

MINI ROUNDABOUT

February 2011

MELKSHAM

SPEED
GEAR
POSITION
ACCELERATION
INFORMATION

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS

MELKSHAM & DISTRICT

www.m-a-m.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1055930

WHAT'S ON?

All monthly social evenings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Riverside Club, Bath Road, Melksham, SN12 6LP unless otherwise advised, starting 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

February 17th	Legal Matters [N.B. This is a change to the originally published event]
March 17th	Biodiesel - Steve Sharp, Diesel Dan The Green Fuel Man
April 21st	Sandra Brandon, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
May 19th	21 st Annual General Meeting Speaker: David Douch on the topic of Vehicle Occupant Security
June 16th	DriveCheck Night
July 21st	Skittles Night, Venue TBC

The most up-to-date information can be found on our website. Please check this regularly, as regrettably, last minute changes to events do occur. If you have any suggestions for events or speakers for social evenings, please contact Helen Pickett at events.coordinator@m-a-m.org.uk

There... I Fixed It

Courtesy of Pat, this month sees the introduction of a new section detailing the bodge jobs some people make on their cars! As always, any captions are welcomed and will be published in *Mini-Roundabout* the following month – send them to roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk.



Committee News

If you have any comments on the Committee's News then please contact Luke Pickett in the first instance, at roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk.

Information regarding the Chairman and Treasurer

Thank you very much to Douglas Colborne who has volunteered to step in to the position of Treasurer with immediate effect. Douglas will be officially voted onto the Committee at the AGM in May. We have still not had anyone come forward however, for the position of

Chairman with effect from 19th May 2011

The Committee is now aware of the procedures that must be followed in the event that no Chairman is found. It is a legal requirement that we have this Officer in place for the Group to be able to function. As such, if we cannot fill this vacancy by the AGM on 19th May 2011 the Group will be forced to fold. There is not a huge amount of work involved, especially if you already regularly attend our Social Evenings (please see the job description below). If you think you would be able to help out in either of these roles please contact Luke Pickett in the first instance, at roundabout.editor@m-a-m.org.uk, or speak to a Committee Member at a Group Social Evening.

Chairman Job Description/Main Roles

- To encourage and assist motorists to become members of the Institute (publicity)
- To foster and maintain interest in the Institute amongst members (i.e. talk to members at our Group Social Evenings)
- To attend, as much as possible, monthly Committee Meetings (currently held in Trowbridge on the Tuesday evening of the week before the Group Social Evening, lasting around 1 hour. Venue will be reviewed after AGM)
- To attend, as much as possible, monthly Social Evenings and any organised events
- To regularly check email accounts and reply to necessary messages (provision can be made for those who do not have internet access)
- To chair the monthly Committee Meetings and the AGM
- To take a lead role in introducing speakers and welcoming guests and visitors at Group Social Evenings
- To develop ideas for road safety and other events which further the objects of the Group (i.e. suggest possibilities for publicity and events for members)

Approximate time required to fulfil this role (per month):

Committee Meeting	Social Evening	Matters Arising	Email Checking	Total
1 hour	2 hours	Max 30 min	30 mins	4 hours

Membership Renewal

The deadline for returning forms has now passed. If you haven't already please return your membership and gift aid form to Angela Summers at membership.officer@m-a-m.org.uk or 2 York Close, Chippenham, SN14 0QB as soon as possible. If you would no longer like to remain a member with us please inform Angela so that you can be removed from our records. If we have not heard from you by 28th February you will be deleted from our membership list and *Mini-Roundabout* distribution list.

Observers

The Bristol Group are holding a training event on Saturday 2nd April for trainee and existing observers. The event is being organised and run by our Regional Group Coordinator, Richard Furneaux, and our Staff Examiner, Andy Poulton. If you are interested in becoming an observer this would be a good time to start. For more information contact our Chief Car Observer, David Major, at chief.car.observer@m-a-m.org.uk.

Stay safe down Lovers' Lane this Valentine's Day

The IAM is urging young men to take special care of their girlfriends this Valentine's Day. More young women aged 17-19 years are killed or seriously injured as passengers in cars than as drivers. Only five per cent of licence holders are men under 25, yet they make up 14 per cent of all drivers involved in injury crashes. These accidents are also more likely to occur at weekends and on rural roads: something to remember if you're thinking of a romantic weekend drive in the country.

IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger said: "Taking care on unfamiliar roads, especially on bends, and planning ahead to spot hazards early, will make your drive much safer. And if you're using a satnav on unfamiliar roads, don't follow it blindly; this can lead to unromantic diversions into fields, and sadly, serious crashes. Impress her by driving smoothly and well instead of fast, and try sticking to the speed limit: this will save fuel — and leave you more money to spend on roses and chocolates."

While not yet mandatory in the UK, post-test driver training in Austria has shown reductions in young driver fatalities of up to a third. To help young drivers in the UK improve their skills and safety on the road post-test, the IAM has recently launched **Momentum**.

Young drivers gain Momentum

The IAM has launched *Momentum*; a new two-part assessment for the younger driver. *Momentum* is designed for 17-25 year olds who have passed their driving test, and incorporates two modules: an interactive online assessment, followed by an on-road session with an IAM examiner. *Momentum* does not involve an exam and there is no risk of failure; it offers a quick, low-cost option for improving the confidence, awareness and safety of younger drivers. After passing the driving test there is currently no requirement to take any further driver-development training. In road safety terms, this confines 17-25 year-old drivers – who suffer (proportionally) the greatest number of deaths and injuries – to improvement by trial and error. There is now substantial evidence that post-test training reduces young driver fatalities by up to nearly a third*.

IAM CEO Simon Best said: "*Momentum* is a relaxed and effective way for young drivers to gain experience in a supportive environment to get them through this dangerous stage in their early driving years. It's also a practical way for parents to help their children to become safer on the roads. We need no reminding that young drivers — particularly young men — are more likely to be killed in a road accident than any other group."

Momentum costs £40, a sum that will be taken off the full **Skill for Life** programme if purchased within 12 months of the *Momentum* assessment. *Skill for Life* will develop on feedback from the *Momentum* assessment, and will help drivers to safely predict hazards, anticipate other drivers' behaviour and more accurately assess road and traffic conditions, enabling them to become more controlled, confident and ultimately, better drivers. Everybody that buys *Momentum* between now and the end of April will be entered to win one of 20 places on an IAM young driver experience day at a track venue in the UK. For more information please visit www.iam.org.uk/momentum.

* The Austrian system ensures new drivers have at least three further contacts with qualified instructors during the first 12 to 18 months of their driving career. After taking the test an initial assessment drive is undertaken to gain knowledge of a driver's experience and to highlight any deficiencies. This is followed by a visit to a Road Safety Centre to demonstrate handling in the wet, speed into corners and the impact of speed on stopping distances. There are also discussion sessions, which take a psychological approach that involves talking about peer pressure and the main risks to young drivers. The final element is an eco-drive assessment.

Vehicle emissions – good driving part of pollution solution

Research by the IAM shows that toxins in exhaust fumes have fallen by 80 per cent since their peak in 1990 and that today's new lorries are quieter than 1970's cars.

The findings in 'Toxic emissions and noise', published by the IAM, show that the noise made by the average family car is now 74 decibels – normal conversation is between 60 and 70 decibels. Bus levels are 78 decibels and heavy lorries 80 decibels. In 1972 the level for a passenger car was 82 decibels.

IAM director of policy and research Neil Greig said: "Long-term exposure to road noise has been linked to increased levels of stress and high blood pressure, so it's good news that we are turning down the volume on Britain's vehicles. But drivers can reduce noise further by fitting low rolling resistance tyres and keeping to the speed limit. Starting up and moving off quickly in your diesel also helps and keeps the neighbours happy."

Toxic exhaust emissions are also falling. In particular lead emissions are now close to zero and carbon monoxide emissions are a quarter of their 1990s levels. While this is largely due to catalytic converters cleaning exhaust fumes and the introduction of lead-free petrol, drivers can also take action to reduce levels of toxic fumes.

Greig said: "Driving at a constant speed is far more fuel efficient than accelerating and braking. Anything that makes traffic slow down and speed up is bad for both fuel consumption and air quality emissions - particulates such as brake dust and toxic gases. It is also safer as stopping increases the risk of being hit from behind."

Next year, new tyre labelling will make eco-driving even easier. By November 2012 all new tyres will carry a label indicating how much the tyre affects the car's fuel efficiency, about its performance in wet conditions and its external rolling noise in decibels.

For more tips on making your driving more fuel efficient visit the IAM website www.iam.org.uk

Man owned and drove same car for 82 years

[Thanks to Archer for this]

Thinking about trading your car in? Wait! Can you imagine having the same car for 82 years? I guess it was no longer under warranty...

Mr. Allen Swift (Springfield, MA.) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Picadilly P1 Roadster from his father, brand new - as a graduation gift in 1928. He drove it up until his death last year.....at the age of 102! He was the oldest living owner of a car from new. He donated it to a Springfield museum after his death. It has 170,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed and is in perfect cosmetic condition. 82 years: that's approximately 2000 miles per year...



"How Long Have You Owned a Car?"

Fuel prices increases are no new thing

The increase in motoring costs between 2008-2009 – when vehicle purchase expenditure has been falling since 2005 – is the key finding of *How much we spend on motoring and travel*, published by the IAM as the latest in its series of IAM Motoring Facts 2010/2011.

Even before the recent hike, fuel prices have been on the rise, with an increase of nearly two thirds since 1990. Insurance has also risen by a similar amount over this time. Since 1990 total motoring costs have fallen by around eight per cent. Overall spending on motoring increased by six per cent between 2007 and 2008.

Neil Greig, IAM director of policy and research, said: “With fuel prices rising at the fastest rates for ten years*, motorists will be wondering when these increases will stop. Competitive car manufacturers and a more efficient garage trade have delivered lower overall motoring costs but these gains are being all but erased by higher fuel and insurance costs. Travel accounts for one sixth of the average family’s spending, and motoring accounts for more than 80 per cent of this amount.”

One way of reducing insurance costs is to invest in advanced driver training, which leads to discounts in 93%* of cases. Fuel use is also possible to reduce, especially in winter when cars will become less fuel-efficient. A cold engine uses much more fuel than it does once it’s fully warmed up and both the heated rear windscreen and air conditioning significantly increase fuel consumption. The following tips can help keep fuel-consumption down at this time of year:

- De-icing the windows with a spray or scraper before starting the engine will get them cleared much more quickly, meaning less time wasting fuel with the engine running and the car stationary
- Keep the inside of the front and rear windscreens squeaky clean. Traffic fumes form a film on the glass which attracts moisture and makes them mist up easily - a clean screen will rarely mist up at all meaning less use of the heater and air-conditioning
- It will take most cars at least a couple of miles to warm up and run efficiently. Could you walk or get public transport? If not think about linking short trips together to avoid driving with a cold engine all the time
- For more eco-driving tips visit www.iam.org.uk/fuelsavingtips

Spending on motoring has doubled in real terms since 1970, even though during the same period the cost of vehicle purchase has fallen by a quarter and servicing and repairs by a fifth. Over the same period rail fares have increased by a quarter.

Mr Greig continued: “The increase in rail fares means that driving is still a good option for many. Costs are unlikely to go down so we recommend drivers look seriously at ways to control their motoring bills.”

* Based on car quotes given by Adelaide Insurance Services Ltd. to UK IAM members in July to Nov 2010, who met acceptance criteria.

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 social evenings please advise the Events Coordinator, Helen Pickett.
- **Publicity:** If you are able to display posters or distribute a few leaflets around your local area please contact Luke Pickett to obtain some.
- **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

CONTACT US

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or:

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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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