

ARE WE THERE YET?



Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists Newsletter

October 2019

iam
RoadSmart

Group Number 4178

Registered Charity Number 1053843





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Cover Photo – Post Office Morris Minor Van

This rare 1953 split screen Morris Minor van was spotted at the Avoncroft Building museum. Its front wings are rubber because it reduced the cost of replacing the wings after the many bumps and scrapes the vans were subjected to. From 1955 conventional metal wings were fitted.

FORTHCOMING GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

<p>Sunday 6th October 9:30am – 12am</p>	<p>Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members</p>	<p>Sigma Ltd Alpine Court, Castleford, WF10 4TL</p>
<p>Monday 7th October 8pm</p>	<p>MYAM Social Evening Norah McWilliam Queensbury Tunnel Society</p>	<p>Carlton Social Club Main Street Carlton WF3 3RW See page 7</p>
<p>Sunday 20th October 10 am</p>	<p>Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members</p>	<p>McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB</p>
<p>28th October to 1st November</p>	<p>Pathfinder Yorkshire*</p>	<p>Driffield Airfield adjacent to Cadet Training Centre YO25 9LH</p>
<p>Sunday 3rd November 9:30am – 12am</p>	<p>Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members</p>	<p>Sigma Ltd Alpine Court, Castleford, WF10 4TL</p>
<p>Monday 4th November 8pm</p>	<p>MYAM Social Evening David Stringer Winter Driving</p>	<p>Carlton Social Club</p>
<p>Sunday 17th November 10 am</p>	<p>Sunday Driving Sessions Assessment runs for all Associates & Members</p>	<p>McDonalds car park On the roundabout with Oakwood Lane and Easterly Road LS8 2RB</p>

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.

*If you wish to help at this event or require further information please contact Ian Goring, Course Leader, on 01904 700489. More details on page 5.

FROM THE EDITOR

What a great turnout we had for our September meeting with nearly 50 people signing in to hear Paddy Hopkirk speak on his role as an ambassador for IAM RoadSmart and his rallying career. It must have been one of the longest meetings we've had for some time and judging by the number of selfies being taken with Paddy it was extremely popular. I did manage to get his autograph in my copy of Rob Goldings 1979 Mini book. It's probably doubled the value of the book! Thanks Paddy for a great evening.

I don't think we will be able to arrange another similar meeting for some time but as the committee is now working on the programme for next year do you have any suggestions for speakers? Or could you help the committee by taking on the role of Speaker secretary? There are only nine speakers a year to arrange. If you have any suggestions or feel you could help out please contact Paul Macro at the address on page 16.

Autumn is approaching, the kids are back at school and the days are getting shorter so are you and your car ready for autumn and winter? As a refresher our November meeting will feature David Stringer with his winter driving talk.

The half term week at the end of October also features the Pathfinder Yorkshire course for under 17 drivers. Lesley Pollard is heavily involved with this event and I hope to visit Driffield later in the week to witness the training and report for the newsletter. By all accounts the course is well received by the participants who, by having this intensive tuition, are better prepared for the time when they are legally allowed to drive on the road and should become better drivers.

Apologies once again for the late delivery for those who receive a postal copy of the newsletter as the printers were on holiday. This is one reason why the forthcoming gatherings page has details of the following month's social meeting. If you do have access to the internet the dates of all our meetings are available on our website.

Keith

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.

GROUP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the Group

New Associates

Trevor Bryan, Robert Hooper, Sue Lumley,

Congratulations

On passing the Advanced Test

Tom Duncan - Observer Alan Jones
Sarah Handy - Observer Hanni Kaye
Sue West - Observer Clive Nunnington

Well done to Sarah who passed with a First

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Pathfinder Yorkshire 28th October – 1st November 2019

October half term is on the horizon and if you have, or know, teenagers 17 and under who are keen to learn to drive then please have a look at <https://under17driver.co.uk/>

The Under 17 Car Club, which is accredited by IAM RoadSmart, have developed the Pathfinder Course which runs for five days every Easter and October half term. The nearest venue to MYAM is run at Driffield, East Yorkshire.

The youngsters are taught in a safe environment and by the end of the week are displaying advanced standards in their driving, more details are on the website.

The cost is £370 and there are 50% bursaries available to apply; for folk from our area. If you'd like any more info contact Ian Goring, Course Leader, on 01904 700489.

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.

The Group Telephone number is 0113 314 9969

Data Protection – Privacy Notice (GDPR)

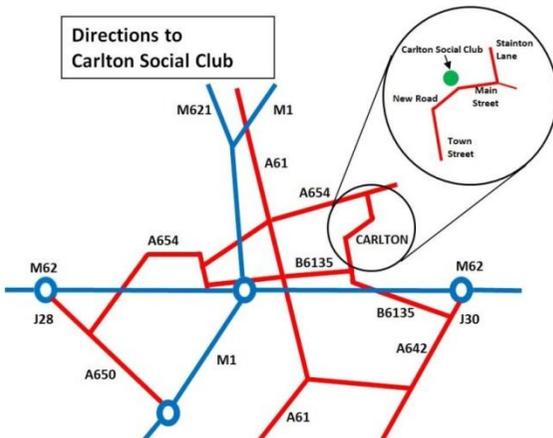
Mid Yorkshire Advanced Motorists (MYAM) is committed to looking after the information that it holds on behalf of its members in a way that complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

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 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.

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.

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

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

September Meeting - Paddy Hopkirk

We were promised something special for our September meeting and, along with guests from other local groups, we weren't disappointed as our speakers were David Gallagher and the legendary rally driver Paddy Hopkirk, IAM RoadSmart ambassadors for Young Drivers and Mature Drivers respectively. In spite of some problems with the projector, David explained their roles as ambassadors with occasional help from Paddy. He explained that although young drivers under 25 are more likely to be involved in an accident, they were quicker to learn but lacked the experience of older drivers. In order to get the message across it was "rebranded" as improving skills rather than safety. As part of the campaign, posters featuring well known personalities have been produced to highlight the "Fatal Four" reasons for accidents and fatalities, Drink and Drugs, Inappropriate Speed, Mobile phones and No Seatbelts. One message to take away from the meeting was that young drivers are amongst the most criticised road users and that they need positive support to help them improve their driving skills. I'm sure none of us was a perfect driver just after we'd passed our driving test but have improved following years of experience and passing the advanced test.

After a short break the stage was handed over to Paddy who led us through his career as a rally driver. Learning the basics of car control on an invalid carriage, left to him when he was nine, he graduated to a motor cycle then an Austin 7. This eventually led to him joining BMC, winning the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally in a Mini Cooper S, 33EJB, with 37 emblazoned on the doors. This car is on the front cover of the 1979 book Mini by Rob Golding. The original is now in the Gaydon Museum of the British Motor Industry but a replica has been built which, according to Paddy, is better than the Gaydon car and is available to hire (for indoor display purposes only) with all proceeds going to IAM RoadSmart.

In 1967 Paddy was elected a life member of the British Racing Drivers Club and is now a vice president of the club. In 2016 he was awarded an MBE and became IAM RoadSmart Mature Drivers Ambassador.

Paddy also founded an accessories business and, like many companies, it had a mission statement. Originally this was "We only do business with people we like" which was later modified to "We only do business with people we like unless it's a very big order"!



We were kept amused by his many stories such as taking Mary Berry for a ride at a car climb event. At the end of the ride he was asked if he'd gone all the way with Mary. He was also impressed with a 2CV in one event which he and his co-driver had difficulty keeping up with. When they finally passed it they discovered it was being driven by a nun.

Paddy is also a consultant to BMW for their version of the Mini and rounded off the evening by showing us several videos, some of which had been banned, of adverts for the Mini.

David mentioned during his introduction that he had checked the area around Rothwell for accidents using this website <https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> . I tried it out with various locations I know and it makes interesting viewing to see just how many accidents there have been near to where I live.

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The Technology in Your Car – 7 In Car Entertainment

Radio and motor vehicles have grown up together during the 20th century but it was only during the 1930s that radios started to be fitted to cars. Prior to that, radios were large, somewhat delicate and required large aerials and multiple batteries to run them. Developments in the 1930s made car radios possible however they were expensive, often approaching a quarter of the cost of a car, and required specialist fitment. Following WW2 the cost decreased but, although offered as an option on many mainly upmarket cars, radios were rare. It didn't help that an additional radio licence was required for a car radio.



Typical 1950s car radio

These early radios used valves which had a significant drain on the car electrics and you were often warned not to use the radio too long with the engine off as you may not have enough left in the battery to start the car! In the early 1960s transistors had been sufficiently developed to replace valves in radios reducing both the current consumption and the cost and car manufacturers began offering radios as options on more cars

although the Mini never had provision for a radio as Alec Issigonis didn't like radios.

The separate car radio licence was abolished in 1970 and radios started to become standard in cars, initially in the top of the range models.

Most people listened to the BBC, Radio Luxembourg and the pirate radio stations on the Long and Medium AM wavebands. Although FM transmissions on VHF were available very

few car radios were able to receive them. In the late 60s local radio stations were introduced on VHF to try to improve the take up of the FM transmissions but it was many years before the majority of listeners tuned to FM.

In the 1960s Philips introduced the Compact Cassette and it wasn't long before a car version was introduced allowing you to listen to music of your choice on the move. In car record players had been introduced but they weren't popular as they only played 45rpm singles. In the early 1970s Philips introduced a combined car radio and cassette player setting the trend for future In Car Entertainment. Throughout the 70s more cars were fitted with radios or radio cassette players as standard or as an option.

As an alternative to the cassette the larger 8 track cartridge was also available but this was more popular in the USA and never really took off on this side of the pond.

In 1982 Philips and Sony developed the Compact Disc but it took several years before they were fitted to cars, eventually displacing the cassette player. Many cars had a CD autochanger fitted allowing typically around 6 hours of music. Ideal for those longer journeys. Many modern cars have now replaced the CD mechanism with an SD card reader.

Car radios with FM suffered from one disadvantage, the range of an FM transmitter was less than that of an AM transmitter meaning you had to retune whenever you went out of range. In the late 80s the RDS system was introduced this allowed information on the radio station to be displayed but it also allowed the radio to automatically retune to another transmitter broadcasting the same programme. More recently DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) has been added which also has seamless transition between transmitters.

The humble radio has now been transformed into the "Infotainment" centre incorporating not only the radio but a display for many of the cars systems with the ability to set up many of the features on the car. The picture on the right shows the "radio" in my car which has AM, FM and DAB radio, Satnav, Bluetooth for music and the phone, SD cards for the music and satnav data. It also has



a USB connection for an MP3 player, voice control for some of the features, a menu button to set up many of the features of the car and it can also show pictures from either the USB or SD card. Quite a contrast with the 1950s radio shown on the previous page.

Silverstone Classic

Most years in July my husband and I head on down to the Silverstone Classic weekend.

It's always a full packed three days with a busy racing card, this year included FIA Masters Historic Formula One, Two and Three classes, as well as Classic GT, Touring and Pre-War Sports Cars and three races with pre '66 Mini's.



Maria Costello and her sidecar

Some of the car club anniversaries are celebrated by a parade on track. This year saw the Mini's 60th, Capri's 50th, Abarth's 70th and Bentley's 100th. It's a magnificent sight watching them go round the track albeit at a more stately pace!

Just about every marque you can think of will have a gathering in the car club areas, all accessible to have a walk round and chat with the owners. The International and National Paddock are free to wander round so you can get up close to all the racing cars whilst they're being readied for the track.

IAM RoadSmart's very own ambassador Maria Costello was there with her sidecar as part of the World GP Bike

Legends, a lovely lady to have a chat with, whilst Paddy Hopkirk and Sir Jackie Stewart were busy presenting some of the trophies over the weekend.

There is a large Village Green set up with trade and retail stands along with a substantial funfair with of course food outlets aplenty with large screens everywhere so as not to miss the action on track. Come the evenings there's always a large concert area on the go. This year celebrated 50 years since Woodstock so there was plenty of great music being played from that era. In the past we've seen Suzy Quatro, Status Quo and Bonnie Tyler amongst many others.

I am by no means a petrol head but the sights, smells and sounds of the weekend make it a great experience whatever age.

Lesley Pollard



**Lesley's new car?
Pagani Zonda S Roadster
(Only £3 million)**

Avoncroft Building Museum

Whenever we visit my brother and his wife or when they visit us we try to arrange a visit to a local attraction, so when we were down there recently we went to the Avoncroft Building Museum near Bromsgrove. Opened in 1967 on a 19 acre site, its aim is to preserve historic buildings threatened with demolition. There are now 30 buildings on the site ranging from a Medieval merchants house to a post WW2 prefab.

The museum also houses the National Collection of Telephone Kiosks which includes several AA and RAC boxes and a working telephone exchange. We were talking to one of the volunteers while we were looking around the phone boxes and the subject of the AA and RAC key came up. I still have my RAC key on my keyring from when I joined back in 1976 so why not try it. It opened all the boxes, the first time in over 40 years I've actually used it. There's also a police phone box but no sign of Doctor Who!

Most of the phone boxes work and you can use the dial to call and talk to between the boxes. Who can remember buttons A and B in the old phone boxes?

Most of the buildings are from rural settings but there is a post World War 2 prefab from Birmingham along with an Anderson shelter. The prefabs were an answer to the shortage of housing following the war. Around 150,000 were built between 1945 and 1951 and they had an expected life of around 10 years but many still exist today.

There is a working windmill on the site which produces flour which can be bought in the shop.

Most of the buildings in the museum have been brought to the site but ironically the one building that was originally on the site is not open to the public.

We had intended to spend an hour or so at the museum before going on to another local attraction but we ended spending most of the day there as it we found it so fascinating.

For more information see their website <https://avoncroft.org.uk/>

Keith



Press button B to see if anyone has left any money on the phone!

The joys of commuting...NOT!

It's one of the 'joys' of being a grown up ... from being ferried around by mum and dad or walking a short distance; suddenly you have a job, a car, and you are driving across several counties (maybe) to your job.

In my 29 years of working, my commute to work has varied from seven miles to 56 miles each way. Plus a few jobs that have involved joining the herd of people on a tube train into London from Buckinghamshire.

So, in all that time what have I concluded? That I still dislike driving, and that Radio 1 is just a load of tedious noise?

Well in those 29 years the biggest thing I have noticed is how many roadside distractions that are competing for your attention. The abundance of advertising, signage of 'useful' information, which in fact is a total waste of your time. Do I really need to know about the latest office block being built, and how many square feet of usable floor area it has? Or the frequency of the local radio station to get traffic news?

Motorways usually feature disused lorry trailers in close-by fields to advertise anything from the local music festival, to the closest carpet warehouse. Everywhere you pass there is something fighting to get you to notice it.

And the nature of advertising has changed too. It's not enough to simply have a hoarding, telling you how much the latest widescreen smart TV is from the dreary electronics chain down the road. Oh no, it has to be an electronic board promoting the latest tour coming up from what's left of Take That, along with a string of their greatest hits and concert footage ... while you whiz past at 70 mph.

That's before we even get to what's inside the latest modern car. The car manufacturers will tell you that the massage feature in your seats should only be adjusted when you are stationary, and that the setting for concert-level surround sound should not be changed while on the move ... yet they put every temptation in your path.

Let's move onto mobile phones. In the press office, we often get asked by the media "But what if there's an emergency? Surely you have to use a mobile phone while driving then?"

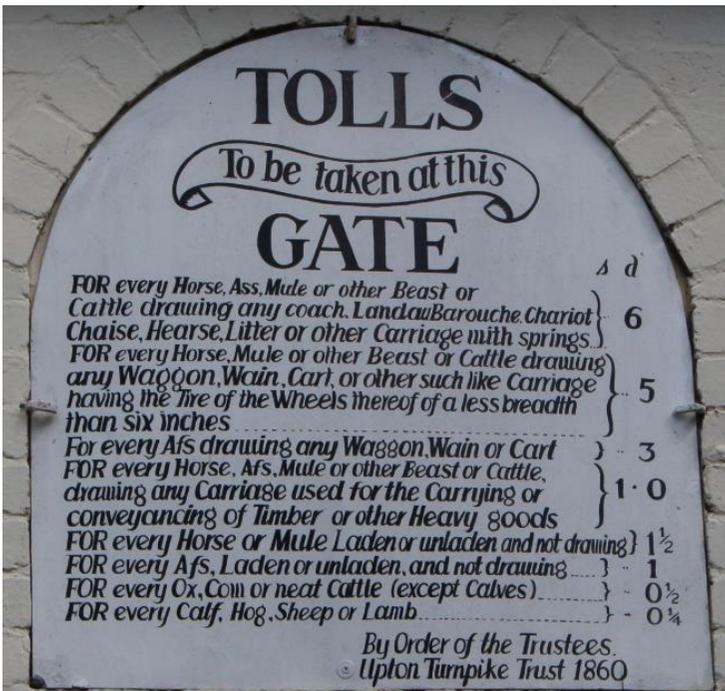
Please tell me what level of emergency would that be? One that would be so urgent that you could not stop your car to take the call, and handle the alleged drama?

While local authorities appear to not care too much about the amount of roadside distractions that are placed in the eyesight of the motorist, the onus is on each and every one of us to not allow all of this nonsense to influence us.

Yes, the commuting is often dull but that is no reason to switch off your brain. We rely on each other to keep us all safe. It only takes one of us out there in commuter-land to take our eye off the ball. This could possibly lead to a tragedy affecting a lot of other people, who do not want to be involved in your accident, thanks very much.

So, when you are driving, just drive. No looking out for an office to rent, or that local smartphone offer, or the two-for-one kebab deal.

By Rodney Kumar, IAM RoadSmart media relations manager



Toll roads are not new. These are the tolls from a tollhouse owned by the Upton on Severn Turnpike Trust. I wonder how much would be charged for an HGV?

And Finally.....

Jake was dying. His wife, Becky, was maintaining a candlelight vigil by his side. She held his fragile hand, tears running down her face. Her praying roused him from his slumber. He looked up and his pale lips began to move slightly.

“My darling Becky,” he whispered. “Hush, my love,” she said. “Rest. Shhh ..don’t talk.” He was insistent.

“Becky,” he said in his tired voice. “I.....I have something I must confess to you.”

“There’s nothing to confess,” replied the weeping Becky..... “Everything’s all right, go to sleep.”

“No, no. I must die in peace, Becky. I.....I slept with your sister and I....I also slept with your Mother. Plus, there was your best friend and the lady who lives across the street!”

“I know...” Becky whispered softly, “That’s why I poisoned you.”

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I recently received a text saying that gas engineers were in the area on 2nd September and they could change our gas meter for a smart meter and I could select a time for them to fit it.

Trouble was I received the text on 3rd September. Smart or what?

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This Month’s Teaser

Who was Paddy Hopkirks Co-driver for the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally?

Last Month’s Teaser

Last month I asked. “The Mini Cooper was one of the first cars to be fitted with which feature that is now standard of virtually all new cars?” The answer is Disc Brakes.

Your Committee

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GDPR Manager	David Rockliff		

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 still in need of a Speaker Secretary to organise the speakers for our monthly meetings. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested this position.