

### MELKSHAM & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS



**The Riverside Club**



**Classic British Cars  
Caterham 7**

### **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.

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

### **COMING EVENTS (2020)**

**19:30 Thursday 20 February.** Social Evening Riverside Club: No event has been arranged to date. Further information will be promulgated when known.

**19:30 Thursday 19 March.** The social evening will be replaced by the Inaugural Extraordinary General Meeting of the new group, now identified as the Somerset and Wiltshire Advanced Motorists, which merges the Melksham Advanced Motorists (MAM) with the Bath and District Advanced Motorists (BADAM). Please see the details provided overleaf, and come along to support your new group.

## **NOTICE OF INAUGURAL EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SOMERSET & WILTSHIRE ADVANCED MOTORISTS (SWAM)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by order of the suggested Committee that the Inaugural Extraordinary General Meeting of Somerset & Wiltshire Advanced Motorists will be held at 19.30 on Thursday 19th March at Beckington Memorial Hall, 36 Bath Rd, Beckington, Frome BA11 6SH, to enable the Trustees of the Group to present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 19th March 2020 for approval by the Group Full Members and to conduct an election.

The suggested Committee will be put forward at the EGM and consists of people who are willing to undertake the new roles and who have been nominated and seconded in the normal way. In addition, any other nominations for one of the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer, which must be proposed, seconded and signed by the nominee, must be sent to the Group Secretary of BADAM, Lindsay Flower (secretary@badam.org.uk), by Thursday, 12th March, at the latest.

Details of the suggested Committee will be posted on the website at least a week before the EGM.

### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### **Social Evening 16 January.**

A small number of members turned up for the Quiz Night. The evening commenced with a presentation by Richard of his thoughts on the future merger of the Melksham and Bath groups.

The quiz covered questions on motoring and general knowledge. Ken and Paul came out top with 64 correct answers out of 80, and took away a bottle of wine and a box of Cadbury's chocolates.

#### **Melksham News Magazine.**

The last ever edition of the Melksham News Magazine will be issued in February. Thereafter it will be replaced by a new Somerset and Wiltshire Advanced Drivers (SWAM) newsletter, which will be issued quarterly. Hard copies will be produced by a commercial printing company and posted to members who do not have access to email.

### **ARTICLES**

#### **Caterham Cars.**

Colin Chapman launched the Lotus Seven in 1957. The car was progressively upgraded to the Series 4 in 1970. The main dealer for the car was Caterham Cars, and in 1973 its founder Graham Nearn purchased the manufacturing rights to produce the car. Since 2006 Caterham cars has been run by an ex-Lotus management team.

The Caterham Seven, like the Lotus Seven, is constructed from aluminium sheet, with a tubular steel chassis. The Nose cone and wings are either GRP or carbon fibre, depending on specification. A high performance is achieved through the car's light weight, which is less than 500kg, producing a high power to weight ratio. The high performance is aided by the car's low mass, and lack of comfort features. As a result the car is limited in its practicality for everyday use.



### **Caterham Seven**

Like the Lotus Seven, the car is available in kit form. However it differs from other kit cars, in that all parts are supplied for the build, unlike other kit cars where a donor car is required.

### **Should you say sorry after an accident?**

Based on advice by Swinton Insurance

Even if you are not physically hurt, the emotions that can arise following a collision can affect your judgement, meaning it can be difficult remembering what you need to do – as well as the things you shouldn't do. If you have been involved in an accident, knowing what to avoid can help make your insurance claim go smoothly. Keep the following points in mind to avoid any costly mistakes.



### Don't get angry

With most people experiencing a fight or flight response, anger can be a completely normal feeling after an accident. However, it is important that you keep calm and refrain from hitting out at the other driver, as this could result in further consequences.

### Don't ever leave the scene until you have all the details you need.

If you experience a flight response after a collision, you may have a strong desire to just go home and take a deep breath. But, before you do, ensure you leave with all the information you need from the other driver, and have spoken to the police if necessary.

You should record the following:

- Contact information of the other driver/s.
- Contact information of any witnesses (if agreed).
- The registration of any other vehicles involved.
- The insurance details of other vehicles involved.
- The contact details of any other vehicles involved.
- The details of police officers at the scene.

And whilst the incident is still fresh in your mind, make notes for your purpose, including the date and time of the accident, the exact location and situation, and the weather conditions. If it's safe to do so, take photographs.

All of this evidence will help with the investigation process.

### Do not admit fault!

There is a process for determining fault, so it is advisable to let the experts handle this, even if you are convinced you were at fault. Always be polite to the other driver, ensure everyone involved is safe and refrain from discussing what has happened. When giving a police statement, or contacting your insurance company, stick to the facts. Tell the story to the best of your recollection. The police and the insurance companies will review and conclude who was really at fault.

### Do not attempt to negotiate with the other driver.

If the damage is minor and nobody is hurt, it can be tempting to keep the incident off record. If the other driver is pressurising you to resolve this between yourselves it may be tempting, however, there can be serious consequences for doing this.

If it is a condition of your insurers that you notify them of any incident and you don't, whether you are at fault or not, this could result in a void of your cover, and not having a future claim paid out.

Also it could be possible that the accident was more serious than you first thought, putting you in a difficult position further down the line. There are specific windows of time during which insurance companies require you to inform them of an accident. Once this time frame passes you could be denied coverage for the accident.

Additionally, if the other driver was to later file a personal injury claim, you could receive a call from your insurance company asking you why you never reported the incident.

## **PUZZLES AND QUIZZES**

### **Know Your Driving and Car?**

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

<b>QUESTION</b>		<b>ANSWER (Multiple Choice)</b>
1	What human organ is the radiator grill of a BMW often compared with?	Heart, lungs, kidneys, or buttocks?
2	When did the first British Motor Corporation Mini roll off the production line?	1958, 1959, or 1960?
3	1970-76: Which small four door saloon was introduced by Hillman to compete with the very successful Ford Escort?	A40, Allegro, Anglia, or Avenger?
4	1919-Present: Which famous racing marque, that produced some of the most powerful road-going cars of the 1920s and 30s, is famed for producing luxury Grand Tourers and fast sports saloons?	Bond, Berkeley, Bentley, or Bristol?
5	1962-1982: Which medium-sized family saloon was to become the best-selling car in the UK during the 1970s?	Cortina, Chevette, Consul, or Cresta?
6	1972-1980: Which sports saloon was one of the more successful British Leyland products, being the first ever mainstream car to have four valves per cylinder and the first British car to offer alloy wheels as standard?	DB5, Discovery, Defender, or Dolomite?
7	1968-2002: Which small family saloon, later a hatchback, was the best-selling car in Britain throughout the 1980s and 90s, as well as being very successful on the rallying circuit?	Escort, Civic, Fiesta, or Astra?
8	1997-Present: Which Land Rover model was one of the first cars to offer a compromise between off-road ability, streamlined looks and comfortable day-to-day road use?	Frontera, Focus, Freelander, or Fiesta?
9	1972-1985: Which executive saloon by Ford became famous as the main vehicle used by Scotland Yard's Flying Squad in the TV cop series, 'The Sweeney'?	Ghost, Galaxy, Granada, or Golf?
10	1959-1971: The popular Triumph Herald was replaced by the Triumph Toledo.	True or false?



## **FUN CORNER**

Do you ever notice that when you're driving, anyone going slower than you is an idiot and everyone driving faster than you is a maniac!

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A man is driving up a steep, narrow mountain road. A woman is driving down the same road. As they pass each other, the woman leans out of the window and shouts "PIG!" The man immediately leans out of his window and replies "Bitch!" They each continue on their way, and as the man rounds the next corner, he crashes into a pig in the middle of the road and is killed.

If only men would listen.

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Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken Mc Nuggets.

I asked for a half dozen nuggets

'We don't have half dozen nuggets,' said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied.

'We only have six, nine, or twelve,' was the reply....

'So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.'

So I shook my head and ordered six Mc Nuggets

(Unbelievable but sadly true...)

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Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?' 'Just use paper from the photocopier', the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

A brunette, by the way!!

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And now for some Tommy Cooper Gags:

I said to the waiter: "There is no chicken in this chicken soup." He said: "And there's no horse in the horseradish either."

I met my wife at a dance. I thought she was at home with the kids.

My wife had a bad habit of biting her nails but I cured her. I hid her teeth.

My wife complained that her feet hurt. I said: "You've got your shoes on the wrong feet." She said: "But these are the only feet I've got."

## **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](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".**

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### **FURTHER NOTICES**

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Publicity:** Current post vacant.
4. **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.
5. **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:**

Chairman: Richard Clark: [richard.clark2@talktalk.net](mailto:richard.clark2@talktalk.net)

Secretary: Caroline Marsden: [cmarsdenmiam@outlook.com](mailto:cmarsdenmiam@outlook.com)

Treasurer: Douglas Colborne: [douglas.colborne@btinternet.com](mailto:douglas.colborne@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary: John Morley: [john\\_morley@live.co.uk](mailto:john_morley@live.co.uk)

Chief Car Observer/Associates: David Major: [dmajor@toucansurf.com](mailto:dmajor@toucansurf.com)

Events Coordinator: Temporary (post vacant): [richard.clark2@talktalk.net](mailto:richard.clark2@talktalk.net)

Melksham News Editor: John Morley: [john\\_morley@live.co.uk](mailto:john_morley@live.co.uk)

Webmaster: Colin Nunn: [colnun@hotmail.com](mailto:colnun@hotmail.com)

### **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. Kidneys
2. 1958
3. Avenger
4. Bentley
5. Cortina
6. Dolomite
7. Escort
8. Freelander
9. Granada
10. True