

ARE WE THERE YET?

Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

June 2026

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – The Sphinx and Pyramids

David's been on his travels again. This time his destination was Egypt. So what more iconic picture of Egypt could there be than the Sphinx with a pyramid in the background.

Photo taken by David Wevill.

Forthcoming Gatherings and Events

**Saturday 30th
May 2026
10am – 4pm**

**Harrogate Motor Show &
Family Fun Day**

Harrogate Rugby Club,
Rudding Lane,
Harrogate HG3 1DQ

**Monday 1st
June 2026
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
Peter Furness
The Yorkshire Murder
Detective

Birkenshaw Liberal Club
10 Croft Street
Birkenshaw, BD11 2HT

**Saturday 13th
June 2026
10am – 4pm**

Wheel Fest

Pontefract Town Centre

**Monday 6th
July 2026
8pm**

MYAM Social Evening
National Highways

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.

Peter Furness - The Yorkshire Murder Detective

"2.30am, all is not well, the man on the hallway floor won't talk to me..... is it because of the large bloodstained kitchen knife?

2.30am and the man in the darkened doorway on the floor won't talk to me, is the large bloodstained kitchen knife in his hand the problem? Or is it because he is actually dead?

One way or another I'll have to look closer to find out!"

The June meeting will be available via Zoom. Scan the QR code or use the link below.

Topic: MYAM - June 2026 Social Evening

Time: Jun 1, 2026 19:45 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5851212145?pwd=SwXivDAPcqSllvqackb-erqnH50ujGk.1&omn=87339470887>



Meeting ID: 585 121 2145

Passcode: MYAM

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/5851212145?pwd=SwXivDAPcqSllvqackb-erqnH50ujGk.1&omn=87339470887>

From The Editor

This issue of the newsletter marks another milestone for me as newsletter editor. It's the 119th issue that I have produced but it's also ten years since I took over from the previous newsletter editor, Kim Clark. Over the years it's evolved into its current form. I'm assuming that the membership likes the format as I've had no complaints...so far.

What do you think of the current format, is there anything you would like to see included or could you write something to be included in a future issue? I'm always open to suggestions.

It also begs the question is it time to change the editor? I know what our chairman will say! When we were members of the Leicester group it appeared that the only way to leave the committee was to move out of the area. The newsletter editor of the Leicester group when I joined, who was also the chairman, left the area then Caroline took over the editorship passing it onto someone else when we left for Yorkshire. I'm sure Paul will be pleased to know I have no intention of leaving the area. Moving house at my time of life is not something I wish to contemplate. I'm far too settled here.

However would anyone like to be a guest editor for a single newsletter or even part of the newsletter just like they do occasionally on Radio 4 news programmes. It's not too difficult a job, full training can be given.

And speaking of Radio 4 the Long Wave Transmitter at Droitwich, which has been broadcasting since 1934, is due to close down for good on 26th June. Nowadays not many radios have a Long Wave setting. The last car I owned that had a Long Wave band dated from 2002.

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 IAM RoadSmart (The Institute of Advanced Motorists.) or MYAM.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

No new associates this month

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Donna Hepworth - Observer Dawn Leggott

.....

Photos From The Tadcaster Show

Taken by Peter Jeffrey



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 <https://www.myam.org.uk/>
or scan the QR code.

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



X We have our own X account which can be found at X.com/MYAM4178

The Group Telephone number has changed to 07412 986690

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.

David Rockliff is our GDPR Manager. Please contact him if you have any GDPR related issues.

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.

Please note that there is building work next to the club and the less potholed access road may be closed so it may be necessary to use the Croft Street entrance.

May Meeting

MYAM AGM

The May social meeting was dedicated to the AGM. Chairman Paul gave details of the agenda followed by apologies for absence from Chris Marrison, Steve Hookham and Graham Crawshaw. He then detailed the voting procedure for both in the room votes and Zoom votes.

Then followed the acceptance of the minutes of the 2025 AGM published in last month's newsletter. These were adopted with no objections. There were no matters arising from last year's AGM so Paul presented his Chairman's report .

MYAM Chairman's Report 2025/26

So this was my 2nd year as Chairman, and my 8th as a member of the Committee. There have been a number of developments during the year (not all of which I can claim full / any responsibility for)

- New (and very good) MYAM Website – thanks JS.
- Re-opened to New Associates.
- Interesting and varied set of speakers at Social Evenings – internal and external – Sally fantastic job of doing this (and buffets).
- Social Meetings (and the AGM) now regularly via Zoom – with significant help from Jonathan on the IT front.
- Attendance at many car shows and similar events,

Thank you to the rest of the Committee

- Other Officers Janice and Rosie, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Keith for great job of producing the monthly Newsletter.
- Sally for the social evenings.
- Alan, John and Janice for the external events.
- Ken as Associate Liaison.
- Graham as Membership Secretary until recently.
- Jonathan for everything on the IT front (and more).
- Also Chris Marrison for role of Chief Observer.

All do a lot of work in the background to keep the Group running, often juggling work and difficult family or personal issues.

Thanks also go out to all of the Observers – as has been said before the Group cannot do what it sets out to do i.e. get people through the Advanced Driving Test without them. Again they spend much of their spare time to the Group.

Also had the retirement of a number of very long-term Observers

- Brian Morley
- Peter Kennedy
- Bob Rowles
- Ken Sykes
- Formally record the Groups thanks for their long service

Congratulations to Peter Jeffrey for the MYAM Trophy for 2025.

Apologies if I've missed anyone or anything off the list!

The Secretary's report followed

- Committee met 9 times during the year 2025/6
- 6 meetings in person (during BST)
- 3 meetings via video (during GMT)
- No rule changes
 - Still awaiting updates to IAMR model rules
- Lewis Wetherill stepped down from Youth Liaison and the committee due to work commitments.
- Graham Crawshaw also stepped down from Membership Secretary and the MYAM Committee.
- A big thank you to both of them!

Next the Treasurers report and the accounts.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

	2026	2025
Fixed Assets	765	0
Current Assets		
Debtors and prepayments		
Cash balances	17335	20017
Current liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
	18100	20017
Reserves		
General Reserves	20017	19840
Surplus/(deficit) for year	(1917)	177
	18100	20017

Mid Yorkshire Group of Advanced Motorists
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2026

Income	2026	2025
Members subscriptions (Including tax recovered)	1860	2051
Associate fees	567	1254
Interest received	222	256
Donations	100	250
Total income	2749	3811
Expenditure		
Training costs, associates and observers	1552	747
Caravan expenses		40
Meeting and speakers expenses	775	1190
Equipment expenses	307	2108
Insurance	229	209
Associate Refund	175	175
Stationery and printing	540	482
Events	90	
Travel & Subsistence	407	
Bank Charges	48	58
Communications	198	120
Donations		39
Sundry expenses	89	113
Depreciation	256	33
Profit on disposal of caravan		(1680)
Total expenditure	4666	3634
Surplus for Year	(1917)	177

Presented by
 Rosie Bricis
 Treasurer
 24th April 2026

Audited and found correct
 David M. Stringer, F.F.A
 Incorporated Financial Accountant
 30th April 2026

The members then voted in favour of adopting the accounts.

This was followed by the Chief Observers and Associate Liason's reports detailing the test results and the observer status and the status of the associates.

- Total tests – 20 (21)
- Test passes – 18 (18)
 - 9 (9) F1RSTs
- Test fails – 2 (2)
- Pass rate – 90% (85%)
- National Observers - 15
- Trainee Observers – 2
- NO Qualification passes - 1
- NO Qualification fails - 1
- NO resignations/retirements - 4

- Observer Forums
 - June 2025
 - February 2026
 - Input from our ASDM Steve Ellis
 - On-road EV training
- Initial Area 5 discussion Group March 2026

Future Events

- Further Observer EV training
- Further Observer Forums / Training meetings

Challenges

- Recruitment of suitable new Observers
- Observer retention / demographics
- Observer training & ongoing development
- MYAM operational area
- New IAMR digital platform
- Availability of IAMR Examiners in MYAM area
- Re-opened to New Associates
 - Were down to single figures but now 14 on the waiting list
 - Monthly list goes out to Observers
 - New recording system with multi-person access
 - Also making more use of DARTS (IAMR system)
 - Good number of passes during the year

Followed by the Membership secretary's report.

	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
Total Number of Members	171	299
Full Members	154	227
Associates	17	22

There has been a full review and rationalisation of the membership records taking into account the following criteria resulting in the reduction noted above.

- Full members
 - Deaths / long-term illness / given up driving.
 - Many passers didn't join MYAM.
 - No replies to subscription emails / unpaid subs.
 - Failed to renew IAMR membership.
- Associates
 - Passes.
 - Many long standing (COVID) associates decided not to take the course.

It was then time to elect the officers and the Chair of the meeting was handed to Roger Illingworth for the duration of the election of Group Officers.

All the current officers had agreed to stand for re-election and the following were re-elected.

Chairman – Paul Macro

Vice Chairman – Jonathan Scott

Secretary – Janice Haigh

Treasurer – Rosie Bricis

Committee members Ken Newton and John Prior were up for re-election and were re-elected.

The Chairman then gave his address highlighting how the committee members get involved with organising the social evenings and other events and asked for members to get involved with the outdoor events at the various car shows we attend. He also mentioned our new website which is still under construction but does contain details of our social evenings and the shows we will be attending. It also has the newsletter section where the latest newsletter along with some of the earlier issues can be found.

He also mentioned the IAMR CEO now conformed as Mark Armitage.

The final duties of the AGM were to give the committee the right to increase the subscriptions during the current financial year. This was agreed although the committee currently has no intention to increase the subscriptions.

Then with no matters for Any Other Business the meeting was closed and the buffet opened.

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RAC Explains Supermarket Petrol And Answers If It Is Really Bad For Your Engine

As prices continue to stay high for fuel it can be tempting to shop around for the cheapest option. This can often be at a supermarket - but does cutting the cost also cut the benefit? According to the RAC for most petrol cars there is only one major mistake - and that isn't whether you add Tesco or Morrisons fuel rather than one of the big brands such as Shell or BP. The only real mistake for most petrol engines is to mistakenly use diesel when it comes to filling up.

Answering the question "is supermarket fuel bad" the motoring organisation explained: "In short, no. There aren't any major differences between supermarket and branded fuels. Supermarket fuel conforms to the same standards (the British Standard) as branded fuels supplied by one of the major oil companies.

"Every engine is designed to work with supermarket fuel. For several decades engines have been fitted with systems that automatically prevent issues (like 'knock'). "Using a higher grade fuel will provide a degree of fuel efficiency but may not be significant compared with other factors which affect fuel economy, most notably driver behaviour, vehicle load, tyre pressures and traffic and weather conditions. Some cars specify the use of higher octane fuels but drivers are unlikely to see any fuel efficiency benefits, particularly as they will be paying around 14p more a litre for super unleaded."

And it also answered the question over whether premium fuel was worth it for ordinary motorists saying: "Again, this depends on your car. If you own a high-performance car a premium fuel may improve driving performance and fuel efficiency, and may even be required by the manufacturer. "That's because some brands include a package of fuel additives in their premium fuel, like detergent, which are designed to keep the internal parts of the engine clean, particularly the fuel injection system. So if you're concerned about the health of your vehicles' engine, it might be beneficial to choose a premium fuel rather than fuel with little or no detergent. "Once a fuel injection system gets dirty no fuel line cleaner will be able to completely rectify the problem. However, for many cars a premium fuel makes no discernible difference to their performance but could see you paying out more for no reason, so research first before topping up."

Kwikfit also has advice for motorists on the subject of using premium fuel. It said: "There are undoubtedly benefits to using premium fuel in your car. "The higher the octane number, the more power gets delivered to your engine – meaning that you're really making the most of every drop of petrol. It also, theoretically, results in a healthier engine over time, due to later ignitions from the fuel itself.

"Pair this with the added benefits many premium brands have included, such as cleaning additives that help to keep the engine clean, or lubricating agents, and it's undeniable that when you look at pure chemistry, premium fuel is superior.

"However, while there is evidence to show that these perks are undoubtedly effective, there have been studies that show that these additives are equally as effective even if you only use premium fuel occasionally. So, for example, if you fill up with premium fuel once every five times, you're still likely to see the benefit of perks such as engine cleaning and added lubrication.

"What's most important to remember is that some cars run perfectly on standard unleaded fuel, whereas others require the additional efficacy of higher octane, premium versions. The key is to check your car's handbook for guidance on getting the right fuel for your car."

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I have been running my cars on supermarket fuel for the last forty years and have never had a problem with it. Many years ago I regularly used to pass a fuel distribution depot and saw tankers from all the major petrol suppliers filling up there with the same fuel!

IAM News Releases and Tips

IAM RoadSmart calls for 'cheese cutter' cable barriers to be replaced with a more motorcyclist friendly option



New figures show that almost 150 miles of cable barriers – which pose a safety threat to motorcyclists – remain on England’s roads. The cable barriers are known for their ‘cheese cutter’ effect on bikers unlucky enough to hit them on collision while any unprotected posts that hold the wires in place can cause major trauma to those who hit them at high speed.

Road safety charity IAM RoadSmart is calling for them to be scrapped and replaced with a safer alternative by the end of the decade. Barriers, which can be constructed of cable, concrete and steel, can be found alongside roads or constituting the central reservation. They account for three quarters (76%) of fatalities or serious injuries when impacted by those on two wheels. This compares to just 16 percent of other road users, demonstrating the risk barriers in general pose. Motorcycles are also 33 times more likely to become involved in a fatal single barrier incident than cars. When cable barriers come into play, the risk is magnified.

A Parliamentary question dated February 26 found that 143 miles (230 kms) of cable barriers are present on motorways and on the wider strategic network in England. These cable barriers are also present on roads in Wales, and Scotland, however they are being removed in Northern Ireland. Cable barriers present an issue for motorcyclists because of their upright posts, whereas a standard guardrail has no protruding parts. These posts are more likely to seriously injure or kill a motorcyclist, sometimes by decapitation. Additionally, the jagged edges of wire ropes put riders at risk of laceration.

Norway, which has a “vision zero” approach, meaning that no person should be killed or seriously injured in traffic, banned the future installation of cable barriers in 2006, with Norway’s Motorcyclist Association (NMCU) arguing that they are dangerous for motorcyclists. National Highways, which manages the strategic network in England, has already taken a proactive approach on some motorway stretches, replacing wired reservations with concrete.

IAM RoadSmart has launched a campaign for Highways Authorities across the UK to commit to their decommissioning by the end of the decade. To sign the petition, click here: <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/safer-barriers-for-safer-roads/>

And Finally.....



You may have seen this picture on a recent edition of Have I Got News For You. It shows a pothole repair lorry swallowed up by the pothole it was sent to repair.











This Month's Teaser

The Morris Minor was the first British car to sell a million but in which year did this happen?

Last Month's Teaser

Last month I asked "What car is this, spotted at a car show at the Piece Hall in Halifax? It was of course a Morris Minor, specifically a Morris Minor Traveller.

Your Committee

Chairman	Paul Macro 07960 410046		myam.chairman(at)outlook.com
Secretary	Janice Haigh		myam.secretary(at)outlook.com
Treasurer	Rosie Bricis 07579 965029		myam.treasurer(at)outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Position vacant		myam.membership(at)outlook.com
Younger Members	Position vacant		myam.youngermembers(at)outlook.com
Speaker Secretary	Sally Lawrence		myam.speakersecretary(at)outlook.com
Events Manager	Alan Jones 07714 444595		myam.events(at)outlook.com
Website	Position vacant		myam.webmaster(at)outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Keith Wevill 01274 815281		myam.newsletter(at)outlook.com
Chief Observer	Chris Marrison 07798 822935		myam.chiefobserver(at)outlook.com
Associate Co-ordinator	Ken Newton		myam.associatecoord(at)outlook.com
Committee Member	John Prior		
Committee Member	Jonathan Scott		

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.