

MELKSHAM & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS



The Riverside Club

Social Evenings

Our monthly Social Evenings feature a guest speaker or other event, chat, tea and raffle, and are held every 3rd Thursday of the month. They take place at 19:30 at the Riverside Club, Bath Road, Melksham, SN12 6LP, unless otherwise advised – if needed, there is a map on our Website. There is a modest charge of £1 to cover refreshments and a ticket for the raffle.



Keevil
A Village in Our Region

Bring a friend: All are welcome, including non-members and members of other groups.

COMING EVENTS (2017)

Thursday 18 May. The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Melksham and District Advanced Motorists will be held at 19:30 on Thursday, 18 May 2017, at the Riverside Club, Melksham. Please see the attachment for further details.

Thursday 15 June. There will be a Drive Check evening. Members are invited to come along to check their driving skills alongside an Observer.

Thursday 20 July. There will be a skittles evening. Time and venue to be arranged.

NEWS ITEMS

Congratulations: Congratulations to Marion Townshend and Robert Pearce who passed their Advanced Driving tests and are now full members of the Melksham branch of Advanced Motorists.

Help Needed at Club Night.

If you enjoy your refreshments at club night, your assistance at helping out with serving and washing dishes would be greatly appreciated.

Presentation by the Thatcham Research Centre on 20 April 2017.

Jacob Alexander provided the club and visitors with an overview of the advances towards automation in car design. He explained that Thatcham is sponsored by the insurance industry, who look to reduce the cost of insurance pay-outs by the design, and provision of automated safety devices. The company is also responsible for the development of more efficient methods of car body repair, with the objective of reducing costs.

He provided an overview of the following areas:

Autonomous Emergency Braking (AES)

This system detects a potential crash ahead and prepares the car by giving the driver an audible warning, or taking evasive action itself by applying the brakes.

Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)

This system is a remote sensing method that uses a pulsed laser light to measure the ranges of objects to aid a self-driving vehicle.

Cameras and Radar

These systems also detect objects ahead of a vehicle and often apply the vehicles brakes to avoid a collision.

Lane Departure Warning (LDW), Lane Keep Assist (LKA), Emergency Lane Keeping (ELK)

These systems are designed to alert the driver when the system detects that the vehicle is about to deviate from a traffic lane. The systems can also work in conjunction with the Cruise Control system to help the driver steer and keep the vehicle on course.

Automated Steering

Driverless steering utilises a combination of systems to automatically steer the car.

After the presentation, members of the club were shown a Toyota car that had been used to incorporate much of the technology discussed during the evening.

The audience was appreciative of a most interesting presentation.

ARTICLES

Wedding Car, or Quick Get Away?

Pat forwarded these photos of an Oldsmobile wedding car at Princetown (near HM Prison, Dartmoor):



PUZZLES AND QUIZZES

Know Your Driving and Car?

Answers at the end of the News Magazine (No cheating please!)

QUESTION		ANSWER
1.	What are the 3 categories of hazard?	
2.	Starting with green, what is the traffic light sequence?	
3.	What is the significance of arrows on the carriageway of a mini roundabout?	
4.	Why do some chevron road signs have a yellow surround?	
5.	How many pounds per square inch are there in 1 Bar?	
6.	What electrical device aids the start of a car's diesel engine?	
7.	What type of paint is generally used on modern day cars?	
8.	What is the speed limit on a dual carriageway?	
9.	What is the gradient of a 12.5% hill expressed as a ratio?	
10.	What model of Austin car was named after a university city?	

FUN CORNER

The Williams F1 team fired their entire Pit-Crew yesterday.

The announcement was followed by the management's decision to take advantage of a scheme to hire unemployed youths from the Bootle. This was brought on by a recent documentary on how the boys were able to remove a set of car wheels in less than 5 seconds, whereas the existing Williams crew could only do it in 9.

This was thought to be an excellent move, as many races are lost or won in the pits, and Williams would have an advantage over every other team.

However Williams's expectations were easily exceeded, as during the crew's first practice session, not only were the Bootle boys able to change the tyres in under 5 seconds, but within 12, they had resprayed, rebadged, and sold the car to the McLaren team for four dozen packets of ciggies and a crate of Newcastle Brown Ale.

READER'S LETTERS/EMAILS

Unfortunately none this month.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None this month.

Please forward any questions on motoring and cars etc to john_morley@live.co.uk and an expert will hopefully answer them within the News Magazine.

Members who have news items or articles that may be of interest are invited to forward them to John Morley at: john_morley@live.co.uk. Please title all emails "MAM News Item".

FURTHER NOTICES

- **Email addresses:** Help the environment - if you have an email address but receive your newsletters by post please let the Editor, John Morley, know your email address. You will benefit from early receipt of the News Magazine, early notice of special events, and we save on postage, time and effort, as well as using up fewer trees! A win-win situation.
- **Speakers:** If you know of someone who could give us an interesting talk, or have a suggestion for a talk, at our social evenings please advise the Events Coordinator, Richard Clark or Caroline Marsden.
- **Publicity:** Current post vacant.
- **Contact Details:** If you move house, or your email or telephone number changes, please inform John Morley so that you don't lose contact with us.
- **Drive Check:** Remember that MAM is offering a FREE observed run for all potential new members so tell your friends now! For more information please contact David Major.

CONTACT US

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Disclaimer

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Answers to the quiz:

1. Weather (ice, snow, rain, poor visibility, etc), People (position and movement of other drivers, riders, pedestrians etc) and Physical (road surfaces, bends, junctions including roundabouts etc).
2. Green, amber, red, red and amber.
3. Vehicles are legally required to travel around the carriageway and not cross the central white island.
4. To make them stand out, when they are placed in a position with a background that would make them inconspicuous (ref. Traffic Signs manual).
5. 14.5038 (or 14.50 to 2 decimal places).
6. A Glow Plug.
7. Water Based Paint.
8. 70 mph
9. $100 \text{ divided by } 12.5 = 8$, therefore the ratio is 1 in 8 (e.g. the road rises 1 metre for every 8 metres of horizontal travel).
10. The Austin Cambridge.