

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**Classic British Cars**  
**1954 Standard 8**

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

**COMING EVENTS (2019)**

**19:30 Thursday 19 September.** Social Evening. The St John Ambulance is going to give us a talk on the different types of defibrillators and how they work.

**19:30 Thursday 17 October.** Social Evening. John Leyden will be giving a talk on “The Edge of Heaven - Trekking the Roof of Africa”. It should be interesting and, knowing John, it will be humorous.

**19:30 Thursday 21 November.** Social Evening. PC George Rabczak, Roads Policing Officer, will attend our meeting to answer questions about his role. This meeting was very popular last year, as George is a lively speaker.

**19:30 Friday 13 December.** The MAM will be holding its Christmas dinner at the Barge Inn, Seend. Make sure you reserve your place/s early for this increasingly popular event.

### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### **Congratulations.**

Congratulations to Annie Whyman, who has passed the Advanced Driving test.

#### **Road safety action plan announced to cut road deaths.** (Info provided by a member of the MAM).

Based on an article by the Department for Transport, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, Michael Ellis QC MP, and The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP.

The following action plan has been proposed:

- The government is to set out a major package of measures to reduce the number of people killed and injured on roads.
- There will be an action plan to improve safety for people at every stage of life – from infants in car seats to those with years of driving experience.
- There will be increased penalties for failing to wear a seatbelt (one of seventy-four measures being considered).

Failure to wear a seatbelt could result in penalty points as well as fines, under new plans to reduce the number of deaths on the UK's roads.

Increasing penalties for those who do not strap themselves in is being considered as one of the [74 actions to improve road safety](#) published by the Department for Transport on 19 July 2019. Currently, offenders are given a £100 on-the-spot fine.

In 2017, 27% of car deaths involved people that were not wearing a seatbelt – meaning 1 in 4 car deaths could have been prevented by belting up.

#### **Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:**

The UK has some of the safest roads in the world, but we are not complacent and continue to look at how we can make them safer.

Today's action plan is a key milestone in our road safety work and sets out the important steps we are taking to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

The Department for Transport is also considering the report from the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) on seatbelt use. This report analyses which drivers and passengers are least likely to wear seatbelts, what prompts their behaviour and which interventions would be best to reduce the number of casualties.

#### **Road Safety Minister Michael Ellis said:**

Far too many people are not wearing a seatbelt while traveling in a car, needlessly putting their lives at risk.

Increasing penalties for people who disregard the simplest of way of protecting themselves is just one of a long list of actions this government is taking to help keep people safe on our roads.

A Rural Road Users Advisory Panel will also be set up to explore how to boost road safety in rural areas, particularly improving roads and traffic signs, and issues around speed limits and enforcement.

The action plan is designed to improve road safety for people at every stage of life – from birth to old age. This includes:

For children:

- A £225,000 grant has been given to Good Egg Safety to deliver a nationally-accredited safety training programme for retailers to help parents correctly fit baby and child seats. It comes after 70% of parents said they didn't know how to properly install seats.
- A pledge to help improve children's safety will see research commissioned into whether mobile phone use among young pedestrians leads to an increased risk of road collisions.
- To help those with special educational needs and cognitive disabilities, the government will fund research into road safety support to help children aged 7 to 18 to understand the dangers near roads.

For young adults:

- The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) is developing a behavioural change campaign designed to encourage learner drivers to broaden their experience, by using more rural roads and driving at night before taking their test.
- Research will look further at the benefits of introducing Graduated Driving Licensing on road safety.
- THINK! will continue reinforcing vital road safety messages through continuous campaigns focusing on drink driving, using mobile phones while driving, speeding, and dangers around passenger distraction.

For adults:

- The government is also investigating whether alcolocks – devices which measure the alcohol in a driver's breath and stop a vehicle from starting if that level is too high – can reduce drink-driving re-offending as part of rehabilitation programmes in the UK. PACTS has been given £50,000 to review drink driving trends and interventions, which will be completed early next year.
- There will also be a greater focus on roads policing with a 2 year project with the Home Office and National Police Chiefs' Council. This will identify best practice and gaps in services to see how policing can be improved.

For older drivers:

- RoadSafe has been given £50,000 to deliver a digital platform to share best practice to reduce road safety risks for older road users.

The action plan builds on a number of projects in the Road Safety Statement, published in 2015, which saw increased enforcement for drug driving, and doubling penalties for using a handheld mobile phone at the wheel.

In other road safety measures, the government is currently consulting on banning tyres aged 10 years and older from buses, coaches, minibuses and lorries. If proposals are supported, new laws could be introduced later this year, ready to come into force early 2020.

A Road Collision Investigation project, with the RAC Foundation, is also ongoing. This is examining the cause of crashes and if there is a business case for a Road Collision Investigation Branch, which would specialise in learning lessons from serious road accidents.

**An amendment to the Highway Code** (Information provided by a member of the MAM).

**Rule 258**

**Red flashing lights.** If red lights flash on a signal and a red “X” is showing, you **MUST NOT** drive in the lane shown as closed beyond the signal. This applies until you pass another signal indicating that the lane is no longer closed, by displaying the word “End” or a speed limit sign and you are sure that it is safe to proceed.

**Red flashing lights.** If red lights flash on a signal in the central reservation or on the side of the road and lane closed sign is showing, you **MUST NOT** go beyond the signal in any lane.

**ARTICLES**

**Automatic Braking** (A question from one of our members).

Question - Do cars that “sense” (automatic braking for hazards) also sense flood water?

Answer (Editor) – I am not aware of any current pre-fitted flood detection system that will sense deep water on the approach to a “micro climate”. However my current car senses when a collision is likely, e.g, another vehicle pulls across my path, and it will apply the brakes. Also, when in Active Cruise it will brake if the car gets too close to a vehicle/obstruction ahead of the car. However, it will not sense flood water, as this will be below the car’s radar. Perhaps one of our members may be aware of a pre-fitted flood detection system?

**PUZZLES AND QUIZZES**

**Know Your Driving and Car?**

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

QUESTION		
1.	In which of these situations should you avoid overtaking?	Just after a bend, In a one way Street, on a 30 mph road, or approaching a dip in the road?
2.	 What does this sign mean?	End of restricted speed area, end of restricted parking area, end of clearway, or end of cycle route?

3.	You are travelling at 50 mph on a good, dry road. What is your typical overall stopping distance?	36 metres, 53 metres, 75 metres, or 96 metres?
4.	At a <u>puffin</u> crossing, which colour follows the green signal?	Steady red, flashing amber, steady amber, or flashing green?
5.	What percentage of all emissions does road transport account for?	10%, 20%, 30%, or 40%?
6.	You're towing a small trailer on a busy three-lane motorway. All the lanes are open. You must:	not exceed 60 mph, not overtake, have a stabiliser fitted, or use only the left and centre lanes?
7.	You see a pedestrian with a dog. The dog has a yellow or burgundy coat. This especially warns you that the pedestrian is:	elderly, dog training, colour blind, or deaf?
8.	At an incident it is important to look after any casualties. When the area is safe, you should:	get them out of the vehicle, give them a drink, give them something to eat, or keep them in the vehicle?
9.	You are waiting to emerge left from a minor road. A large vehicle is approaching from the right. You have time to turn, but you should wait. Why?	The large vehicle can easily hide an overtaking vehicle, the large vehicle can turn suddenly, the large vehicle is difficult to steer in a straight line, or the large vehicle can easily hide vehicles from the left
10.	When may you overtake another vehicle on the left?	When you're in a one-way street, when approaching a motorway slip road where you'll be turning off, when the vehicle in front is signalling to turn left, or when a slower vehicle is travelling in the right-hand lane of a dual carriageway?

### **FUN CORNER**

If Christopher Walken married Avril Lavigne after she'd been wed to JRR Tolkien and Roald Dahl, she'd be A. Walken-Tolken-Lavigne-Dahl!

#### **Being Divisive!**

My friend has a strange, solitary hobby making himself models of Wiltshire market towns... But he's quite happy being left to his own Devizes...

Wiltshire potatoes are used in fish and chip shops around the county, because they have Devizes for Chippenham.

#### **A Rubbish Question.**

Why is it that whenever I try to empty rubbish into an open black plastic bin bag, the top closes, and the rubbish ends up all over the floor?

### **READER'S LETTERS/EMAILS**

Please see News Items, and Articles. Thank you to those members of the MAM who contributed.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

See Articles.

Please forward any questions on motoring and cars etc to [john\\_morley@live.co.uk](mailto:john_morley@live.co.uk) and an expert will hopefully answer them within the News Magazine.

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**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](mailto: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:** <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/groups/melksham>

### **Melksham Group Committee:**

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## **Disclaimer**

Any opinions expressed in this or any other newsletter published by the Melksham and District Group of Advanced Motorists are those of an individual or the editor. They should not be taken to represent the views of the IAM, its officers or the Melksham and District Group Committee, unless made explicit. As such, no legal responsibility can be accepted for any statement. The articles are published in good faith. Members are requested to seek confirmation of event details before attending, since regrettably last minute changes to plans do occur.

**Answers to the quiz:**

1. Approaching a dip in the road.
2. End of restricted parking area.
3. 53 metres
4. Steady amber.
5. 20%
6. 60 mph
7. Deaf
8. Keep them in the vehicle.
9. The large vehicle can easily hide an overtaking vehicle.
10. When you're in a one-way street.