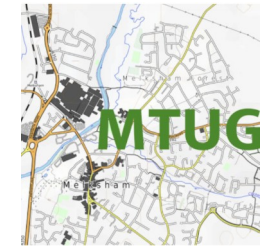


Melksham Transport User Group – <https://www.mtug.org.uk>

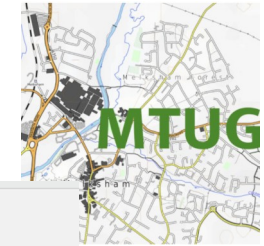


25.10.2024 – 14:30 and 18:30

- \* Intro
- \* Vision
- \* Next Steps
- \* How could YOU be involved
- \* Follow up details



# Melksham Transport User Group – <https://www.mtug.org.uk>



## Melksham Transport Users

[To trains](#) • [To buses](#) • [other links](#)  
[To taxis](#) • [To cycling and walking](#)

"A time of great risk and great opportunity" - [group news](#)



### Updated - October 2024

25th October - the "Party Room" at the Melksham Campus - please come along for our relaunch of the Melksham Transport User Group. Two sessions - 14:30 and 18:30 so that the meeting is convenient for those who are available afternoon / during daylight, AND for those who can't make it until the evening. In between, we'll be popping in to the park to dedicate a memorial bench to Peter and Margaret Blackburn. More details via <https://grahamellis.uk/blog1383.html>, poster via [https://mtug.org.uk/lib/mtug\\_relaunch.pdf](https://mtug.org.uk/lib/mtug_relaunch.pdf) and Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/426757930452183> - please share, but no need to sign up there - just come along.

In the headline I wrote last month (September 2024), **this is a time of great risk an great opportunity**. It's also the time for the **Melksham Transport User Group** and **Option 24/7** to re-awaken after a strategic pause to recover from campaign fatigue and partner with others to encourage, promote and help facilitate a public transport network for the future.

We have had successes over the years which we often forget in because excellent public transport provision is still a goal and indeed a holy grail - we are mid-journey



### Trains

#### Current Departures

- Timetables to December 2024:
- [Local \(Swindon to Westbury\)](#)
  - [to Reading and London](#)
  - [via Salisbury to Southampton](#)

#### Journey Planners, fares and booking:

- [GWR for UK](#)
- [Interrail \(Europe itineraries\)](#)
- [Rail Europe \(Individual journeys\)](#)

### Buses

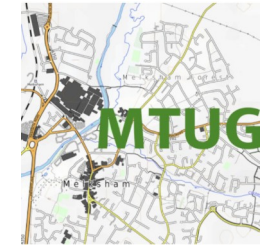
#### Timetables as at September 2024:

- [14, 15 - Melksham Town Bus](#)
- [x34 to Chippenham, Trowbridge, Frome](#)
- [271, 2, 3 to Bath and to Devizes](#)
- [69 to Corsham, Bradford-on-Avon](#)
- [x76 to Calne, Marlborough, and to RUH](#)
- [SB2 to Seend](#)
- [401 to Heathrow and London](#)

[MyTrip - App to track local buses](#)

### Taxis

# Melksham Transport User Group – <https://www.mtug.org.uk>



In the headline I wrote last month (September 2024), **this is a time of great risk an great opportunity**. It's also the time for the **Melksham Transport User Group** and **Option 24/7** to re-awaken after a strategic pause to recover from campaign fatigue and partner with others to encourage, promote and help facilitate a public transport network for the future.

We have had successes over the years which we often forget in because excellent public transport provision is still a goal and indeed a holy grail - we are mid-journey

**In 2013**, we stepped up from 2 trains each way per day calling at Melksham to 8, and passenger journeys rose from 3,000 to 75,000 per annum (and to 240,000 if you included journeys through Melksham).

**In 2016**, we successfully opposed Wiltshire Council plans to cut 50% of the supported buses - vocally answering a consultation as to whether we would prefer to lose town buses or rural ones, Sunday buses or evening ones with Option 24/7 - we belive that buses should run where people need them, and when then need them.

**In 2020**, when First Bus withdrew their commercial services from Melksham, we sucessfully promoted their replacement providing an evening and Sunday service run by Faresaver and supported by Wiltshire Council.

**Also in 2020**, we fought the permanent withdrawl of Sunday trains - the morning service was at particular risk - and it came back post-covid

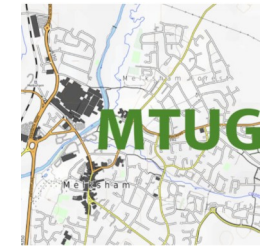
**In 2022 and 2023** we nagged, persuaded the train service providers to fill evening timetable gaps and we now have evening trains seven days a week.

**And in 2024** we saw the return of Sunday buses to Trowbridge and Chippenham, and on 1st September the Sunday service to Devizes and to Bath doubles to an hourly service.

**Wow!!** Just imagine how we would be without those various improvements. All of them are good improvements that were fully justified and have paid off, and once explained we have been pushing on open doors and working well together. But ...

- \* We have lost some requests too, and with it seen some backward steps
- \* We are in a process of review and policy change with a new government
- \* There is a very great deal still to go to have a system fit for future needs

Melksham Transport User Group – <https://www.mtug.org.uk>











We need ...

- \* Station and Bus Stop Friends
- \* Local Prompotion
- \* Armchair members to Officers
- \* Cafe and station reception
- \* Campaigning and engaging
- \* Newsletter and social media

Or with few or none of those, we fold?  
Please complete the sheet b4 you leave  
Week of 25<sup>th</sup> November ...

Acting chair (but just at the moment)  
Graham Ellis – [graham@sn12.net](mailto:graham@sn12.net)  
07974 925 928 / <https://grahamellis.uk>

	<b>Facebook</b> Visit us on Facebook
	<b>Great Western Railway</b> Your Train Operator
	<b>Faresaver buses</b> Local services from Melksham
	<b>FromeBus</b> Services within Melksham
	<b>Coffee Shop</b> Our Passenger forum
	<b>TravelWatch SouthWest</b> Co-ordinating User's voices
	<b>TransWilts CIC</b> Community Rail Partnership
	<b>Community Rail Network</b> Formerly ACoRP