



**ROSPA ADVANCED DRIVERS
And Riders
North Wiltshire Group**
www.northwiltroadar.co.uk

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Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Newsletter June 2008

Our Chairman Geoff Sumerling, was injured in an accident when six of the bikers went to Scotland to meet up with an ex member Jon Gambles. He will be out of action for some time; I take this opportunity to wish him a speedy recovery from the group. We have sent Geoff a basket of fruit and biscuits from the group. His text said "he has his suspicions of who may have been responsible for this" and thanks us all. At today's date Geoff may be back home sometime this week. Dates and events keep changing. I will put an update on the web page, **address at the top of this Newsletter.**

New Associates We welcome James Cleaver, a biker and Andrew Venman, a car driver to the group.

Questionnaire Monica has 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!

Membership Fees

Correction. 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 an increase to £16. Membership renewal at the AGM in October will increase to £14.

Can This be Legal? Taken from Letters page of the Telegraph Motoring Honest John

The Chief Constable of North Wales has installed a speed camera inside a horsebox on the A470 in the Conway Valley. Motorists who are traveling in this area may like to know.

Reply: Other speed camera partnerships are installing cameras in builders' vans. Next they will be disguising wheelie bins (as they do in other countries), prams and perhaps even down-and-outs, some of whom used to be successful businessmen until they accumulated 12 points and lost their jobs. You are not safe to drive anywhere quickly, even if it is safe to do so.

Hi Vis 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.

Associate Training

We are having a problem with New Associates joining the group, being allocated an observer and for one reason or another not continuing with regular drives or ride outs. This is beginning to cause a backlog of associates wanting to start their drives or rides. As we are trying to promote the group we need to keep members on track to continue to go out regularly with their observer's and then take their test. **This is after all what the aim of the group is.** It is understood that sometimes work or study takes you away and in that case please contact either your observer, Chris Glead or Glyn Davis so that arrangements can be made for someone else to be observed in your absence. Observers give their time up freely to promote safer driving and riding and consideration should be given to them

Monthly Meetings

Monday 14th July 2008, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

Margaret Tester, from the Swindon Borough Council Road Safety Department. Will talk on road safety planning in Swindon.

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

Monday 8th September 2008, 7.15pm for 7.45pm

Police Traffic Management Officer also involved with Incident Investigation Unit.

Monday 13th October 2008, 7.15 for 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting, Please think about joining the committee. We meet once a month, the more committee members we have helps make the group run smoothly. Then a talk by David Brewer, Clerk to the Justices for Wiltshire. David is an extremely interesting speaker and well worth coming to hear him. Part of the report of his last visit below.

David started his talk by introducing himself and the relationship within the legal structure. He is actually a barrister. His talk did not have the usual legal emphasis of 'this is the law and you have to follow it'. He questioned several aspects of the way the law had progressed and suggested that some recent events might prove to be a mistake and would need correcting later.

Monday 10th November 2008 7.15 for 7.30pm

Brendon Ball will talk about his trip to Vladivostock on his BMW motorcycle via Canada and Japan, taking dental equipment out to them... This has to be confirmed when he returns in October. His last talk was fascinating with slides and anecdotes.

Talk by Doug Newton - Concorde

A big hello to every one, my name is Andy Venman a newbie to the car group. I attended my first gathering this month. I was approached at the end of the meeting by Monica and asked to do a write up.

The guest speaker was Doug, a member of the Concorde test and development team. He gave a thoroughly interesting talk filled with anecdotes of his time on the test team His talk summed up

the serious times and fun times, the up's and down's, whilst developing the worlds first and only successful supersonic airliner.

Thank you Andy

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.

Castle Combe 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.

Calne Bike Event Saturday 19th July 2008

We have booked a stand at this event. We were lucky enough to be given a grant from the North Wilts Community Council for a marquee for this event. It is important that we make every effort to put on a good promotional stand as the grant by North Wilts district Council for the marquee was based around the event. Although this is a bike event it does not stop us encouraging drivers to join the group and understand the problems the bikers have. Geoff obviously will not be around and Monica has a prior engagement So PLEASE, if you can help to give out leaflets and information for sometime during the day contact Monica.

Wroughton Classic Car Show 2nd/3rd August 2008

We have a stand booked for this for the weekend.

Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, nr Yeovil, (<http://www.haynesmotormuseum.co.uk/>)

This visit has been set for Saturday 16th 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 1st 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 1st 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. Cost £85. 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. I believe we may get a discount.

Karting at Andover

We thought this might be a fun thing to do. 14 -24 drivers at £39.95 each. I am happy to arrange this for a Saturday either in September or October. I cannot book this until I have some idea of numbers and then I will want your money before I book. Your name on the list is commitment to do this so it means you will have made a note in your diary too.



Visit to the Morgan factory – 23rd May 2008

We lucky dozen were privileged to have a tour around the Morgan works in Malvern (price £5). It was a delight – no megalomania there. The boss Charles Morgan has an agreeably scruffy office with an open door just inside the first building. All the people in the works were tolerant of our shuffling round and questioning them on what they were doing, and were SKILLED. Skilled woodworkers made up the underpinnings of the aluminium panels (there seems to be as much woodwork in a 4/4 as in a Marcos), skilled tinsmiths and sheet metal people formed and fitted the panels, skilled seamstresses made up the seats and hoods, skilled assembly people put all the bits together. Morgan supports a lot of apprentices.

We were taken around by Dixon Smith, a 74 year old vice-President of the Morgan Sports Car Club, an ex dynamometer engineer and Morgan driver and racer (hill-climbs a speciality) of some 50 years standing. Love of the cars and the company ran deep in him. He took us around the works where they build the 4/4 – the world's longest lived production car at 72 years (launched 1936 to save you the maths) – as well as the more whizzy later models with IRS, Al to Al bonding, etc. etc. There was nary a drawing to be seen around the works; the wooden parts are cut on jigs (and the laminated curved bits over the wheel arches cold assembled on 1950s jigs) and put together. The aluminium panels are then formed by eye to fit over resultant assembly, so getting a replacement door or bonnet would be tricky business.

Well over half the production goes overseas, and they expect loads of foreign visitors in 2010 – their centenary. By a wide margin it is the oldest car company in the world still in its original ownership. We had a wonderful day out and wonderful bacon butties in the canteen, and wish the company well. Many thanks too were due to Monica who arranged our visit.

Alexander K.W.