



## RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders North Wiltshire Group

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



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

September 2009

# Newsletter

### Secretary:

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### Dates for Your Diary

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

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October,**  
7.15pm for 7.45pm

**AGM:** Guest Speaker: Paul Silverwood, U17 Car Club

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**  
Abbey Rider Training Open Day

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November,**  
7.15pm for 7.45pm  
Meeting: Steve Haley from SkillDriver

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**  
Road Safety Week at Swindon College

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December,**  
7.15pm for 7.45pm  
Meeting: Wiltshire Ambulance

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**  
Christmas Meal

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February,**  
7.15pm for 7.45pm  
Meeting: John Brown, author of "Driving is more about Psychology than Systems"

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

# Emergency Services Show 2009



**On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September a group of North Wilts RoADAR members descended on the Hullavington Airfield for the Emergency Services Show 2009.**

## Emergency Services Show

On the morning of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September we set up the marquee at the Hullavington Airfield for the Emergency Services Show 2009. This was the first time that the group had attended this annual event so we weren't really sure what to expect. However, what we found was a really good, fun day out. We enjoyed seeing all the emergency vehicles and equipment, the demonstrations and arena displays as well as all the other stands and stalls. Even the weather was good! The day included a demonstration of the recovery of an overturned coach, a visit by the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and a parade of emergency vehicles, each with its 'blues and twos' on! Our stall was particularly busy, with lots of enquiries made and application forms handed out. We are expecting our tutors to be busy during the coming months as they train up the new members! This was certainly one of the most enjoyable and successful events that we have attended. We are hoping to attend next year's show so make sure you come along too.



### **A big thank you to all those who helped out at the Emergency Services Show...**

John King, Kevin Hugo, Kevin Stowe, Nick Carrington, Mark & Barbara Sealey, Monica Graham, Stuart Powell, Glen Wood, Mary Newman, Matt Carlsson, Simon West and Nigel Allerton.

We hope that it will prove to be successful in the number of new members that we gain!

## Forthcoming Meetings

**Monday 12th October, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

**Annual General Meeting.** This is your opportunity to discuss what you want from your group so please make sure that you attend. The meeting will include a talk by Paul Silverwood from the Under 17 Car Club. Come along and find out how young drivers should be taught!

**Monday 9th November, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

Steve Haley from the SkillDriver road safety project and the author of "Mind Driving" will be speaking. This promises to be a really interesting and popular talk so make sure you come along!

**Monday 14th December, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

A representative from Wiltshire Ambulance will be speaking. More details to follow.

**Monday 8th February 2010, 7.15pm for 7.45pm:**

John Brown, author of "Driving is more about Psychology than Systems" will be speaking.

## Events

**Sunday 25th October:**

**Abbey Rider Training Open Day.** See below.

**Monday 23rd November – Friday 27th November:**

**Road safety Week, Swindon College.** See below.

**Friday January 22nd 2010: Christmas/New Year Meal. Make a note in your diary!** The North Wilts RoADAR annual Christmas/New Year meal will take place during the evening of the 22nd

January at the Village Inn in Liddington. This is always a popular event so make sure you attend!

**Bike Ride-outs:** Regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Check the Motorcycle Discussion section on the Web Site Forum for more details.



### Abbey Rider Training Open Day and Road Safety Week

Abbey Rider Training have asked us if we would like to have a stall at an Open Day they are holding on Sunday 25th October to raise funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and the Severn Freewheelers. We would very much like to have a presence at this event but can only do so if we have enough volunteers to man the stall. Any help offered (even if it is just for an hour or two) would be appreciated. Please contact Monica if you can assist.

They are also involved in a Road Safety Week at Swindon College during the week of the 23rd November and have asked us if we would like to join them. This would be a good opportunity for the group to have contact with young people, encouraging them to join the group and take further driving/riding tuition, leading onto them taking their Advanced Test. This will be a daytime event. Could you spare any time during this week? Let Monica know if you can help.

### Fancy becoming a Tutor?

As the group has grown significantly over the last few years, the demand placed on our Tutors has grown. Therefore we need to train up more Tutors to help share the load. This can be a very rewarding role and help you to improve your own driving or riding. If you are interested please let Monica know.

### Already a Tutor?

If you are already a Tutor, have you considered training to become an Advanced Tutor? This role allows you to help in the training of other Tutors. Again, let Monica know if you are interested.

We cannot expand the group unless we increase our numbers of Tutors and Advanced Tutors.

# Welcome!

Welcome to **Leigh Coldwell** (bike) who has joined the group recently.

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Chris Mawer** and **John Matthews** who both passed their car re-tests with a Gold grade.

Congratulations also to **Barbara Sealey** who passed her bike test with a Silver grade

### Merchandise

We still have a stock of merchandise that is available to purchase through the group. For more information visit the Merchandise page of the web site

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

**Books (all 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: £7.50; High visibility Jacket: £12.00





## September Meeting Report:

Roger Blythin,

Accident Investigator, Wiltshire Police



On the 14<sup>th</sup> September Roger Blythin from Wiltshire Police's Accident Investigation Unit came to speak at our monthly meeting. He told us that the Unit is staffed by experienced officers who have a Traffic Patrols background but have enhanced their skills and abilities to become highly qualified accident investigators.

The Unit investigates all fatal collisions/accidents and attends serious and life threatening collisions/accidents. Its primary purpose is to investigate each accident in order to inform the coroner of the likely causes. All sudden deaths have to be explained.

Tasks performed by the unit include:

- Performing a full reconstruction of each accident detailing the location.
- Creating a scale survey of the scene.
- Performing detailed vehicle examinations.
- Examining marks at the scene and discovering how they were generated e.g. tyre marks.
- Assessing damage to vehicles.
- Investigating the dynamics of each collision.
- Considering sight lines (the maximum view drivers can see on approach, dependent on other vehicles and activity).
- Reaching a conclusion as to the likely cause of the accident.
- Preparing a file for forwarding to the coroner and/or Crown Prosecution Service.

The focus of this presentation was bike accidents. It soon became clear that these posed some very different challenges from car incidents.

### Skid Marks

Cars leave skid marks and these give a very good indication as to the speed and direction of travel prior to impact. These are one of the key pieces of evidence used to reconstruct an event. Bikes are very different as they tend to fall over as soon as the tyres lose grip.

### Damage

Cars are damaged in collisions – but often less badly than they appear. Cars are designed with crumple zones which absorb impact. The state of the underlying mechanical components, for example shock absorbers, tyres, and brakes can be examined after the accident to establish roadworthiness. Bikes tend to suffer badly during an accident and this causes unpredictable damage to components.

### Momentum

When two similar sized objects collide, they tend to stop each other. When objects of significantly different size collide, the effects are far more random. This makes it difficult to predict aspects of the impact based on the final resting place.

Roger talked about some of the formulas the unit uses to derive speeds and distances. The maths was quite nostalgic; does anyone remember  $s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$ ? It prompted something in my brain from way back when. Did I really understand and use this stuff once?

Roger then talked us through a number of bike accidents that had happened in Wiltshire over the last year.

He also urged us to remember that no-one is immune by relating the story of an experienced police motorcyclist colleague who, for no apparent reason, got an overtaking manoeuvre wrong on a familiar stretch of road and lost a leg.

Even apparently low risk areas can also result in fatalities. A moped rider was clipped by a car tyre in a car park, thrown under the wheel of the car and killed.

So, be careful out there...observation is the key.

## Mark Sealey



### Photographs?

I am always on the lookout for motoring related photographs for use in the Newsletter and other promotional material. If you have taken any pictures that you think might be suitable please forward them to myself or Monica. Also, if you attend any group events don't forget to take a camera and send us your shots!

**Kevin Hugo**