



**RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders  
North Wiltshire Group**

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



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

**April 2009**

# Newsletter

**Secretary:**

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

## Dates for Your Diary

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

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May,  
7.15pm for 7.45pm**

Meeting: Dave Jones, author of "Not the Blue Book"

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

Meeting: Colin Reeves, Bike Safe

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

Meeting: Julian Burton and Rob Braybrooke.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

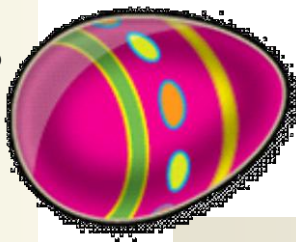
Calne Bike Event.

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

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Alan Rogers** who recently passed his car test with Silver. His Tutor was **Andrew Horton** and his Examiner was Rob Braybrook.

**We hope that everyone enjoyed the Easter holiday!**



## Welcome!

Welcome to the following new members who have joined the group recently...

**Peter Bailey** (car)  
**David Brown** (bike)

## Forthcoming Meetings

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 7.15pm for 7.45pm:** Dave Jones, author of “Not the Blue Book”.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 7.15pm for 7.45pm:** Colin Reeves from Bike Safe.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:** Julian Burton and Rob Braybrooke on their trip to Morocco. Both are members of our group.

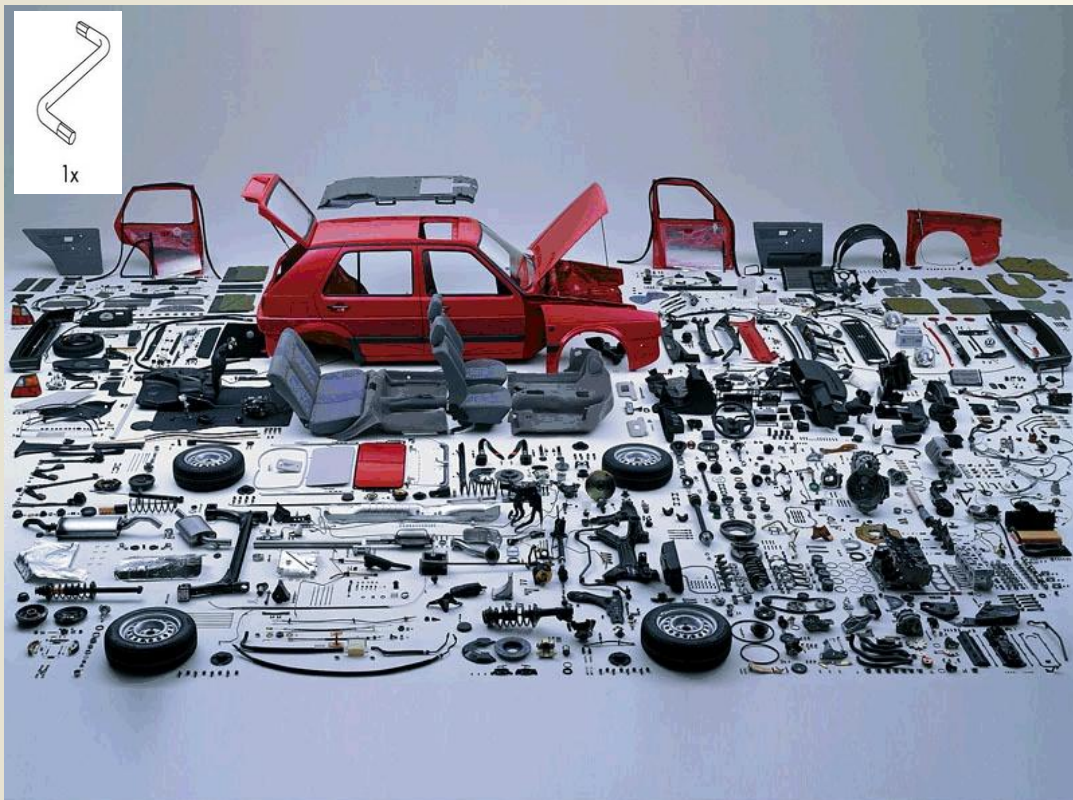
## Events

### **Saturday 25th July: Calne Bike Event.**

This proved very successful last year so we will be erecting the marquee again this year! **Help is required** to man the stall so please contact Monica if you can spare a few hours during the day.

**Bike Ride-outs:** Don't forget that regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Check the Motorcycle Discussion section on the Web Site Forum for more details.

## Could it be that Ikea is about to start selling cars?



## March Meeting Report: Mike Horn

A select but active audience joined us for an evening with Mike Horn on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> March. Mike is a RoADAR examiner in the Oxfordshire area, and brings a tremendous background to the job. When he retired from Thames Valley Police in the mid '90s, Mike was the longest-serving traffic officer in the UK. He promised us controversy, and we certainly got it!

Mike started with a brief driving biography of himself, beginning in Africa at the age of 13, including some rather dubious "borrowing" of a convenient Mercedes, progressing through road rallying, IAM, and eventually joining the Police in the early '70s. Mike soon moved to Traffic, where, after his advanced training (a 6 week residential course in those days) he spent the next 20+ years. He described himself as the typical "old-style" traffic cop, capable of dispensing a fearsome roadside telling-off, but with a twinkle in his eye as he described this procedure. More recently Mike has been employed by ProDrive amongst others, delivering advanced driver training to the general public on specialist action days.

Over the next hour or so we were treated to Mike's rather unique view on driving, including proper seat adjustment, positioning on the road (including some very forthright views on mini-roundabouts!), commentary (which he considers an essential part of an advanced drive) manoeuvres (some never to be used again after passing the DSA test) and a few war stories to lighten the mix. Copious questions from the audience punctuated his talk, and Mike was never afraid to offer an informed opinion, straight from the

shoulder. If you take your RoADAR test in Oxfordshire and Mike is officiating, you can be certain of a friendly, no-nonsense approach from your examiner, backed up by a wealth of experience in all fields of driving.

**Nick Carrington.**



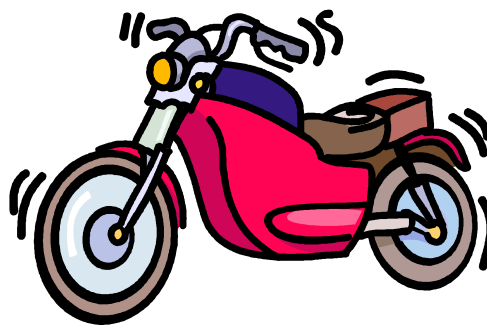
Please keep Monica up to date with any changes to your contact details, including changes to email addresses and phone numbers (both mobile and land line).

## March Ride Out

The weather for the March Ride Out was perfect: a little chilly first thing, but dry, sunny and warm with great visibility. The group started from Swindon and had a second pick up point at the Kingsmeadow services in Cirencester. In total there were 11 bikes including a number of associates. At this point admiration of the new '09 Ducati Monster was compulsory.

After a briefing making sure that everyone understood the marker drop off system we set off for the National Motorcycle museum at Solihull. The marker drop-off system means that the second bike stops at a safe place indicated by the leader whenever there is a deviation from straight-on, to indicate the direction of the route to the other riders. Once all but one rider have passed the marker re-joins in front of the last rider who always stays at the back. This means that no-one gets lost and no-one is under pressure to keep up, so everyone can ride at their own pace.

We stopped a couple of times on the way so that the group could re-form as inevitably we get split up at traffic lights, junctions and roundabouts. We didn't find a convenient burger van on the way so as soon as we got to the museum, everyone dived for the restaurant, which was surprisingly reasonably priced. After a refreshment pit-stop we headed into the museum itself. There are over 650 bikes in the 5 exhibition halls spanning 60 years of motorcycle manufacturing in this country. One or two members of the group could identify bikes they used to ride many moons ago, but it was still an interesting destination for the rest of us.



We took a different route back and had a stop at Stratford-on-Avon. It was warm enough to sit outside but the biggest disappointment of the day was the failure of the ice-cream to turn up! As it was a pleasant Saturday afternoon there were a large number of bikers about. This can occasionally get a little confusing when they end up mixed in with the group, but with only 11 bikes it's reasonably easy to recognise everyone after a while. We stuck to the main roads on this ride and made our way back to Cirencester once again, where we stopped to say goodbye and split off in different directions.

I covered 160 miles in total from Chippenham which was just about perfect for the time of year and an enjoyable day out. The group was mixed with a number of associates and some much more experienced members, but if you haven't been before then everyone is really friendly and it's a great way for associates to get some experience. Les brought his camera so hopefully there should be some photos coming soon. Rideouts are on the 3rd Saturday of the month, the next one being 18th April, so why not join us?

### Lisa Wilcox

*Perhaps all bikers on ride outs should wear our Hi Viz Zipped Jackets, and then you would all be easily recognisable as well as helping to promote the group? See back page!*

## **All routes lead to Liddington!** **(The North Wilts RoADAR Driving Day)**

9:00 am may seem a little early to be arriving at the pub on a Saturday morning, but on the 28th March I found myself doing exactly that. As I turned into the car park of the Village Inn in Liddington I discovered that I was not alone, as a variety of car makes, models and styles were already parked up. I then noticed some friendly faces congregating in the corner and made my way towards them, keen to get started. But we were not there for an early morning drinking session; we were there for the first North Wilts RoADAR Driving Day!

The day was the brainchild of our Treasurer, Nick, and was run in association with the [advanced-driving.co.uk](http://advanced-driving.co.uk) internet forum. As such, the group was made up from members of both North Wilts RoADAR and ADUK. We were split into pairs; where possible each RoADAR member was paired with an ADUK member so that we both had the opportunity to drive with someone with whom we hadn't done previously.

Nick helpfully provided us with a choice of pre-prepared circular routes, all starting from, and ending at the Village Inn in Liddington. Each route had been carefully planned to take in some of the best driving roads in the area. I started off the day paired with Tony, an IAM observer and ADUK member, who volunteered to drive me first in his V6 Mondeo. Tony selected a route that took us through Foxhill, Ashbury, and Fernham, and onto Faringdon, Coleshill and Highworth before returning to Liddington via Shrivenham, Hinton Parva and Wanborough. This was a most enjoyable drive on some great roads with Tony making good, smooth progress throughout. At the end of the drive we had a short de-brief then it was my turn to chauffeur Tony in the 123D. I opted for a route that took us through Foxhill and Ashbury then onto Lambourne, Childrey and Stanford in the Vale, before heading back via Uffington, Ashbury and Wanborough. We made it back to Liddington at around 11am which left plenty of time for some more driving before lunch. So it was back into Tony's Mondeo and off to Marlborough via Aldbourne and Ramsbury before returning to Liddington through Ogbourne St George, Chiseldon and Badbury.

Arriving back again around noon, we were delighted to find that the pub was now open. The first few members of the group were already inside so it was time to join them for a hearty pub lunch. Tables had been reserved and the usual high standard of cuisine provided by the Village Inn was enjoyed by all.

After lunch I was paired with Jon, another ADUK member as well as a RoSPA Gold



holder. This time I drove first, choosing a route that took us to Wantage via Ashbury and Childrey, and onto Chieveley, Newbury, Hungerford and Aldbourne. This was indeed an excellent choice as it threw up all kinds of driving conditions with some fantastic fast driving roads together with some more technical town and country sections. At the end of my drive, Jon made a few suggestions and was keen to demonstrate his approach using the same route, so we hopped out of my car and into his. Then we made our way back out of the car park and on towards Wantage. This time, however, the smooth rumble of my BMW's diesel engine was replaced by the loud roar from the Rover K series engine in Jon's Lotus Elise. Clearly this was not going to be the most relaxing drive ever, but at least I'd remembered to bring a fleece! Jon made nice progress, taking full advantage of the Elise's performance but driving in a way that demonstrated the Roadcraft principles. Overall it was a nice, smooth (and loud!) drive.

On arrival back at Liddington, the group congregated again. This time it was to say our goodbyes, and make promises to do it all again soon. It was then off home, to let my ears recover, and to reflect on the day. It was certainly very enjoyable, with good company and a high standard of driving on show. It was interesting to accompany drivers from other advanced driving groups to witness different styles, ideas and experience. Occasionally this leads to some controversy but, I feel, everybody got something out of the day.

Many thanks to Nick for arranging this, and to all those who attended for making it such an enjoyable day!

**Kevin Hugo**



## Merchandise

We now have a stock of merchandise that is available to purchase through the group. The following is a summary of the stock that we hold. For more information visit the Merchandise page of the web site at [www.northwiltsoadardar.co.uk](http://www.northwiltsoadardar.co.uk)

### Books

*These are available through the group at a reduced published price!*

**Roadcraft: £9.00**

**Motorcycle Roadcraft: £8.50**

**Highway Code: £2.00**

**Not the Blue Book: £6.50**

### Clothing



**Polo shirt** with RoSPA logo and Group name (available in XXL, XL, L and M sizes): **£7.50**

**High visibility jacket** with RoSPA logo and Group name (available in XXL, XL, L and M sizes): **New lower price! £12**



White cotton **T-Shirt** with RoSPA logo and Group name (available in M only): **Last few remaining! £5**

Note that members have asked us to stock many of these items. Since we have had to pay for these items up-front, if we hold onto this stock it depletes our funds. Therefore we need to sell it on to recoup our costs!