

MELKSHAM & DISTRICT GROUP OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS



The Riverside Club



**Classic British Cars
1986 Lotus Elise S1**

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.

COMING EVENTS (2019)

19:30 Friday 13 December. The MAM will be holding its Christmas dinner at the Barge Inn, Seend. Please note that this replaces the usual social evening.

19:30 Thursday 16 January. Social evening at the Riverside clubhouse. There will be a quiz covering a number of topics.

NEWS ITEMS

Merger of MAM and BADAR.

A vote on the proposed merger between the Melksham and Bath groups was held at the group's social evening on Thursday 21 November. The results were as follows:

For – 16 (including 2 late results handed in at the end of the meeting).

Abstained – 2

Against – 1

David Major and John Morley attended Bath and District Advanced Motorists (BADAM) EGM on 25 November, and the result of the vote on the merger with the Melksham Advanced Motorists (MAM) group was:

For - 28

Abstained - 1

Against - 1

The two groups will therefore be merged.

The next step will involve a meeting of both current committees to discuss the way ahead following IAM guidelines.

A competition will be held to name the new group, and a new committee will be elected.

A new location for the group social evenings will have to be found. Initially this may involve a small number of trial locations, all of which will be in a neutral location to serve members from both areas.

Presentation by PC George Rabczak.

PC George Rabczak gave a presentation to the MAM at the Riverside club on 21 November. It was a lively talk on his experiences as a traffic officer, and was well received by an appreciative audience.

ARTICLES

Flash flooding is becoming increasingly disruptive to parts of the UK road network and causing problems for drivers. (Based on an article by John Silcox published by the LV=).

Hints on how to keep safe on the road.

Don't drive your car into a flooded road without first assessing the situation. Even large vehicles (4x4s and heavies) are at risk.

Don't assume that the danger is over as soon as you emerge from the water.



Don't base your judgment on other vehicles that have successfully negotiated the flood area.

Floods are dangerous for vehicles and their occupants, so don't underestimate them.

Flood water can cause irreparable damage to cars' interiors, electrical systems, and engines.

As little as four inches in depth can be enough to sweep a vehicle away putting occupants at risk.

A change of route.

Don't drive through a flood if there is a different route that you can take.

Stop and look.

Make sure you stop and have a close look to see if you can determine the depth of water, and state of the road underneath. If you are crossing a ford, there may be water depth gauges. Also, check for other hazards such as floating debris, or downed power lines, where the electric current could be conducted by the water.

Check the depth.

Don't attempt to drive through water that is more than six inches deep. Carry out a welly depth check. The general rule is that you should not attempt to drive through standing water that is more than six inches deep – so if it comes over your wellington boots, then it's a no-go.

Take care when passing other vehicles.

Avoid other vehicles, either by following, or crossing, when it could cause you to divert your passage. In particular, avoid heavy vehicles as they can create waves that will increase the height of the water.

Aim for the crown of the road.

When safe to do so, aim for the crown of the road, usually in the middle, which is designed to let the water drain to the sides. Look for road scarring (potholes etc), as the water could suddenly get deeper.

Stay in first gear.

Enter the water in first gear at a speed of 1–2 mph. Driving into the water at high speed could cause aquaplaning, which causes the wheels to lose adhesion, and the driver to lose control.

Keep engine speed up.

Keep your engine revolutions up to avoid possible suck-back of water into the exhaust system. Accelerating up to 4-5 mph will create a small bow wave, protecting your engine from some of the water.

In a manual car, if keeping the revs high makes you too fast, slip the clutch to slow you down.

What if you stall?

If you stall, it's important to try and start your car straight away, as the longer you wait, the further the water will be creeping up into your exhaust system.

Dry your brakes.

If you've driven through water, it's possible your brakes will be wet, and in order for them to work properly you need to dry them. This is particularly relevant to drum brakes, whereas centrifugal force will remove most of the water from disk brakes.

Drive slowly for a few miles, and regularly apply the brakes lightly to heat them up to help the water evaporate.

What if your car stops?

If your car stops in the flood, try to shut the windows, get out, and lock the doors before wading to solid ground whilst looking out for uneven surfaces or hazards beneath the water.

If you're concerned for the safety of any of the car's occupants, phone the Emergency Services.

For peace of mind get breakdown cover that includes flash flooding.

Are you a backseat driver? (Based on an article published by Swinton Insurance.)

Sudden gasps, stomping on a phantom brake, and giving you unwanted instructions – we've all come across a backseat driver, but are you actually one yourself? Below you will find a list of the proposed top 5 signs that you are a backseat driver.

Giving unwanted instructions.

Some people need to be in control and a huge outlet for this can be through giving unwanted instructions. This could be advising you what lane you should be in, advising you when to stop, even though you're clearly pressing the brake, advising you to leave a junction when you've seen a gap in oncoming traffic, giving directions in a place you're already familiar with, as well as instructing you to move as soon as the light turns green.

Critiquing the driver's decisions.

Have you ever had someone advising you that you are driving too close to another car, or maybe that you shouldn't have parked where you did? One of the most annoying things a backseat driver can do is critique your driving ability or decisions. It could make no difference how safely you drive, or even how much experience you have, some people will always believe they are the world's greatest driver, and that you must definitely have their guidance.

Dramatically expressing anxiety.

There is nothing worse than a knock in your confidence, when someone constantly reacts dramatically to your driving. Whether this is stomping on an imaginary brake, squealing when they feel you are too close to another car, covering their eyes and gasping at any slight braking movement. It certainly doesn't help to make any situation better.

Complaining about your speed.

You are abiding by the speed limit, but with a passenger not being able to see your speedo, they are complaining that you are going too fast. Or, maybe they are stating that you are driving too slowly, despite you having a reason for your slower speed, whether it's weather conditions or an approaching hazard.

Fiddling around with the car's controls.

Your car is set to your favourite radio station and preferred temperature, with the sun visors up in the dull weather. Yet passengers sometimes believe that their preference is more important than yours. This is a massive issue if preferences differ and can result in some heated arguments.

PUZZLES AND QUIZZES

Know Your Driving and Car?

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

QUESTION		MULTIPLE CHOICE
1.	In which country could you receive a fine for driving without a top on?	Thailand, Australia, or Ukraine?
2.	In Montreal, Canada it is illegal to drive a car containing what?	A dog, a chicken, or a for sale sign?
3.	It is illegal to do what with a dog in Alaska?	Tie it to the roof of your car, put it in the boot, or put it in the passenger seat?
4.	You can be fined for not giving way to what in South Africa?	Pedestrians, other vehicles, or animals?
5.	In which country are you not allowed to drink water whilst driving?	Cyprus, Turkey, or Russia?
6.	On what day of the week are you prohibited from washing your car in Switzerland?	Tuesday, Saturday, or Sunday?
7.	In which US state is it illegal to read a comic book whilst driving?	New York, Oklahoma, or Ohio?
8.	In California it is illegal to use a road...	As a bed, between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 (am), or on a Sunday?
9.	In which country does it state that anyone killed in a road accident should still be breathalysed?	Argentina, Brazil, or Canada?
10.	In Tennessee it is illegal to shoot what from your vehicle?	Bears, Whales, or dogs?

FUN CORNER

Some more gags from John Leyden.

As I left home this morning I met a chap in the street, he asked if I had the time on me.
I asked, 'are you a delivery man'
He said ' yes, I am'
I said 'well it's somewhere between 9 and 5'.

I was watching the London marathon and I saw a runner dressed as a chicken, then I saw one dressed as an egg.
I thought - This could be interesting.

Red sky at night, shepherds delight. Blue sky at night - Day.

One Liners.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

Apparently I snore so loudly that it scares everyone in the car I'm driving.

A dad is washing the car with his son. After a moment, the son asks his father, "Do you think we could use a sponge instead?"

I gave up my seat to a blind person in the bus. That is how I lost my job as a bus driver.

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. Thailand
2. A for sale sign
3. Tie it to the roof of your car
4. Animals
5. Cyprus
6. Sunday
7. Oklahoma
8. As a bed
9. Brazil
10. Whales