



RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders North Wiltshire Group

www.northwiltroadar.co.uk



Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

November 2012

Newsletter

Secretary:

Mrs. Monica Graham
114 Marines Drive
Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7UG
Tel: 01367 242377
secretary@northwiltroadar.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary

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

Monday 10th December

Meeting: Jonathan Glover, Swift Medics

Monday 11th February

Meeting: Swindon Borough Council
Traffic Management

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

Winter Tyres

There have been many reports in the press recently recommending the use of winter tyres. Below 7°C winter tyres supposedly offer more grip, reducing braking distances by up to 10% on wet roads and 20% on icy roads. Several car manufacturers, such as BMW and Volvo now offer Winter Tyre Programmes where you can purchase an additional set of wheels complete with winter tyres, making swapping between summer and winter tyres easy. They will even store the "spare" set for you. They usually cost from around £600 for a set of winter tyres and steel wheels, but can cost far more if you want some fancy alloys. Remember, though, that they extend the life of your summer tyres (as you won't be using them all year round) so that, in the long term, the only additional expense is for the extra set of wheels.

Have you fitted winter tyres? If so, we'd be interested to hear your views.



Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 10th December, 7:15pm for 7:45:
Jonathan Glover from Swift Medics, a registered charity providing pre-hospital emergency care in Wiltshire, will be our speaker.

Monday 11th February, 7:15pm for 7:45:
A representative from Swindon Borough Council's Traffic Management department will be coming to talk to us.

Welcome!

Welcome to the following members who have joined the group recently:

Alexander Tabrah (bike)

Chris Grew (car)

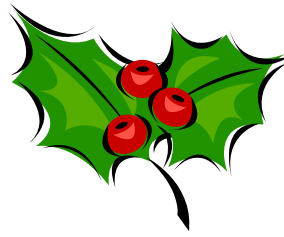
John Blakely (car)

Paul Barnes (car)

Norman Parry (bike)



Events



Friday 11th January 2013, 8:00pm:

Christmas/New Year meal: This year's Christmas/New Year Meal will be on Friday

11th January 8pm at the Oriental Buffet restaurant at Pepperbox Hill, Meadway, Peatmoor, West Swindon.

The price is £12,50 for a buffet menu which includes starter, main course and pudding.

They will do a grilled steak and salad if you would rather have that. Please let me know if you would prefer this when booking your space, by email to secretary@northwiltsroadar.co.uk.

Payment of £12.50 must be received by Friday 21st of December. Please can you pay by bank transfer using the following account details or send a cheque made payable to North Wilts Roadar to my address on the top of this newsletter. Sort Code 20-84-58 Account Number 80006998. Please add your name and "xmas meal" as the reference.



Bike Ride-outs: Don't forget that regular Bike Ride-outs take place on the **3rd Saturday of each month.**

November Meeting Report:

“Wheels, Skills and Thrills”

Martin Evans and Tony Gilbert came from the Bristol IAM group to tell us about an inspiring project funded by the Department for Transport to help improve the driving of a group of forty young drivers (aged 17-25) from a deprived area in Bristol. It was part of a PhD research project and involved the research student, a youth worker, Bristol City road safety department and a vehicle tracker. It was originally planned to just use the tracker to monitor and improve the driving recording red and amber driving events as identified by a measure of the g force.

Bristol IAM were contacted and agreed to provide coaching as well as being involved in calibrating the trackers. A g force of 0.6 recorded as an amber event and a red event at about 0.85g. The number of events was not important but the change in the number events over the project was. Bristol IAM provided 12 observers and each young driver was given six one hour drives with a different observer for each session. Most drivers on the scheme had been involved in accidents with several of them involved in multiple accidents.

The six drives covered

1. Concentration and observation
2. Observation, anticipation and planning
3. Positioning and cornering
4. Cornering and overtaking theory
5. Multilane roads
6. Putting it all together.

Before taking part in the course the drivers had an average of eight red events per hour and sixty amber events. After the course it dropped to an average of two red and under twenty amber events. The drivers kept the trackers and were still showing large improvements in driving seven months later.

The combination of the tracker and the coaching provided a very worthwhile project to improve driving skills of young people who would not normally be interested in road safety.

The Bristol road safety officer said he had never known a road safety project be so successful.

The youth worker was key in helping identify suitable young drivers to be on the scheme and maintaining their interest. It was a very interesting evening.

Steve Bunce



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **David Pooke** who recently passed his car test with a Gold grade.
His tutor was **Kevin Hugo**.

Congratulations also to **Ian Fancourt** who recently passed his bike test with a Silver grade. His tutor was **Paul Adams**.

Bike Ride Outs

Photographs from November's group ride to Compton Abbas airfield and Cheddar Gorge are now available on the Motorcycle web site forum at www.northwiltsoadard.co.uk.

The last ride out of 2012 will take place on the 15th December. Andrew will be leading a "Going for Gold (post boxes)" ride out starting at Chippenham's Little Chef at 9:30.

The 2013 calendar is now under development. Please let us know if you can lead a full or half day ride next year.

Street markings which change colour could soon become a feature of our road system. Scientists have developed paints that glow in the dark and are temperature responsive, allowing the colour to be changed to warn of potentially dangerous weather conditions.

The paint which has been invented in the Netherlands is set to be trialled next year.