



The Bedford Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders

Members Newsletter September 2018

Visit the Bedford Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders at <http://www.road-a-bedford.org.uk>



ROSPA is on Facebook. Join the Facebook Group at: [RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders](#)

President	Chief Inspector Jane Aspin, Beds & Herts Roads Policing Unit	
Chairman	Andrew McGrorey	chairman@road-a-bedford.org.uk
Group Secretary	Stan Jones 01234 266070	secretary@road-a-bedford.org.uk
Treasurer	David Worgan	treasurer@road-a-bedford.org.uk
Training Officer	Paul Millbank	training@road-a-bedford.org.uk
Web Master	Alan Freeman	
Other Committee Members	David Chamberlain, Clive Croot, Steve Davy, Anne Essen, Tony Glasson and Rosemary Whittington	
Newsletter Editor	Ian Wade 020 7100 6369	newsletter@road-a-bedford.org.uk

Welcome to the September 2018 issue of The Bedford Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Newsletter.

This issue of the Newsletter is a little different from the usual, in that there is more emphasis on news from the committee insofar as it affects the membership.

Topics include:

- A special welcome to new members.
- News of other members.
- A biography of a member who successfully passed the Advanced Diving Test.
- Information on the new Group website.
- The GDPR Privacy Policy
- News of the next Better Driving Course offered by the Group.

I hope you find this Newsletter interesting and informative. And, as usual, if you would like to contribute to the next issue, I would very much like to hear from you!

Ian Wade, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@road-a-bedford.org.uk

27 September 2018

Committee News

Stan Jones

Here is a summary of newsworthy items from the last couple of committee meetings (July 2018 and September 2018).

Members News

New members: The Bedford Group is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Matt Hughes
Silke Kleihues
Ian Redman
Sam Gendy and
Brian Wilson

Existing Members:

Tony Glasson (committee)



Tony has been a member for over two years and has been coached by (his words) a patient Andrew McGrorey. He decided to go down the route of advanced driver training as he was fed up with derogatory remarks about “doddering older drivers”. On 24 July 2018 Tony took his test and at first attempt passed with a silver grade.

Leaving school at 15 and serving an apprenticeship in the motor trade Tony spent time at Jaguar and Aston Martin before embarking on a career in sales. Having driven since the age of 17 and clocking up over one million miles he felt bad habits were creeping in. Now enjoying retirement he enjoys modelling, gardening and walking his labrador twice

a day. He is married to Jennie and has three daughters and six grandchildren.

Rosemary Whittington (committee) and Matt Hughes are arranging their pre-test drives, having been told by their tutors they are ready.

Other Members News

As far as we know all associates have been allocated a tutor. If this is not the case please contact Stan Jones

For information we currently have 31 full members, 15 associates and 12 social members.

The new Group Website

The style and method of implementation of the new website was agreed at the July committee meeting,

The content of the site was planned by a sub-committee formed of Paul Millbank (Training Officer and Diploma), Steve Davy (Diploma) and Stan Jones (Secretary and Advanced Tutor).

The proposed content for the initial launch was agreed at September’s committee meeting.

The first release of the new site is now live, at:

<http://www.roadabedford.org.uk/>

GDPR PRIVACY POLICY

The Group’s GDPR Privacy Policy was agreed at the September committee meeting, as below.

The Group is committed to protecting and respecting members’ privacy and their information will be held and handled by us according to this policy.

All personal data held by us will be governed by General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

- *Information provided on the member’s application form*

- *Additional information provided by the member necessary to provide a service requested.*
- *Information will only be used within the Bedford Group*
- *Data exchanged electronically within the Group will be password protected.*
- *Members' records are held by the Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.*
- *If a member contacts us, a record may be retained to help us provide appropriate service.*

BETTER DRIVING COURSE

A Better Driving course is scheduled to run in Bedford from **Tuesday 26 February 2019** for six consecutive Tuesdays.

More details and an application form can be seen on the web site, at:

<http://www.roda-bedford.org.uk/pdf/bdcapp.pdf>

Cost only £25. The course will provide classroom support to associates receiving in-car tuition and prepare others for when they start.

The objective of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders (RoADAR) is the reduction of road accidents by the raising of driving standards, knowledge and skill. Full Members of RoADA have passed the Association's Advanced Driving Test, which entails driving in a wide variety of traffic conditions accompanied by an examiner who is qualified to Police Class 1 standard.

Better Driving Courses are run by many RoADAR Groups around the country to assist members of the public to gain a sound theoretical understanding of advanced or defensive driving skills which, if applied consistently, would enable them to be safer drivers and less likely to be involved in road accidents.

By running Better Driving Courses, Groups hope that at least some of those attending the courses will then be stimulated to join the Group and undertake practical training (which is provided free to Associate Members) in preparation for the RoADAR Advanced Driving Test.

The topics covered by the course will include:

- Observation and anticipation
- Overtaking safely
- Driver attitude
- Coping with adverse conditions
- Hazard identification
- Motorway driving
- The system of car control
- Night driving
- Vehicle balance and use of main controls
- Accidents and breakdowns
- Dealing with corners & bends
- Personal safety for women drivers
- Correct positioning
- Drive commentaries
- Effective signalling
- Assessment drives

On the final Sunday morning before the end of the course there will be an opportunity to have an 'assessment drive', where a member of the Group accompanies you on a 20 to 30-minute drive in your own vehicle and offers you an assessment of your driving against advanced standards. After your drive you will be given a demonstration drive by one of us over the same route.

GIFT VOUCHERS

Wondering what to get someone for Christmas? We can provide gift vouchers for:

- Better Driving Course £25
- New Group membership £20

Contact Stan Jones at
11 Crispin Drive
Bedford
MK41 7FL

Regular Eyesight Testing

(Source: Brake, the road safety charity)



A campaign launched by Brake, calls on all drivers to sharpen up their act by getting their eyesight tested every two years to ensure their vision meets legal standards and they aren't putting people in danger.

The campaign by road safety charity Brake, working alongside the DVLA, insurer RSA and Specsavers, comes as research shows many drivers are failing to ensure they can see properly on every journey.

A survey of 1,000 drivers out by Brake, RSA and Specsavers finds that a quarter of drivers (26%) haven't had a vision test in the last two years. A worrying one in 11 (9%) admit not visiting the optician for five years or more, or never. For 3% it's been more than a decade and 3% (the equivalent to more than one million UK drivers) have never been.

At the same time, many drivers who know they need glasses or lenses fail to wear them on every journey. Nearly one in 10 (9%) who need glasses or lenses don't always wear them when driving. Furthermore, of those who claimed they don't need glasses or lenses, one in three (32%) haven't had their eyes checked in the last two years, so can't be certain their vision is up to scratch.

Research shows that failing to ensure your vision is good enough to drive is estimated to result in 2,900 road casualties a year, causing trauma and devastation to many victims.

Julie Townsend, deputy chief executive, Brake, the road safety charity, said: "Being a driver is a huge responsibility, and means you need to look after your own health and fitness to drive as well as making sure your vehicle is roadworthy. If your vision isn't up to scratch you are posing an

enormous risk on roads, as being able to see properly is fundamental to being a good driver. Your eyesight can deteriorate rapidly without you noticing, and at the wheel that can be lethal. That's why it is so important to get tested every two years and always wear glasses or lenses if you need them when driving.

Jan Chandaman, Head of Medical Licensing Policy at DVLA, said: "Britain has some of the safest roads in the world and licensing rules play an important part in keeping our roads safe. Reducing road casualties is a top priority for the government. All drivers are required by law to meet the appropriate eyesight standard at all times while driving. DVLA regularly remind drivers of the ongoing requirement to meet the eye sight standard and that failure to meet the standard is an offence - this is also included in the Highway Code. The number plate test is a simple assessment of vision and can be reproduced regularly by motorists to check whether they meet the standards themselves and by the police at the roadside."

Adrian Brown, CEO of RSA UK & Western Europe, said: "It's no wonder so many people aren't fit to drive when eye tests aren't required by law at any point once you've passed your driving test. Far more regular testing will mean safer, more responsible drivers and will be good for people's health in general too."

Paul Carroll, director of professional services for Specsavers, said: "We have been campaigning through our support of Brake's Sharpen Up campaign and also our own Drive Safe activity for a number of years to make our roads safer for all road users including pedestrians. Taking responsibility for your sight is just as important as car insurance and MOTs."

New road sign for the Highway Code?



In a bid to modernise UK road signs for the 21st century, it is rumoured that this sign may be added to the next edition of the Highway Code.

Source unknown