub turn left into Town Street and follow the previous directions.



From the M62 junction 27, take the A650. Turn left onto the A58. After approximately ½ mile turn right into Old Lane After approximately 550yds turn left into Croft Street (bottom picture left).

There is a large car park and the entrance is down the right hand side of the club as shown in the top picture.

Our meetings are held in the function room.

February Meeting - Dashcams

As a 'non-techie' I was unsure how much of this well-attended presentation I was going to be able to follow! Particularly when Keith started by saying he'd fitted his own front dash-cam! However, I am about to purchase said item for my current car so my attendance was a must and I was pleased this subject was a month or two earlier than advertised in the speaker diary.

Keith says dash-cams are becoming more popular (unfortunately partly due to the increase of 'crash for cash' incidences) and part of his research found twenty pages of them for sale on Amazon! With so much choice I would be uncertain where to start and which to choose, but as he says, there are also often good offers to be found in Halfords where Keith bought his - a Nextbase 402 which, despite being 8.5yrs old now, includes the added function of a detachable webcam! Nextbase is a favoured choice for him as it is almost a UK company, and they handily have their Customer Services base in the UK. My previous dash-cam was also a Nextbase, a 522GW which had brilliant photo resolution as well (I looked ten years younger on last year's accident footage!!).



Typical positioning of a dashcam

that there is no need to remove the camera when the car was having its MOT, as their suggested positioning would not impair the drivers view.

Keith explained that the recordings go onto a Secure Digital (SD) card, or a micro SD card, and that it records in high definition (HD) for four hours continuously on a loop so that the last 4 hrs of the drive will always available to view. (*Ed.- The recording time depends on the size of the card and the video resolution. The figure mentioned refers to my dashcam*) Because it's a continuous loop Keith warned that it was possible for the SD card

to wear out, as might be expected. He continued - if used continuously for 45 years! (🤔 Ha HA) Another function you may decide could be useful, if available on your dash-cam of choice, might be a global positioning system (GPS) location finder, although Keith did qualify that by saying it wasn't always accurate immediately after it has acquired the satellites so it was important to watch that just in case! A final point here is to mention that your system will show the actual speed you are travelling at and, as this is independent of the car, it will probably be lower than the speedometer display due to vehicle calibration. (*Ed – A car speedometer can over read by up to 10% but must not under read*) So don't be confused.

After a crash - whilst hoping of course that never happens - plug the dash-cam into a universal serial bus (USB) socket on a computer or simply remove the memory card and insert it into the computers SD card reader, as per the instructions, and download onto a laptop or similar device, to read and watch the footage of your journey. It is useful to occasionally clean the lens of the camera - but not with your finger!!

Before the Q&A's we had the benefit of Keith's on road experiences, via his dash-cam and we saw 'School parking at its worse'; 'Fun in the Snow' parts 1 and 2; 'Tyre blowouts'; 'Fog', and 'Heated windscreens'. He could easily find enough material on his journeys to be the entertainment next Christmas and show a compilation of film clips! The questions covered various technical points re fitting and use of specific cameras (most of that was too technical for this space). There was one I could answer though - did we feel dash-cams were useful? In my experience I'd found that other drivers kept away from the rear of my car when they saw a rear dash-cam. Some questioned the fitting of them and some of us recommended Halfords fitting service, if you were buying from them, as their work was very professional and none of the wires were visible.

Before Janice gave our vote of thanks to Keith for his extremely informative and entertaining presentation he gave us two 'parting shots' of safety advice - if we have chance to get a car with a heated windscreen that's money well spent - and - don't forget to see and be seen in the fog because you need to know where your rear fog light switch is and use it as then you are more visible to other road users (as we saw clearly saw on his dash-cam footage!). Janice then regaled us with tales of her own dash-cam and her linguistic 'Jemima' sat nav who suddenly started speaking to Janice in German whilst they



The software that came with the editors dashcam allows all the data recorded to be displayed.

were travelling around France! And, after travelling in cold conditions in Canada, then a heatwave in France, 'Jemima' was heard to comment that she was 'overheating!'

In Conclusion....

Keith's presentation and comprehensive explanations - from my point of view was a handy 'Dash-cams for Dummies' (no offence intended!) and it has given me confidence and a better idea of what I'm looking for. I'm thinking I will more than likely return to Halfords to purchase a Nextbase and to use their excellent fitting service - possibly supporting the branch who, so kindly, gave us many of our Christmas raffle prizes.

Sally Lawrence

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February Presentation



At last months meeting Janice presented Anne Cooper with her certificate

Road Trip Essentials

Are you planning a romantic road trip this Valentine's Day? Or maybe a family getaway over half term? Whilst planning your route, packing your bags, and making sure your home is secured before you set off, do you make sure that you and your car are fully prepared for your long drive?

Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart Chief Examiner, shares his 10 road trip essentials that you mustn't forget.

A spare wheel or puncture repair kit if you don't have a spare or are on a bike

Make sure you've got all the parts you need and that they're all in date. If you're a driver, don't forget your locking wheel nut, you won't be able to change your tyre without one.

A hi-visibility jacket

This is not a legal requirement in the UK. But if you do need to leave your vehicle due to a breakdown or need to help someone, it's good to be visible to other motorists.

A first-aid kit

This only needs to be a small one with the essentials. But, it could prove to be valuable should you need it. St Johns Ambulance First Aid kits are available to buy online for around £15. There is also the option to get trained in First Aid to ensure you are prepared for any incidents. For motorcyclists, Biker Down courses are available across the UK and are an excellent course to take.

Safety Kit

These can come in all shapes and sizes. But some essentials that yours should include are a torch, gloves, jump cables, an emergency blanket, and a warning triangle. These essentials will be able to keep you safe until help arrives, should you ever need it.

If travelling with children, something to keep them entertained

You might want to think about loading an iPad or tablet with a couple of movies or games to keep your little ones entertained. Especially on a long journey. If you prefer a

more old-school approach, prepare to play “eye-spy” for hours on end to pass the time.

A journey planner

Whether you like a good old-fashioned map book to see where your end location is compared to your starting point, or you like to use a Sat-Nav or app such as Google Maps or Waze, always make sure you’ve planned ahead. Check traffic reports to see if there are any alternate routes in case of road closures or any incidents on your planned route.

Don’t forget the snacks – especially if travelling with children!

Something you should always remember when going on a long road trip is to pack plenty of bottled water (in refillable bottles). You never know what trouble you might come across, and you wouldn’t want to be stuck in grid-lock traffic on a motorway without anything to quench your thirst. Before you set off, stop at a local shop or fuel station and pick up some drinks and snacks to keep you going.

A phone charger

Whilst you won’t be using your phone when driving, it’s important to ensure that your phone has enough battery life to enable you to make an emergency call if you need to. Most modern cars now have USB ports that a charger can be plugged directly into. In older models, you’ll be able to use the cigarette lighter as a charging point. Just remember to bring the cable and charger with you!

Comfortable clothing

Whether you are the driver or passenger, you’ll always want to feel comfortable and unrestricted when sitting in a vehicle for a long period of time. Footwear is also extremely important. You’ll need to be able to reach and operate the pedals safely and effectively.

Here are some guidelines which you should follow when selecting your driving shoes:

Have a sole no thicker than 10mm, but the sole should not be too thin or soft.

Provide enough grip to stop your foot from slipping off the pedals.

Not be too heavy.

Not limit ankle movement.

Be narrow enough to avoid accidentally depressing two pedals at once.

Of course, on a motorcycle, you need to protect your ankles. So bespoke motorcycle boots or at the very least a sturdy well-fitting pair of boots.

Your favourite playlist

Last but certainly not least, don't forget to load all of your favourite songs onto a playlist. Whether you want to listen to a bit of Stormzy, Lewis Capaldi or even The Greatest Showman, make sure you're prepared. There's nothing worse than listening to the radio when a song you can't stand starts trickling out of your speakers, or if your passenger gets hold of the aux cord! **Remember if you're the one driving – only your music choice counts!**

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Subscription Reminder

We would like to remind members that the annual MYAM subscription is currently £10. Our preferred payment method is by Direct Debit but we still accept payments by Standing Order, cheque or even cash.

If you pay by Standing Order we would ask you to check the amount and amend it if necessary to the current amount. If you wish to change to payment by Direct Debit please contact our Secretary Paul who will help you through the process. Please note that MYAM does not keep any of your bank details when paying by Direct Debit. Also if you are changing to Direct Debit please cancel any Standing Order to avoid paying twice.

If you pay by cheque please contact our treasurer, Rosie Bricis, for the address to send your cheque to but note there may be a delay before your cheque is cashed.

Your MYAM subscription is for 12 months and you will be contacted shortly before the end of the 12 months to remind you that your subscription is due or is about to be taken by Direct Debit.

We would also ask you to Gift Aid your subscription if you are a taxpayer. This costs you nothing but can make a difference to MYAM. (The money we can claim can effectively pay for the buffet at the AGM).

Please also note that your MYAM subscription is independent of your IAM RoadSmart subscription and you must be a member of IAM RoadSmart to be a MYAM member but you don't have to be a member of MYAM, or any other group, to be a member of IAM RoadSmart.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Keith,

Thanks for the e-newsletter and interesting points about EVs and potholes.

I was wondering whether anyone else in MYAM had noticed not just the potholes but how dirty the roads are these days. I haven't seen a street cleaner vehicle since before the pandemic. The sides of the roads, near the drains, and often also the central areas, e.g. either side of traffic islands, are often covered in dirt and debris. I particularly notice these days also how quickly my car gets dirty after I've cleaned it – usually within just a day or two, even when they aren't gritting with that reddish coloured 'grit'. Just a thought.

Warm wishes,

Dawn Leggott

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Thanks for the letter Dawn and I have also noticed how dirty the sides of the roads are and how many of the drains are blocked. I suspect this is one reason why large puddles appear at the side of the road whenever it rains on the route I take when taking my grandson to school. Also the drains on some of the main roads in Halifax are also blocked. I can't recall seeing drains being cleared in the last few years but I'm sure if they were it would help to reduce the amount of flooding in some areas.

Some of the pothole "repairs" I've seen have been little more than tarmac "sticking plaster" meaning in the next spell of cold weather the pothole will reappear.

On the subject of pot holes here's a thought. Don't bother fixing them but put up signs saying **SLOW DOWN POTHOLES** instead. This could reduce the level of speeding but may increase the number of claims for damaged vehicles. Which would cost the council more?

Ed

And Finally.....

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The woman below replied, "You are in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You are between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be a programmer or IT specialist", said the balloonist.

"I am", replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well", answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is, technically, correct but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help so far".

The woman below responded, "You must be in Management".

"I am", replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well", said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault".

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This Month's Teaser

In which year was the first Motor Show held at Earls Court?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the Big Freeze of 1962-63 but how many days did the Big Freeze last?"

Snow started falling on 26th December and the freeze lasted until 6th March which was the first frost free day.

Your Committee

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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 are in need of a Minutes secretary for our committee meetings and someone to look after the Website. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in any of these positions.