

MINI **ROUNDABOUT** March 2010

**MELKSHAM**

SPEED  
GEAR  
POSITION  
ACCELERATION  
INFORMATION

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS  
**MELKSHAM & DISTRICT**

[www.m-a-m.org.uk](http://www.m-a-m.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1055930

**WHAT'S ON?**

All monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at the Riverside Club in Melksham, unless otherwise advised, and start at 19:30. There is a modest charge of £1 to cover refreshments and a ticket for the raffle. If you are not sure where the Riverside Club is there is a map on our website.  
**Bring a friend: All welcome, including non-members and members of other groups**

<b>March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	DriveCheck Night – come and brush up on your skills
<b>March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Visit to Highgrove
<b>April 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Parish Stewards – Graeme Hay from Wiltshire Council <i>(N.B. This is a change to the originally published event)</i>
<b>May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Speaker: DriveTech from Castle Combe
<b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Skid Pan, Castle Combe, 1:30pm (contact Helen Pickett if interested)
<b>June 17<sup>th</sup></b>	The Universe, 42 and Everything – Peter Rodger, Chief Examiner, IAM
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Skittles Night, The Oliver Cromwell, Bromham, 7:30pm
<b>August</b>	NO MEETING DURING AUGUST
<b>September 16<sup>th</sup></b>	TBC
<b>October 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Life as a Coach Driver – Jon Shobbrook from Beeline Coaches
<b>November 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Sharing the Road with Horses – Julie Garbutt, British Horse Society
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	TBC <i>(N.B. This is the <b>second</b> Thursday of the month)</i>

**CONGRATULATIONS**

On passing the Advanced Driving Test

<u>Associate</u> Dean Larkin	<u>Observer</u> David Major
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## Further Information on Upcoming Events

For a full list of upcoming events see the front page of Mini-Roundabout or visit the website at [www.m-a-m.org.uk](http://www.m-a-m.org.uk)

### **DriveCheck Night – 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Riverside Club, 7:30pm**

Got into bad habits since passing your test? This event is usually held in the summer but perhaps you would like some guidance on driving in the dark? Come along for a FREE observed run with one of our observers to refresh your knowledge.

### **Highgrove Visit – 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Thank you for the considerable interest in the Highgrove trip. All spaces have now been filled. Please meet at the Riverside Club at 11:00 on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. If you are going on the trip please ensure you read the letter regarding the event. This is available at our March Group meeting, and on our website. It is imperative that you bring **photographic identification** (it must bear your photograph).

If you are taking a camera please send your best photos to Pat at [librarian@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:librarian@m-a-m.org.uk) so that she can add them to the scrapbook. The scrapbook forms part of the Library and is available to view at Group meetings.

### **Skid Pan – 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**Castle Combe Skid Pan, 1:30pm**

If you have not yet done so please remember to send your cheque for £70 (members), £90 (non-members) to the Treasurer, Graham Bennett, 38 Osmund Road, Devizes, SN10 3GD as soon as possible, but by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2010** at the latest.

## Caption Competition

Thanks to Pete for last month's caption. This month is the last of the caption competitions, so let's make it a proper competition, and not a one-horse race: it's a "Deadly Serious Challenge" (thanks to Pete for this!) Can anyone beat Pete's caption for this month?

Send your captions to [roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk).

**Last Month**



"Now I'm confused. What exactly is a Road Train?"

**This Month**



## **OBITUARY**

### **Melksham & District Advanced Motorists**

*“This week saw the death of a local motoring group...”*

You choose how this obituary ends: what does the group do for you? How would you improve things?

Have your say at our AGM on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Of course, there needn't be an obituary at all, but without a new secretary this is the way the group will go. The group is looking for a new:

#### **Secretary Committee Members**

The role of the Secretary is vital in the running of the group – without it we cannot function and the Group will fold: it is a legal requirement to have a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you or anyone you know would like to become more involved with the group, please make yourself known to the committee and come to our AGM on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Volunteering now will have the added benefit of a handover period.

### **Baby on board: safe driving for mothers-to-be**

Awkward but necessary, driving while pregnant can be an uncomfortable experience. The IAM advises mothers-to-be on how to drive safely and comfortably. Peter Rodger, IAM Chief Examiner, said: “It seems obvious, but we do urge pregnant women to keep wearing their seatbelts while driving. The steering wheel hitting the abdomen is the main danger for pregnant drivers in a collision, and the seatbelt is the only thing stopping the driver flying forward. A lot of women don't like the way belts feel and, without realising the danger, let the shoulder strap or the lap belt ride up into the middle of the abdomen.”

The law requires you to wear a seatbelt, even if you're pregnant, and wearing a seatbelt while pregnant will not harm your baby - in fact the risk of injury could be reduced by up to 70 per cent if you are involved in a crash. You should:

- Wear the lap strap below your bump, as low as possible, from hip-bone to hip-bone.
- Keep the diagonal strap between your breasts, moving the strap around the side of your bump.
- Adjust the fit to be as snug as comfortably possible.
- You can push the seat back, as long as you adjust your mirrors accordingly and can reach the brake, accelerator and clutch. You can buy after-market pedal extenders for this purpose. Being an extra three inches away from the steering wheel makes a lot of difference in an accident.

Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), said “The RCOG supports the advice set out in the NICE Antenatal Care Guideline on the use of seatbelts in pregnancy. Correct use of seatbelts by pregnant women is important, as incorrect use can cause harm to the foetus and fail to protect the woman in the case of an accident. Pregnant women should use three-point seatbelts above and below the bump, not over it.

## **London in bottom four in European public transport stakes**

In a study of Europe's top 23 cities, London is in the bottom four when it comes to public transport, according to EuroTest's latest Europe-wide local public transport survey carried out across Europe. London comes in behind Warsaw and Rome when taking account of travel times, ease of transfers, information provision, ticketing and fares. Only Budapest, Ljubljana and Zagreb are rated lower.

Neil Greig, IAM Director of Policy and Research, said: "London obviously still has a long way to go before we can reach the top standards of quality at reasonable cost to the user. The survey clearly shows that if we are to tempt more Londoners out of their cars, we need to ensure our tube, train and bus systems are more accessible and affordable."

Cost of travel was a main factor bringing London's score down - even the Norwegian capital Oslo was cheaper for normal journeys. Researchers from the University of Stuttgart applied a standard survey method to all the cities and found London's tube system had too few escalators and lifts, had poor accessibility for disabled passengers or those with children, contradictory exit signing and not enough parking facilities for bicycles.

TfL did, however, win approval for the Oyster card system and the website which researchers found easy to navigate, informative, multilingual and provided accurate timetable and fare data. Ticket office staff were also rated helpful and travel times to the main airport (Heathrow) were faster than most other cities.

The survey, carried out by the EuroTest consortium rated nine cities "acceptable", eleven "good" and Munich, the best, was "very good". Two cities, Zagreb and Ljubljana failed altogether to make the grade.

The test was carried out in several steps between 24 October and 11 December 2009.

Local public transport systems were put to the test in the following 23 European cities: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berne, Brussels, Budapest, Cologne, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Helsinki, Leipzig, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Madrid, Munich, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rome, Vienna, Warsaw and Zagreb.

[To view detailed results of the EuroTest, visit [www.eurotestmobility.com](http://www.eurotestmobility.com)]



## 3 in 4 'would inform' on elderly relative drivers

73 per cent of people would report elderly friends or relatives to the authorities if they had concerns over their driving standards.

Drivers over 70 are no more likely to cause crashes than any other driver, and are considerably safer than younger drivers, according to a report published by the IAM.

The recent report on older drivers says that 8% of drivers are over 70 but they are only involved in around 4% of injury crashes, whereas teenagers and 20-something year olds make up 15% of drivers and they are involved in 34% of injury crashes – which is a far higher number.

The poll of 1,628 IAM members and non-members also found that 68 per cent believed mandatory re-testing of drivers over the age of 70 would benefit road safety.

But, on the other hand, 77 per cent thought that young drivers presented a greater risk to road safety than older drivers.

It is good news that most drivers are aware that young drivers are the demographic most in need of help, but worrying that the mandatory retest has a fairly high level of support - one in four of the respondents agreed strongly that a mandatory retest at 70 would benefit road safety.

We need to reassure the public that older drivers do not represent a disproportionate risk. And recommend driver assessments.

Giving older drivers good advice and showing them how to compensate for their deterioration in eyesight and hearing means that we don't have to take licenses away from perfectly safe older drivers.

Retesting at 70 would be a mammoth administrative task with little road safety benefit and the Government and safety bodies must work together to communicate the facts about older drivers more widely.

Some local authorities offer driving assessments for older drivers, but they are not widely available. At the IAM we have our own in-car assessment, called DriveCheck 55, which is pretty affordable and available nationwide.

[If you receive *Mini-Roundabout* electronically you can click [here](#) to view the full report]



## FURTHER NOTICES

- **Observers:** If you think you would like to be an observer and/or would like more information about observing please contact David Major, Chief Car Observer, by telephone on 01985 217050.
- **Email addresses:** Help the environment - if you have an email address but receive your newsletters by post please let the Editor, Luke Pickett, know your email address. You benefit from early receipt of Newsletters, 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 monthly meetings please advise the Events Coordinator, Helen Pickett.
- **Contact Details:** If you move house, or your email or telephone number changes, please inform Luke Pickett and Angela Summers so that you don't lose contact with us.
- **DriveCheck:** 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.
- **Website:** For the most up-to-date information, check out our website at [www.m-a-m.org.uk](http://www.m-a-m.org.uk)

## CONTACT US

**07780 743555**

[www.m-a-m.org.uk](http://www.m-a-m.org.uk)

or:

**Chairman:** Paul Wilkins: contact Chris at [group.secretary@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:group.secretary@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Chris Tarbitten: [group.secretary@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:group.secretary@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Graham Bennett: [treasurer@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Librarian:** Pat Ham: [librarian@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:librarian@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary/Associates:** Angela Summers: [membership.officer@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:membership.officer@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Chief Car Observer:** David Major: [chief.car.observer@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:chief.car.observer@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Events Coordinator:** Helen Pickett: [events.coordinator@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:events.coordinator@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Mini Roundabout Newsletter Editor:** Luke Pickett: [roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk)

**Webmaster:** Luke Pickett: [webmaster@m-a-m.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@m-a-m.org.uk)

*If you have any suggestions about this News Sheet, or any other aspect of our activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

### Disclaimer

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