



**RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders**

**North Wiltshire Group**

[www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltsroadar.co.uk)



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

# Newsletter

**September 2008**

**Secretary:**

Mrs. Monica Graham  
114 Marines Drive  
Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7UG  
Tel: 01367 242377  
secretary.nwg.roadar@googlemail.com

## Dates for Your Diary

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

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October,  
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: AGM/David Brewer, Clerk to the Justices for Wiltshire

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November,  
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Brendon Ball

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November,  
10am-4pm**

Event: Swindon Outlet Centre **Help Required!**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December,  
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Chris Ellis, RoSPA Car Examiner.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009,  
7.00pm for 7.30pm**

Christmas Meal at The Village Inn, Liddington

**Do you have a Topic you would like discussed, or know of an interesting speaker? Please contact Monica!**



**Welcome to the new look newsletter!** Since it is AGM time again we thought we'd give the newsletter a bit of a revamp, and also look back at some of the things we've done, and the events we've attended over the last year. For those who joined in, we hope that the pictures on the first page bring back some happy memories! Whether you were involved or not, we've plenty planned for the next year so book the dates in your diary now! Here are just a few things that we've done during the last year:

- **Ridden all the way to Germany** (and back) on the Biker's trip to Germany
- **Learnt to crash** in safety in the Wroughton Skid Car.
- **Discovered how to make cars from wood** at the Morgan Motor Company.
- **Caught colds** in the pouring rain during a recruitment drive outside Halfords in Swindon.
- **Ate far too much** at the Christmas meal.
- **Encouraged under-age driving** with the Under 17's Car Club
- Discovered who's **spent far too much time in the pub** during the skittles evening.
- **Learnt how to erect a tent** as the new marquee got its first use at the Calne bike event.
- **Raised lots of money for charity** on the NSPCC "Piers All Round" Big Bike Ride.
- **Discovered what it takes to be a World Rally Champion** at the Prodrive factory.
- **Spent lots of time in the sun** at the Wroughton Classic Car show
- **Learnt what to do when your mate has "an off"** on the First Aid Course for Bikers.
- **Rode all the way to Scotland** (and some came back) on the Biker's Scotland Tour.

We've also had a fantastic range of interesting speakers at the **regular monthly meetings**, including 'Driving God' Chris Gilbert, 'Dentist on a Bike' Brendon Ball, Mark Harris from ITC First Aid (who seems to have come across so many accidents, that I wonder who's causing them?) and Max Tyler from Actiondrome Skid Car Training (who probably gets through more tyres than petrol).

Finally, there have been the **regular Biker's ride-outs** with destinations including Long Mynd in Shropshire, The Big Pit in Blaenavon and The Ace Café in London.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to **Steve Brandt** who gained Gold in his Bike test. Tutor: Glyn.

## News and Information

We would like to congratulate **Tim and Liz** who are expecting an addition to their family in February 2009. They are both retiring from the committee and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the past three years they have served on the committee.

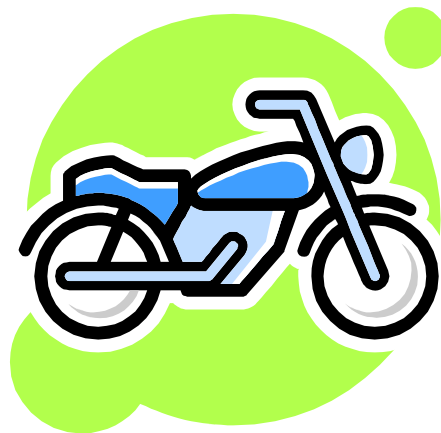
We will also be losing **Chris Gleed**, not only as a committee member, but also as our Associate/Tutor/Car co-ordinator and as Car Section Training Officer. He will still be a tutor for the group and be available for help and advice to members. He has been a long standing member, given many hours in tutoring and has been instrumental in keeping the group together. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for all he has done for the group.

We have been fortunate in getting Andrew Horton to take over the post as Car Training Officer (with help from Chris) and Kevin Hugo has offered to be the Car Section Associate/Tutor Co-ordinator as from the AGM next month, but we will still more people to help on the committee. **Please think about this**, and if you or anyone you know would like to be nominated onto the committee please complete the nomination forms that you should have received with your AGM Notification, or contact Monica.

## Welcome!

Welcome to our new car associates **Vivienne Wooley** and **Brian Ellis**.

Welcome also to our new bike associates **Richard Hayes** and **Freddie Bowden**.



I was reading in the paper that if motorists are stuck in a jam in town they should turn off their engines (unless they're in a lorry with a freezer unit). If not, they could be fined £20! This is starting in West Sussex. *Another way to get money from the motorists?*

## Forthcoming Meetings

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Annual General Meeting.** As you will have read above we are losing three members from the committee, and we will be looking for at least three more members to join the committee. **Please think about it** and contact Monica if you are even slightly interested in joining the committee. We need fresh faces and fresh ideas. This will help the group to continue to move forward! After the business meeting **David Brewer** Clerk to the Justices for Wiltshire will be talking about **“Is the Law Fair to Motorists?”** I think we will all find this an interesting talk and give us much to think about.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Brendon Ball.** Yes he is back, I have checked! No permanent damage, but the bike won't win any prizes! **Please come** and hear more of his trip to Vladivostok via Canada and Japan. Very interesting speaker and, by the sounds of it, he has many tales to tell.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 7.15pm for 7.45pm: Chris Ellis, RoSPA Car Examiner.** Come along and find out what is expected of both Tutors and Associates. He will answer any questions you may have.

**2009:** We have an interesting list of speakers booked for next year's meetings including Dave Jones who wrote 'Not The Blue Book'. **Watch this space!**

## Events

**Swindon Outlet Centre: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 10.00am – 4.00pm. Help required.** This is a good opportunity to encourage all sections of the public to take their Advanced Test. Please contact Monica if you can help.

**Christmas Meal: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 7.00pm for 7.30pm.** The Village Inn, Liddington. Three Course Meal: £15.95. The Menu is at the end of this newsletter. To reserve your place send your cheque made payable to **RoADAR North Wilts Group to Monica by 20<sup>th</sup> December. Include your Menu choices please!** This is very popular! Husbands/wives, partners and friends are welcome. **Please book early.**

### Apologies!

I would like to apologise to Pete and Marilyn Kempshall. They wrote the article in last month's newsletter about the Piers Trip for the NSPCC and not Dave Hooper. I wondered why I had an email from Dave saying he had no recollection of writing it!

**Monica**

## Under 17 Car Club

As some of you know, I am very keen that youngsters should be encouraged to take their Advanced Driving Test after they have passed their standard driving test. I discovered the Under 17 Car Club by accident four years ago, unfortunately too late for my son Thomas, who was then sixteen. They start driving at the age of thirteen in their parent's cars, at Castle Combe and at other venues where they can.

This year I managed to be invited to go along to the Castle Combe track with other members of our group to see what they did and how. Hopefully you will have read the reports in the newsletters this year. Since my first visit I have been to every meeting this year and am very impressed. The tuition given includes speed awareness, first aid, theory, the Highway Code and, last but not least, they have to know what is under the bonnet and how it works!

I am always amazed at how confident the youngsters are, how disciplined and how much they protect their activity, in so much as if anyone sees someone driving irresponsibly, they are all called in from the track and the matter is discussed and sorted. Not only are Wiltshire Police involved but other Police Forces are taking an interest.

In September I was approached by one of their Committee for my views on taking the youngsters on after they pass their 'L' test at seventeen, to take them to do their RoSPA Advanced Test. **Excited! I was over the moon!** This is just what I have been hoping for. At seventeen the youngsters are sort of cast aside, as they

can no longer drive with the club unless they continue as marshals, which many of them do.

It has obviously got to be discussed by all concerned, but I am hopeful that we can move this forward.

I joined the group, not only because I thought I was quite a good, considerate driver, and to prove to myself I could do it, but also to encourage others to improve their driving. If we can get 17/18 year olds to take the Advanced test, then it is a start, and hopefully they will continue to be retested every three years. Yes, I know some will fall by the wayside but we have to, as an organisation, start somewhere. The government will not do a lot except find new ways of trying to slow traffic down, and certainly I see no signs of them helping to continue to educate motorists. It will mean giving up some time on a Sunday, not every Sunday, and they will probably not need many drives since the ex-Under 17 Car Club members that have taken their RoSPA test already have all passed gaining Gold.

**Now I want your help!** There are one or two people interested in becoming an instructor for the Under 17 Car Club, but as a group we will need Tutors to help get them through their Advanced Test. We are going to run a new Tutors course shortly, so **please** give it some, no, a lot of thought!

**Monica Graham**

## **September's Meeting Report – Roger Blythin, Wiltshire Police**

Roger Blythin of Wiltshire Police, who spoke on how and why the police investigate fatal road incidents, got a full and enthusiastic audience for the group's first autumn meeting.

He started off by explaining the purpose of these inquiries which is not just to get someone to court (in fact that's quite a low priority) but to try to find the reasons for the incident. Each fatal crash brings with it family tragedy but also an average cost of £1.6 million so the total cost of our annual 3,500 road deaths is more than £5.5 billion. That's a big incentive to cut them by finding out their causes. There's very rarely just one reason for an incident - always two or more. Speed is an important factor in most; driver error, and road layouts too. Plain stupidity sometimes; he showed us a video of rubberneckers running into each other as they slowed down to look at a motorway accident on the opposite carriageway.

Roger explained why an accident investigation can easily take a year to sort out, even though the causes may seem quite simple to the average man sitting in his car. Witnesses don't always get it right. An examination of the scene and the vehicles may tell a different story. He had one case where the witnesses all said they saw a car overtaking. None did. The car was a foreign driver on the wrong side of the road.

He talked about the priorities at the scene. Make the situation safe, then attend to casualties or the first accident may be followed by a second with even more injuries - this nearly happened to him at the

first incident he attended. Sometimes roads must be closed to preserve what is in effect a crime scene for a more detailed examination. Responsibilities are divided up. One officer is in overall charge. Another looks at the physical situation, skid marks on road, position of vehicles and casualties etc. Another interviews witnesses who may tell a different story or may be lying. Another checks for vehicle defects so that when a driver says his brakes suddenly failed he can be proved right or wrong. And finally, and introduced recently, there is a family liaison officer whose job is to help the family, including breaking the news of a death, who may come to the accident scene as well.

Roger showed us a DVD of a fictitious fatal incident made by an army officer who had been the driver when three of his passengers were killed. It affected him so much that he became a campaigner for safer driving. The DVD showed how complicated the tasks of the police, paramedics and fire brigade are at an incident and how they work together; the firemen cut apart a car to get at the injured while the paramedics try to keep them alive.

Roger's talk led to lots of questions. We discussed the causes of accidents, dodderly old drivers (do you make them have retests and how do you do so), young drivers (should the starting age limit be raised), should people drive other types of vehicles (so that car drivers, for instance, would realise how difficult it is to drive an HGV), and should people be shown horrific pictures of accidents to make them drive better. No, said our speaker, it just puts them off but doesn't improve their driving.

Finally our chairman, pretty well recovered from his own recent incident, thanked Roger and brought a lively and interesting evening to a close.

**Pat Wheare**

**Thank You to everyone who turned up for September's Meeting.** It made it all worthwhile.

I will try and get Roger back sometime next year to talk about the bike side of accidents. As a result of his video I would like to get a First Aid course for Cars booked for next February. It will be a similar cost to last year's (about £65) which included tea/coffee, biscuits, lunch and afternoon refreshments.

**Warning!**

If you have had a new photo driving licence for 10 years it must be renewed, and I have heard that renewal notices are not always sent out. Fine £1000!



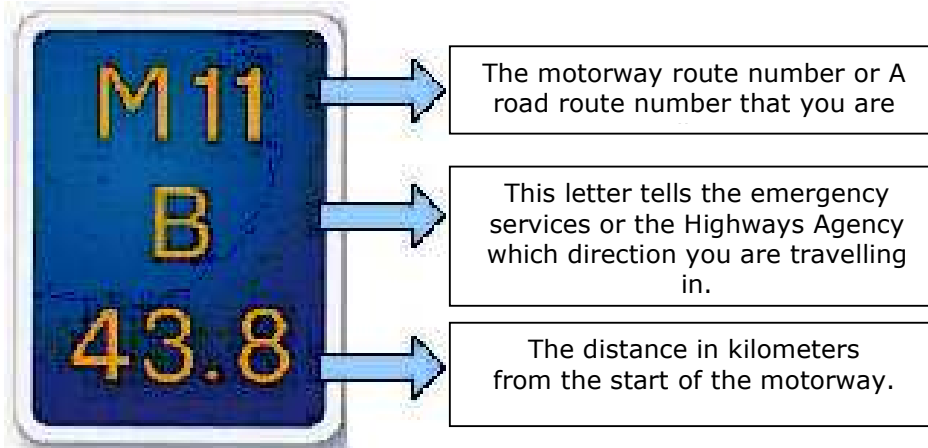
We are always looking for articles, information and news to go into the newsletter. If you wish to make any contribution, please either post or email it to Monica. Or you can put something on the Web site at [www.northwiltsoadardar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltsoadardar.co.uk)

It is there for you to use!

## New Traffic Information Sign: Driver Location Sign

### What is a driver location sign?

A sign by the side of a motorway or all-purpose trunk road that tells you:



### What do I use the sign for?

If you witness an incident such as a road traffic collision or debris on the road, tell the emergency services or Highways Agency what is written on the nearest sign to you (remember, it is illegal to use a mobile phone when driving, use a hands free kit, or ask a passenger to use a mobile). This will help the emergency services to get to the correct location quickly.

To Report:

Road Traffic Incidents / Collisions - dial 999 or 112

Debris - call Highways Agency Information Line 08457 50 40 30

New signs are now being installed on priority routes across the country that will let you know where you are if you want to report a problem on the motorway:

Area	Routes Covered	Installation Complete
South West	M5 J15 - J31	Completed
	M49	Completed
	M4 Jct 15-22	Completed
	M48	Completed
	M5 - J9 to J15	2008/2009
	M32 J1 to J3	2008/2009
London and South East	M27 J5-J12 and M271 from M27 J3 to Southampton	Completed
	M4 J5 - J12	2008/2009
	M4 J13 - J15	2008/2009
	M3 J3 - J14	2008/2009
	M4 J1- J5	2008/2009

	M3 J1 – MP37/4 (Between Jcts 2-3)	2008/2009
	M26 J3 / M25 J3 – M20	2008/2009
	M11 J4 - J7	Spring 2008
South East	A404 (M)	2008/2009
East	M11 J7 - J14	Completed
	M1 - J10 to J19	2008/2009
	M1 - J24 to 25	2008/2009
	M1 - J28 to 30	2008/2009
Midlands	M6 J4 - J8	Spring 2008
	M6 J8 - J12	Spring 2008
	M6 J0 - J4	Completed
	M6 J12 - J16	Completed
	M42	Completed
	M5 - M6 J8 to J9	2008/2009
	M40 - J15 to M42 3A	2008/2009
	M1 - J19 to 24	2008/2009
North West	M62 J18 - A1	Completed
	M62 J6 - J12	Completed
	M56 J9 – A5103	Completed
	M56 J9 - J16	Completed
North East	M62 J18 - A1	Completed
	M62 J18 - A1	Completed
	M1 - J42 to 48	2008/2009
	A1 (M) - J56 to J65	2008/2009
South East, Midlands	M40 J1 - J15	Completed

## **Christmas Meal Menu 2009**

### **Village Inn 790314**

Soup of the day

Melon and Prawn Cocktail

Pate with Melba Toast

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Homemade Beef Bourginon  
Beef Cooked in Red Wine with Bacon, Mushrooms and Onion

Roast Lamb with Mint Sauce

Homemade Steak and Ale Pie  
Chunks of Beef Cooked with our Local Beer.

Homemade Game Keepers Chicken  
Chicken Breast Cooked with Mushrooms and Onion in Red Wine

Fish Cakes  
With Creamy Parsley Sauce

Homemade Wild Mushroom Goulash  
Wild Mushrooms with Walnuts in Creamy Sauce.

Lasagne Verdi  
Served with a Crisp Salad Garnish and Garlic Bread

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Sweet Board and Coffee

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Three Courses £15.95