

# ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

December 2017



Group Number 4178  
Registered Charity Number 1053843





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### **Cover Photo - Windermere**



Windermere, in the Lake District, is the largest natural lake in England. The cover picture shows Swan, one of the passenger ferries that operate on the lake between Lakeside and Ambleside with an intermediate stop at Bowness-on-Windermere where the World of Beatrix Potter attraction is located. At Lakeside the ferry links with the Lakeside and Haverthwaite heritage steam railway.

## FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS

Date	Meetings	Location
<b>Sunday 3rd December 9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 4th December 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> Quiz & Buffet	The Manor Golf Club. Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB (See page 7 for directions)
<b>Sunday 21st January 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>Sunday 4th February 9:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Driving Sessions</b> Assessment runs for all Associates & Members. Look for the caravan.	B&Q Car Park, Aspen way, Glasshoughton, Castleford. WF10 4TA
<b>Monday 5th February 8 pm</b>	<b>MYAM Social Evening</b> Street Angels	TBA See page 7

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

## Dates for your diary

The dates for the remaining 2018 Social meetings are

<b>March 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>May 14<sup>th</sup> (AGM)</b>	<b>June 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>July 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>August 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>September 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>October 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>November 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>

## FROM THE EDITOR

It's been another year of changes, perhaps not as many as last year but still significant changes. At the AGM we welcomed Janice Haigh back into the group as chairman and Andrew Simpson-Laing was promoted to group secretary. David Stringer retired as Chief Observer with his position being taken by David Rushfirth who also looks after the group's website. The committee have been working hard on behalf of the group to arrange interesting and informative social meetings and to attend other events to promote the IAM and the group.

One other change which will take effect next year is a change of venue for our social meetings. Full details of the venue will be in the next newsletter but it's a little closer to the centre of our catchment area.

I've also been busy with changes at home. I've been sorting out my pension which has taken some time as I didn't realise you have to claim your state pension as it isn't automatically given to you. I've also now got my bus pass, which I could have claimed two years ago and gives free off peak travel in England and half price rail fare within West Yorkshire. I haven't used it yet but hopefully I'll get to use it soon.

Our daughter has just bought a house, so taking advantage of her retired dad, we've been busy decorating, sorting out network wiring, waiting in for furniture deliveries and fixing broken locks. So much for a quiet retirement!

As a result of her moving out of our house she has to change the address for her car registration, car insurance and driving licence and all the other organisations that her address is registered with. I had a list of over 30 when we moved up here.

On the subject of changes of address can I remind you to let us know if you change your home address or email address.

It only remains for me to wish you all on behalf of the committee a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Keith**



# Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Paula Ellwood

# Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Charles Holland - Observer Brian Morley

Kate Palmer - Observer Brian Morley

Congratulations to Kate who passed with a First

# Happy Birthday this month goes to

Lisa Aveyard, Geoff Baines, Christopher Bown,  
Steven Browett, Mark Brown, Barrie Farquhar Buckley,  
Bruce Carlin, Jan Creswell, Karen Day, Helen Eves,  
Stephen Goodair, Rebecca Hainsworth, Jill Lowe, Brian Martin,  
Alan Munro, Patricia Pickles, Alexander Procyk, David Robinson,  
David Stringer, George Tickle, Mohammad Variava,  
Marjorie Wilkinson



# 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.



**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.



**TWITTER** We now have our own Twitter account which can be found at [twitter.com/MYAM4178](https://twitter.com/MYAM4178).

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

## GROUP NOTICES

**Directions to the Manor Golf Club,**  
Bradford Road, Drighlington, Bradford, BD11 1AB

The carpark is well lit and for those who find walking difficult please park to the right hand side of the entrance where there is a ramp up to the doors.

### **Directions**

The Manor Golf Club is situated on the B6135, half a mile off the A650. If travelling from M62, M621 exit at Junction 27 onto the A650 to Bradford. At the second roundabout take the third exit onto the B6135, the entrance is on the left, immediately after the change in speed limit to 40.

From the A58 Leeds turn right at the traffic lights in Drighlington towards Bradford and the entrance is on the right immediately before the national speed limit sign.

From A58 Halifax turn left at the traffic lights in Drighlington towards Bradford and the entrance is on the right immediately before the national speed limit sign.

### **Disclaimer**

The items contained in this newsletter are the views of the Members who contribute and not necessarily the views of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (I.A.M) or MYAM.

### **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

MYAM holds Membership detail records on computer, these are confidential and for club use ONLY. The information is used to run the Group and consists of various details such as class of Membership, date of joining & subscription expiry dates. It is also used for the production of address labels for the distribution of the newsletter and recording training for Observers.

## Change of Venue for Social Meetings

After visiting potential venues the committee have selected a new venue for the social meetings. The December social meeting with the Christmas quiz and buffet will take place at the Manor Golf club and the change to the new venue will take place as from the February meeting as there is no meeting in January.

Next month's newsletter will have full details of the new venue.

# November Meeting

## Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes

We had a visit on our latest social evening from the White Knights, Yorkshire Blood Bikes. They are a registered charity run by enthusiastic volunteers who offer their time and riding driving skills to deliver essential and also urgent medical supplies. This is not only blood but many other requirements which are needed, including the transfer of documents and medical files among a wide range of NHS requirements when it is out of hours.

The story of how they started follows, but firstly an introduction to our speaker who was Matthew Beynon-Tullet who is the PR & Communications Manager for the Northern Region, he was accompanied by Paranjit Bharaj, who is the North Region Blood on Board Manager.



### How it all Started.

Vic Siswick was a biker, who in 2008 was undergoing cancer treatment and noticed that there seemed to be a lack of a service or provision to supply sample delivery. He then decided to set up and create the present-day charity which now provides a daily service from 19:00 hrs till 07:00 hrs. The important point here is the service fills a vital need outside the normal NHS hours.

This volunteer service designed to deliver samples and supplies to medical outlets, does two major roles. Firstly, as it is run by volunteers, it saves the NHS a great deal of money and secondly it provides an out of hours reliable service to deliver much needed and in many cases very urgent medical supplies. These vary from blood donations to medical samples, donor breast milk and anything related, for example drugs and human tissue samples, which needs time saving and immediate attention.

At present the group has 70 volunteer riders each of which all have the mandatory requirement of holding the Advanced Motor Cycling Test. The approximate running costs of the charity are about £40k a year. This is made up of fuel and maintenance costs which service the running of seven motorbikes which cover about 20k miles a year.

An added function was commenced in October 2017 when the Whiteknights began providing daily deliveries from Pinderfields Hospital to the Air Support Unit at Nostell in support of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance new "Blood on Board" initiative.

We have a motto where we say, “we don’t like to say we saved a life, we like to say we hope we made a difference.”

The Whiteknights is funded and supported solely through donations and charitable payments from commercial and industrial sources. It is vital therefore that fundraising is done on an ongoing and essential basis.

**Are you an Advanced  
Motorcyclist or Driver?  
Our Volunteers help to  
Save Lives  
You could too ...**



**Whiteknights  
Yorkshire  
Blood Bikes**

**Riders and drivers are the lifeblood of our organisation, without them we couldn't exist. We are always keen to hear from new prospective riders or drivers ...**

**For more information contact the regional manager PJ Bharaj  
at [paranjit@whiteknights.org.uk](mailto:paranjit@whiteknights.org.uk)**

# Jeffrey Long MBE Walks the Thames for the British Legion

Earlier this year I mentioned that MYAM member Jeffrey Long MBE had celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday by walking 85 miles along the Leeds-Liverpool canal to raise money for Support Our Paras. Well back in October to celebrate his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday he decided to walk along the Thames with the aim of raising £1000 for the British Legion.

But things didn't go exactly to plan after he met Paula Modeste while waiting for a train at Windsor station. They got chatting and she posted on Facebook what he was doing. At the time Jeffrey had only raised a small percentage of his target. Paula's post was spotted by comedian Jason Manford who reposted it and encouraged people to contribute. Within minutes the target had been broken with £4500 raised and the total just kept on rising.



Jeffrey was travelling back to a hotel in Weybridge each night returning in the morning to continue his walk where he left off. That was until he met Patrick Riley in Maidenhead and got talking. When Patrick found out what Jeffrey was doing he insisted that Jeffrey stayed the night with him and his family. Patrick and his partner Anne put Jeffrey up for two nights.

Thanks to the chance meeting and the involvement of Jason Manford Jeffrey has substantially exceeded his target with the total at over £120,000 at the time of writing.

The following Sunday Jeffrey was a guest at Chelsea football club where he was presented with a personalised team shirt making it back to Bradford in time to attend our November social meeting.



Should you wish to make a donation go to

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jeffrey-Long1?utm\\_source=whatsapp](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jeffrey-Long1?utm_source=whatsapp)

## **Pedestrians in the dark – as the nights draw in**

With summer well and truly over and the clocks now reverting to GMT, the nights will be well and truly drawing in. During the period of shorter daylight hours (October to March) we statistically see more incidents involving pedestrians and vulnerable road users than during other months. With the most incidents being between 3pm and 7pm we need to keep our eyes peeled for our vulnerable pedestrians in the dark. This week's tips for keeping pedestrians safe are from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards, Richard Gladman.

Keep an eye on your speed, remember you are twice as likely to kill a pedestrian driving at 35 as you are if driving at 30mph. Be especially aware near schools, the only predictable thing about children is how unpredictable they can be. Remember 20 in these areas really is plenty.

Children can be harder to see and may run out between parked vehicles, remember to 'LOOK OUT' (over, under and through) vehicles, you might just spot someone before they step out.

Some pedestrians give a tell-tale sign of what they are about to do – look out for people who keep looking over their shoulder, they might be looking to cross the road. If you have a generous space in front of you and vehicles behind you they may well run across rather than wait for all the traffic to come past. You also need to watch for mobile phone 'zombies', if you see someone concentrating on their phone they are not concentrating on the traffic, be ready for them to just step out.

When passing stationary vehicles keep at least a door's width whenever possible, not just for the car door that might open into your path; also for someone or something coming out into your path from between the vehicles.

Be considerate where you park, parking too close to a junction can obstruct someone's view and make it harder to see, also be aware of not obstructing pavements and dropped kerbs.

When it's raining and blowing a gale pedestrians are more likely to dash about and road safety often falls lower on their list of priorities than trying to keep dry.

With the clocks just gone back it can take children on bikes a bit of time to get used to the fact they need lights and can often get caught out being out without lights – make sure your children are aware of the need for lights on their bikes.

Richard said: "In a perfect world pedestrians would all be on the pavement and would never have to cross a road, in a near perfect one a pedestrian on a road would be wearing flashing high viz and your car would be shouting about their presence – in our real world it is up to us to share the road space, be aware and help where we can. An effort to be courteous will go a long way to making someone's day and will help keep us all safe"

## Certificate Presentations



At our last meeting Janice presented certificates to Ian Lever (left) and Paul Leishman (right)

## Voluntary assessments, F1RSTs, Masters and Fellows

Not all MYAM members realise that there are things that you can do to retain and improve their driving skills after passing the Advanced Driver Test.

For many years, the main way to continue your development as a driver was to become an Observer. If you want more information, David Rushfirth will be more than happy to hear from you. His details are on the last page of every newsletter. MYAM Observers all enjoy working with Associates because it helps them to think about their own driving.

MYAM members can also ask for an informal check drive with one of our Observers. The Sunday morning sessions (Page 3 in the newsletter) are not just for Associates, everyone is welcome.

If you want to make this more formal, you can take a voluntary assessment with an IAM Examiner. If this goes well, you may also be eligible to join the F1RST register, alongside other drivers who have shown a high level of skill during their test.

An entry in the IAM Masters Register places you alongside some of the best civilian drivers on our roads. The test is tough and you will need the support of a mentor with a similar qualification. If you are interested, please have an initial chat with David Rushfirth or David Stringer. The Masters qualification is valid for five years.

Both a voluntary assessment and the Masters test allow you to apply for Fellowship – an option that became available earlier this year. Being a Fellow commits you to taking another Advanced Driver test every three years and your annual IAM subscription is more expensive. However, there also some insurance and other benefits. Currently, there are three IAM Fellows who are also members of MYAM.

Lots more details about these routes for retaining your driving skills are given in the members area of the IAM website. It is important to remember that these are individual qualifications, but MYAM will provide support when it can.

Because the entry into the Masters and Fellowship registers are personal to you, MYAM is not told directly about your new status. Please let us know if you would like a name in the newsletter.

As always, enjoy your driving!

**David Rockliff - Membership Secretary**

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## Visiting Windermere

This month's front cover shows one of the ferries on Lake Windermere. We have visited the Lake District many times but have found that parking spaces in Bowness on Windermere can be difficult to find and can be expensive. Should you be in the area and wish to visit, for example, The World of Beatrix Potter and enjoy travelling on boats and trains I'd suggest travelling to the Lakeside and Havethwaite Railway where they have a large car park at a very reasonable price. You can buy combined tickets for the train to Lakeside and the ferry from Lakeside to Bowness and even include the World of Beatrix Potter.

We've done this trip several times and it's a good day out and there are other attractions in the area, the Lakes Aquarium at Lakeside and the Lakeland Motor Museum near the Railway.



**An Austin Allegro hidden in the Motor Museum**

**Ed**



# Thank You Halfords

Once again we'd like to thank Halfords in Wakefield for their support by providing prizes for the raffle at our December social meeting.

As a thank you from us to Halfords all they ask is that you call in and tell them where you heard about them. This is a relationship we can build on with your help. So please visit and let them know where you heard about them even if you don't buy anything. The manager needs to know that our members have visited his shop, which let's face it is only fair.

See their website at <http://www.halfords.com/> for their full range of products, services and store locations.



## **Halfords Wakefield**

78, Ings Road  
Wakefield  
WF1 1TY

**Telephone**  
01924 387474

I've used Halfords on and off for many years and one of my more recent experiences was when I bought a dashcam, buying from Halfords rather than one of the more well known on-line retailers as the price worked out to be the same. This proved beneficial when I experienced a problem with the cables and power adaptor. After a short phone call to the manufacturer both were replaced the whole thing taking no more than 15 minutes. One of the advantages of buying locally.

**Ed**

# And Finally.....

A man from Charlotte, North Carolina, having purchased a case of very expensive cigars, insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile, the man filed a claim against the insurance company, stating that the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires".

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The man sued - and won.

In delivering the ruling the judge, agreeing that the claim was frivolous, stated nevertheless that the man held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure against fire, without defining what it considered to be "unacceptable fire", and was obliged to pay the claim. Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid the man \$15,000 for the rare cigars he lost in "the fires".

After he cashed the cheque, however, the company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson.

With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the man was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.



## Last Month's and this Month's Teaser

Although Big Ben usually refers to the clock tower it is actually the nickname for the Great Bell which chimes the hours.

Last month's teaser was easy so this month's teaser will stretch your brain cells a little more over the Christmas turkey.

Imagine the situation where you take a very long piece of rope and stretch it round the earth so it is tight against the earth's surface. Then cut it and add a 6 foot length of rope. The rope is now slack. To make it tight again you need to add spacers between the rope and the earth's surface. The question is how long do these spacers have to be? As a hint you do not need to know the diameter or circumference of the earth to solve the problem. The answer may surprise you as it did me when I first heard the question.

## 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	<a href="mailto:andrewasl@ntlworld.com">andrewasl@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rosie Bricis</b>	0113 2534528	<a href="mailto:rbricis@live.co.uk">rbricis@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>David Rockliff</b>		<a href="mailto:Membership.myamcar@iamGroups.org.uk">Membership.myamcar@iamGroups.org.uk</a>
<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	<a href="mailto:alan.j909@btinternet.com">alan.j909@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	<b>David Rushfirth</b>	01924 211510 07966 134045	<a href="mailto:myam.webmaster@outlook.com">myam.webmaster@outlook.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Keith Wevill</b>	01274 815281	<a href="mailto:kcw2hwc@tesco.net">kcw2hwc@tesco.net</a>
<b>Chief Observer</b>	<b>David Rushfirth</b>	01924 211510 07966 134045	<a href="mailto:myam.webmaster@outlook.com">myam.webmaster@outlook.com</a>
<b>Ex officio</b>	<b>Bob McDermott</b> <b>Julie Langham</b>		

## 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.