

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.

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



The Bell at Broughton Gifford
A Village in Our Region

COMING EVENTS (2017)

Thursday 20 April. Jacob Alexander from Thacham is going to give a talk about automation and possibly bring one of the cars.

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

Observer Training Day 11 March.

David Major and Observers from the Melksham Group attended an Observer Training day at Blunsdon House Hotel to the north of Swindon.

There was a total of 20 Observers in attendance from the Swindon, Melksham, Newbury and Gwent groups, who were joined by Richard Gladman, IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards. Richard had carried out much of the work on the new IAM training manuals and documentation.

The meeting was chaired by David Douch of the Swindon Group, with assistance from Graham Mearns the Swindon Group Chairman. All present were invited to comment on the new documentation, and the day presented a good opportunity to clarify issues and meet colleagues from other areas.

Photography Presentation.

At the March club evening, Terry Nunn headed a presentation on photography by the Combined Camera Club. He provided an overview of photographic development, which dated back to the year 2400 AD. This was followed by a display of his photographic work, which demonstrated the art of layering (placing cut views of one or more photographs over others). He also played an Audio – Video (AV) on a laptop. One of the lady members of the club handed around copies of her work, which proved to be very artistic and the event was rounded off with a display of historical cameras.

The evening was well represented and appreciated.

ARTICLES

Vulnerable road users: Tips from IAM RoadSmart.

We are all made up of different shapes and sizes, from old to young and within our unique make-up we each have a different set of problems and vulnerabilities. This tip gives advice on sharing the road with vulnerable road users, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

- Treat pedestrians in the way you would want to be treated. We all have to walk to get to various destinations. It is important give people time and space they need to use the road, especially those with who have restricted mobility. Pay special attention in the rain – you may just spot someone so keen to get out of the rain they may not see you before crossing the road in front of you
- Cyclists need space too. They share our roads and are vulnerable to other traffic. When driving ensure you have checked to see it's safe before changing speed or direction. You may be in a hurry but be patient; cyclists are easily affected by the elements and could wobble in instances of windy weather. Before you overtake them, make sure you have given them enough room as they could adjust their road positioning unexpectedly for a pothole or drain. A few seconds delay is better than a lifetime of regret
- Mobility scooters are becoming more common. This road user may have restricted movement, vision or hearing. Give this road user plenty of space and time, look for any clues which might help you work out where they are heading

- Don't scare animals. Animals such as cows and sheep need to be driven past carefully. Horses are normally in rural areas and are accompanied by a rider. They could be nervous of traffic; however police horses can be spotted working in any area. Turn the radio down and keep the engine revs low, be patient and take your time when passing a horse. Keep your car well away from them and proceed slowly
- Look out for motorcyclists. They can be hard to see especially in blind spots created by pillars or when looking into the sun. You may find them filtering in traffic so before you change position - Think Bike!

Richard said: "Drivers need to remember they are inside at least one tonne of highly engineered metal box fitted with all the latest safety features. Cyclists and pedestrians have no airbags, crumple zones or seatbelts to protect them. Always give more vulnerable road users that extra little bit of space and time so you can react. The roads will be a much nicer place if we share nicely."

PUZZLES AND QUIZZES

Know Your Driving and Car?

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

Please fill in the gaps:

1. You must be able to stop:
In the d_____ you can s__ to be c_____.
2. What must not be compromised when positioning for a bend?

3. The "limit point" is:
The f_____ p_____ to w_____ you have an u_____ v_____ of the
r_____ s_____ as it d_____ a _____ a b_____, or over a b_____.
4. You may pick up clues as to the severity of a bend from:
 - a. H_____
 - b. T_____ L_____
 - c. L_____ P_____
5. When safe to do so, the positioning for a left hand bend will towards the?

6. Advanced drivers must consider, which gear will be both flexible and responsive, without causing the engine to:
L_____, or o_____ r_____.

FUN CORNER

LEXOPHELIA

- Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.

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

David Major: for queries about IAM Training, Associates and Observing: 07743 246746

Website: www.m-a-m.org.uk

Melksham Group Committee:

Chairman: Richard Clark: chairman@m-a-m.org.uk

Secretary: Caroline Marsden: group.secretary@m-a-m.org.uk

Treasurer: Douglas Colborne: treasurer@m-a-m.org.uk

Membership Secretary: John Morley: john_morley@live.co.uk

Chief Car Observer/Associates: David Major: chief.car.observer@m-a-m.org.uk

Events Coordinator: Post vacant: events.coordinator@m-a-m.org.uk

Melksham News Editor: John Morley: john_morley@live.co.uk

Webmaster: Colin Nunn: webmaster@m-a-m.org.uk

Committee Member: Don Jones: donjones1@sky.com

Disclaimer

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Answers to the quiz:

1. In the distance you can see to be clear.
2. Safety
3. The furthest point to which you have an uninterrupted view of the road surface as it disappears around a bend, or over a brow.
4. a. Hedges, b. Tree Lines, c. Lamp Posts
5. Off side
6. Labour or over rev.