



**ROSPA ADVANCED DRIVERS  
And Riders  
North Wiltshire Group  
[www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk)**

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Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

## **Newsletter May 2008**

### **News and Information**

Congratulations to Andrew Horton, who has taken and passed his Diploma Holder Certificate. To gain this award Andrew not only had to do a practical drive he also had a theory test and also give a presentation. He also becomes an Advanced Tutor.

Congratulations to Monica on gaining a Gold Award on her car re-test.

We welcome three new bikers to the group, Ian Fancourt, Diane Hayes and Christopher Dyer. We also welcome Lauren Rodgers and her parents, Jackie and Alan, John King and David Soper all have joined the car section.

### **Questionnaire**

Monica will be sending out a questionnaire by post to all members to find out how the current membership feels about the group and the activities organised. This is your group, please give us your views!

### **Renewals**

Associates who join the group throughout the year get sent a reminder after the first twelve months, to renew their membership to the following October, when they fall in line with annual renewals for all members of the group. You will also get one phone call. If I do not receive these within two months of sending out the reminder you will automatically be deleted from our records and observation rides and drives will no longer be available to you.

Monica

### **Membership Fees**

As from June 2008 there will be an increase in our New Associate Membership fee to £20 which will include the Associate Manual for the Car section and "Not the Blue Book" for the Bike section. For New Associates under 21 there will be a decrease to £15. Membership renewal at the AGM in October will increase to £14.

## **Hi Viz Zipped Vest & White T shirts**

We have these available to buy at the monthly meetings. T shirts £10 Vests £15 both with our logo on. Please ask a Committee Member.

## **Speed Limits**

There has been comment that in some areas the national speed limit of 60mph is being reduced to 50mph for seemingly no apparent reason. The A417 between Faringdon and Wantage is one example. I happened to be talking to a local traffic policeman when he mentioned that the reason was not due to accidents or too many vehicles breaking the speed limit, but due to the fact that the EU has said that a percentage of roads should have certain speed limits on them to meet targets. For anyone who is interested the web page is:-

[http://www.erso.eu/knowledge/Fixed/70\\_qrst/quantitative%20road%20safety%20targets.pdf](http://www.erso.eu/knowledge/Fixed/70_qrst/quantitative%20road%20safety%20targets.pdf)

## **Monthly Meetings**

**Monthly meetings are all held at Liddington Village Hall opposite the church.**

### **Monday 9th June 2008, 7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Doug Newton will give a presentation on his work and experience at the Concorde Flight Test Centre.

### **Monday 14th July 2008, 7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Margaret Tester, from the Swindon Borough Council Road Safety Department.

**There is no meeting in August. Instead we have arranged to meet at Haynes Motor Museum. See details under events.**

## **Events**

***We are trying to promote the group in various ways during the year. Help for manning stalls would be very welcome. Please contact Monica if you can spare a couple of hours to do this please.***

### **Calne Bike Event Saturday 19th July 2008**

We have provisionally booked a stand at this event.

### **Wroughton Classic Car Show 2nd/3rd August 2008**

We have a stand booked for this for the weekend.

### **Castle Coombe Under 17 Car Club**

We have been invited to the Under 17 car club to help promote the group to younger drivers. It would be good to have a rota of members who would be willing to go with a committee member for 2-3 hours on a Sunday from 10.30am. Food is available from the restaurant there. Dates 1st & 29th June, 27th July, 31st August, 21st – 28th September 19th October and 2nd November.

## **Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, nr Yeovil, [www.haynesmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.haynesmotormuseum.co.uk)**

This visit has been set for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August. All welcome including partners. Meet at the museum café at Sparkford at 10.30. Entry £7.50 Senior Citizens £6.50

## **Pro Drive Banbury, 5 00pm, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008**

Tour last approximately 3 ½ hours. We will be taken on a tour of the site including the Heritage Centre which has cars from the past 22 years and from the race teams of Aston Martin, Ferrari, also the Subaru World Rally Team. They ask for a £20 donation to one of their chosen charities. If you wish to go send a cheque for £20 to Monica made payable to RoADAR North Wilts Group no later than 1<sup>st</sup> August. This will book your place. 18 is the maximum.

## **Car Skid Control Course at the Actiondrome, Wroughton airfield, August**

It is planned to arrange one or more visits to the skid school in August, see report below. Up to 6 people can participate at one time. The courses can be run weekdays or Saturdays. Saturdays will probably be favourite. An alternative is a weekday evening but it will have to start at about 5.30 to finish before dark. If you wish to go please contact Monica and let her know your favoured day or dates. If no replies – no bookings will be made. The most popular two dates will then be chosen and a cheque for £85 to Monica will be required to confirm the booking.

## **Talk by Max Tyler of the Actiondrome Skid Control Course**

Max gave a talk to a select few members on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

The car used is a 2 litre Ford Sierra which is mounted on a hydraulic cradle. This system gives the instructors the ability trim the weight on the wheels and hence the available tyre grip. This allows the driver to experience cornering, braking and acceleration in low grip situations such as wet and/or greasy roads or even ice. Front wheel and rear wheel skids are covered. The driver can also compare the steering and braking behaviour of the car with and without ABS. The cradle system allows all this to be experienced in a controllable manner at a speed which is fairly low, generally less than 30mph.

The pupil to instructor ratio is a maximum of 3 to 1. Whilst not driving the other pupils are in the back seat of the car and can learn from watching the others.

The control of the cradle height is versatile enough for the instructors to tailor the grip to the abilities of the pupil. This works two ways, you will be able to master as much as your skill allows, but, however good your car control, the instructor can put you in a situation beyond your capabilities. In other words, everybody loses control sometimes!

Six of us attended this course last year and found it interesting informative and useful. More information can be found at: -

<http://www.actiondromeskidcar.co.uk/?gclid=CKGY8fnzwZMCFQ8vQgodo1eODA>

**Geoff Sumerling**