



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



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

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Newsletter August 2008

News and Information

Welcome to: -

We welcome the following new members to the group. All Bikers!
Marion Cager, Alison Daniels. Barbara Sealey, John McCrea and Christopher Samson

We also Welcome Tim Hutt from Tewkesbury, and Andrew Meredith from Bristol both have offered help tutoring for the bikes

Congratulations to: -

Roger Tamplin, Car Gold Re test and Mark Hopkins Gold

Hi Viz Zipped Vest & T shirts

We have these available to buy at the monthly meetings. White T shirts £10, Hi Viz Vests £15 both with our logo on. Please ask a Committee Member. I am hoping to order more of these but changing the T Shirt to a navy polo shirt again printed with a logo for £16

Monthly Meetings

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

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 7.45pm

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. We will then have 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: -

“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 7.45pm

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.

Monday 8th December 2008 7.15pm for 7.45pm Speaker to be arranged.

Do you have a Topic you would like discussed or know of an interesting speaker? Please contact Monica by email, or on the phone number above.

Meeting and Event reports

First Aid Scotland

On 23 Feb 2008 I attended a RoSPa first aid course specifically aimed at motorcyclists.

The course was a one day event, run by Rubicon First Aid Ltd and organised by Monica. It was a really well structured with excellent instructors, covering all aspects of dealing with a motorbike incident, from managing the casualty to managing the incident scene. However I had no idea just how useful the course was going to be in the forthcoming months...

On the Friday 6th June, seven of us headed up to the wilds of Scotland for a five day trip around the Highlands. We had already spent a brilliant two days searching out interesting roads and great views and the weather was being kind to us for a change.

On the third day we were travelling on an 'A' road around Loch Ness. I was travelling third in the group, with Geoff leading and about six cars between me and the bike in front. I rounded a bend to be faced with the nightmare scenario of stationary traffic and debris scattered across the carriageway. Through the traffic, I could see Geoff's motorbike lying on its side and Geoff lying motionless in the road on the opposite carriageway.

After the initial reaction of total panic (which always comes first on these occasions), the training I had received on the course back in Feb just automatically kicked in. An ambulance and the police had already been called by one of the motorists so that was one thing we didn't need to do.

The training taught us to firstly to assess the casualty. The course gave me the confidence to know that once we had checked that Geoff was conscious and breathing properly and that he had no obvious bleeding, he could be left with one of the group to keep him still and comfortable until the ambulance arrived.

The rest of us could then get on with managing the accident scene. Helmets were wrapped in hi-vis jackets and placed around Geoff to make him more visible to traffic. One of us then went to each end of the incident site, again wearing hi-vis jackets, to direct the traffic through and safely around Geoff.

On hearing that the car involved in the accident had stopped further down the road in a lay-by, two other members of the group set off and managed to calm the female driver down until the police arrived on the scene.

Once the ambulance and police arrived, we were able to give them as full a picture of the incident as possible, including details of witnesses and action taken. The police later commented

that they had been impressed by the actions of the group in managing the situation, particularly the interactions with the other driver involved.

At the hospital, Geoff was found to have a broken clavicle, a broken tibia and fibula and three broken ribs and spent several weeks in Inverness hospital. He is now home and we wish him a continuing speedy recovery.

When you go on these courses, you always hope you'll never need to use your skills but, in this case, the course was instrumental in giving us the confidence to handle the situation as effectively as possible. Excellent course – highly recommended either for novice first aiders or as a refresher course.

Carl Law

If you'd like to attend this course, please contact Monica Graham...

Talk by Margaret Tester - 14th July 2008

Margaret Tester, from the Swindon Borough Council Road Safety Department, very kindly agreed to come and talk to the group about what Swindon was doing in relation to road safety.

It was a pity that only 10 members turned up to the talk, especially as the next day one of the Swindon Councillors went to the national press complaining about the cameras in Swindon, stating that the money spent on the cameras could be used elsewhere in relation to road safety.

As I listened to the Swindon politicians fighting it out on Sky et al, I noted that they did not mention that 10,000 people had attended Speed Awareness Workshops in Swindon in the past 2 years. 400 of those who attended the course were from outside the borough, the rest were from Swindon. If the cameras were not there 9600 people from Swindon wouldn't have benefited from the courses. The courses are self funding and not profit making.

Of course if the Politicians and Press had come to the meeting on Monday they would have found all this out from the talk that Margaret gave to us. They would also have discovered that there is actually a lot of proactive action being taking especially where young people are concerned. Last year in Swindon alone, about 5000 school children were given talks by relevant figures from the Road safety personnel about different aspects of road safety. The idea being to target them while they are young and impressionable. There is also a new venture that the Road Safety Dept. has signed up to, called Bare-Bones.org, which is targeting young scooter riders through the training organisations.

Margaret talked about a lot of different issues, too many to recount here, and was also happy to answer all our questions even if it went outside her territory of Swindon. So having heard about all the positive things that the Road Safety Dept. is doing in Swindon, I thought it was a shame that none of it got a mention by the politicians who appeared on the news the next day. But I guess once speed cameras get mentioned the debate turns into the usual 'tax gathering by stealth devices', and the truth gets lost along the way. I suppose if you want to hear the truth and get your questions answered in an unbiased way then it might be worth attending the next talk that we have on the subject. Then not only will you know what is really going on but you can pass on the information to other people.

Matthew Carlsson

Calne Bike Day July 19th 2008

I woke to a sunlit morning with birds singing and thoughts of my usual Saturday bacon and eggs. No time – it's the third Saturday of the month – N. Wilts Ride-out. Grab a quick bowl of muesli to avoid spoiling my appetite for the breakfast stop, the cake stop, the lunch stop and the afternoon tea stop. These rides are pretty demanding on the stomach.

No!

Wait!

Today is special.

N. Wilts are hosting a ROSPA Drivers and Riders stand at the Calne Bike show.

Arriving in Calne the streets were deserted; a solitary Somerfield carrier bag blowing down the gutter. And a 4x4 practicing eight-point turns with a trailer attached. I park my bike at the entrance to the lawn upon which our marquee will proudly stand – an edifice to the cause of safer roads. Then Monica pulls up in a 4x4 with a trailer. I make enquiries on her behalf and determine the route needed to get the trailer next to the lawn entrance. Left, left again and then stop. We detached the trailer and man-handled it down hundreds of yards of tree covered lane to the field entrance and enquire as to the location of our stand. We have been allocated a double pitch – quite close to the single pitch upon which would eventually reside the I.A.M. gazebo; hardly bigger than an umbrella.

John WM and Kevin arrived in time for the unpacking and laying the foundations of the marquee. This was no trouble at all. In less than 20 minutes we had established that the marquee was a square; nineteen minutes of speculation, trial and error, followed by one minute to read the flippin manual.

John, Mark and Kevin slaved for hours under the blazing sun without food or drink. Not since the erection of the great pyramids had poor wretches been worked so mercilessly, driven on by the lash of Monica's tongue. And the Egyptians did not have to take the roof off and put it back up again the right way around.

Dripping with perspiration and gasping for breath, the three Marqueeeters stood back to appreciate their labours. Then Chris Gleed shows up. I am sure that was him I saw hiding behind the oak tree about 15 minutes ago watching us work.

John and Mark proudly park their bikes next to the huge construction – then clear off to a café for tea and bacon sarnies. Returning heroically with water for those that bravely stayed to man fort.

Then Tim and Liz show up. They too park bikes next to the stand. The four machines form quite a display – three magnificent specimens of modern motorcycle design and construction – and Tim's BMW.

Chris, Tim and Liz draw in the punters, they have the slick language and the ROSPA buzz words. They could sell snow to Eskimos. Mark and John stand near their bikes in their leathers - a bit of eye candy for the ladies. Chris Gleed operates like a panther pouncing on a poor defenceless baby deer. The innocent passing public don't have a chance as he moves in,

dazzling them with his bespoke N. Wilts conspicuity waist-coat. Tim works the ladies like a lounge lizard. Within minutes of Mark's wife arriving he has her signed up and is offering to take her to a car park for a slow ride.

Colin Reeves, who runs the Wiltshire bike-safe, called into the stand. Colin is looking to refer significant numbers of bikers on for further training. Apparently there are too many for his current contacts to cope with. This sounded like a very good opportunity to obtain new members. The Police took 20 each car and bike leaflets. I have the dates and locations for the next bike

safe events. Maybe we should arrange to show a face during one of their lunches or coffee breaks.

12 people took membership Application forms and Monica has already had an enquiry about joining.

Salah Hayek, Carl Law, Bill Cork and Chris Dyer manned the stand for the afternoon took the marquee down and got it back to Monica's.

Marquee Mark

NSPCC Piers to Piers - Big Bike Ride 27th June to 29th June 2008



Julian, Dave, Mary, Mike, Pete, Jon, Carl, Sue, Lynda & Marilyn
Money raised for the Swindon branch of the NSPCC this trip - **£1,366**
Total money raised for the 3 Bike Bike Rides over 3 years - **£4,540**

Meeting point on the 27th was Tesco's, Dave & Sue, Mike & Mary, Pete & Marilyn and Jon left for their 3 day trip, spot on 9.30am. We all headed south to meet up with Julian at his home near Salisbury on the way to the New Forest. During that time we experiences light rain which soon cleared. We stopped for a light lunch at The Buttery at Brock & Bruin which was a lovely village before continuing our journey in the picturesque forest. Our first stop was at Hythe Pier (1879), due to heavy traffic we rode past Southsea (1879) and headed for the next pier which was Worthing (1861). We then carried on to Brighton Palace Pier (1899), where we managed to stretch our legs walking to the end of the pier, and also took photos of the original Chain Pier which was destroyed by a storm in 1896. We then travelled on to Eastbourne Pier (1866) before arriving at The Grand Hotel in Hasting after 7pm for our overnight stop, ending the first day journey of 204 miles. This is where Carl and Lynda joined us. This hotel was the subject of the

TV programme “Hotel Inspector”. We had a super meal at a restaurant called the “Pomegranit” in the centre of Hastings.

The second day started at 9.15am with us visiting Hastings Pier (1862) before travelling onto Deal Pier (1838), passing through Folkestone and Dover. We carried along the south east coast via Margate to Herne Bay where we stopped for a very nice fish & chip lunch sitting on the promenade overlooking the sea with the sun shining and very warm. We then walked to the Pier at Herne Bay which can only boast a shoreward end rather than a proper pier. Due to the time factor we had to make up time by travelling on motorway and bypasses going through the Dartford Tunnel to Southend Pier (1830). We experienced very heavy traffic during some of the journeys and eventually arrived at The Lemon Tree Hotel in Clacton on Sea again about 7pm, after another 226 miles. The evening saw us walk a short distance to another super restaurant “Terraze Mediterranean”, where once again we experienced excellent hospitality and food.

The third and last day we walked to Clacton Pier (1871) which was very close to our Hotel. We left Clacton on Sea at about 10.15 heading to Walton on the Naze for our very last Pier (1830) this was one of the earliest such structures in the country. We travelled west heading towards Aylesbury via some lovely country roads and some very good riding. We stopped at Aylesbury for a late lunch, where Julian then left us to travel back home. We continued to Faringdon where Carl & Lynda left the group. The rest of continued onto Swindon, where we went our different ways home, mileage that day was 211. Another great trip with great company.

On behalf everybody who took part in the trip, we would like to thank Dave Hooper for all his time and hard work in organising the routes and hotels, and everything else in between.

Our thanks to both The Grand Hotel, Hastings, and The Lemon Tree, Clacton on Sea for their very kind donations to the NSPCC which are always gratefully received.

Dave Hooper