

# NORFOLK AND NORWICH GROUP

## ADVANCED DRIVERS AND RIDERS

Chairman: Robin Apps - 01953 488003

# DriveLines

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The monthly newsletter for the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association.

[www.roada-norfolk.org.uk](http://www.roada-norfolk.org.uk)

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Have you come across or did you know about BRAKE? This is a Road Safety Charity obviously devoted to all matters appertaining to Road Safety. They run all sorts of campaigns and one of their latest is attempting to get the law changed that persons found guilty of causing death by dangerous or careless driving should face much harsher sentences as reflects the seriousness of their case. I think that we have all read of cases and the sentences given and felt that is ridiculous! No real punishment at all. This is one campaign I am all in favour of.

Check out their website at [www.brake.org.uk](http://www.brake.org.uk) and you can also make a pledge to do simple things to protect you and the people around you, build happier communities and help save the planet.

Trouble at the top again: The recently appointed Chief Examiner has resigned: Here is the notification from Birmingham about this.

‘Today Andy tendered his notice of resignation to RoSPA, from the position of Chief Examiner to RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders.

We are currently recruiting to replace Andy and envisage to have a replacement this summer. Andy will continue as RSE for the Midlands.

Below is a statement from Andy.’

*“This is a decision I have not taken lightly and one that I have thought over long and hard over the past few weeks.*

*My decision is based solely on the grounds that I have found it very difficult to adapt to an office based job and all that goes with that position. I have always been a ‘hands on’ practical person and sitting behind a desk in an extremely busy*

*office dealing with e mails, drafting policy and answering telephone enquiries is not my forte. The position of Chief examiner, together with that of the RoADAR manager are not positions you can just switch off when you leave the office.*

*It is with sadness that that am I resigning my position, but you have to do what is best for yourself and your family.”*

*I would like to say that the team in the office have been fantastic considering their workload. I would especially like to thank Amy for all the help and support she has given whilst being massively overworked herself.*

*I have come to appreciate in my limited time as Chief Examiner, that a huge amount of good work is being conducted by examiners and by RoADAR groups in support of Advanced Driving/Riding throughout the country and I would like to thank you all for your support”*

With kindest regards,                      Andy

**Who's next?**

# What's On

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED  
7.30PM AT THE PAVILION, OAKFIELD ROAD, CRINGLEFORD

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE MEETINGS ARE HELD ON  
THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.  
THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE LAST WEDNESDAY**

### MEETINGS

#### MAY

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Norfolk Road Safety Team**

**Andrew Sykes a member of Ian Temperton's Road Safety Team.**

The Road Safety Team from County Hall always give us a very interesting and professional talk on the latest ideas and happenings in Road Safety throughout Norfolk. If you are really interested in Driving (and why else should you be here) this is definitely one evening not to be missed. It is very informative and I hope you will give Andrew a good show and as much support as possible.

#### JUNE

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**THIS MONTH IT IS OUR 'EVENING' OUT!** John Laycock our Speaker Co-Ordinator has arranged for us to visit the **Ashmanhaugh Light Railway** near Wroxham, at 7 pm.. This is a smaller gauge railway running around a farm and is usually open only one day a month. We are being honoured by the owners opening up especially for us. If you 'Google' it, Ashmanhaugh light railway will find it. This should be a fun evening for all, bring along your partners and children and any friends who will find it interesting.



We expect you to make your own way there, but car sharing is a possibility and any one temporarily without a vehicle we will make arrangements. If you are coming please contact the Chairman, Robin on 01953 488093 so we can inform the Railway how many will be coming and he will be able to arrange lifts and car sharing if necessary.

Directions: Just past Wroxham off the Stalham Road at Beeston St Lawrence (signposted Ashmanhaugh) or if you come to Wroxham Barns take the first right after the Barns, then left at the crossroads and the Railway is on the left.

This is an extra special treat obtained by John, please support us and come along on a fine summers evening, enjoy the country and play trains! I will see you there.

# What's On - Continued:

## MEETINGS

### JULY

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

**Jim ELLIS, Norfolk County Council Highways Department.**

#### **'The Postwick Hub'**

This is a coup for us. Jim will be explaining all about the new interchange being built at Postwick on the A.47 for the new relief road. This is perfect for us and very interesting. It will be good to find out how long it is going to take and what disruption we can expect. Make sure you have this in your diary not to be missed.

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### **Chairman's Chunterings!**

Well, the 2105 AGM has come and gone – thanks to all of you who found the time to attend. Of particular note; in recognition of his outstanding support over 3 decades, Brian Dack was appointed into the new honorary position of Vice-President. As Chairman, I voiced my concerns at the apparent lack of support and interest in the Group's activities. In order to more accurately gauge interest levels,, we will be devising a short survey to circulate to all members seeking their views. Minutes of the AGM will be circulated to all members shortly, probably with this edition of Drivelines.

We know that our tutors give their time freely, well one of our tutors goes much, much further:  
**'Norfolk lorry driver flies out to Nepal to help search for earthquake victims'**



**Alan Rockley** from Sculthorpe is part of a team of trained rescue technicians from Search and Rescue Assistance in Disasters who have deployed to Nepal to support the humanitarian effort. A lorry driver from Sculthorpe, near Fakenham, has flown out the heart of the stricken country to help with the search and rescue of victims trapped under buildings following the earthquake.

Alan Rockley, pictured, 56, is part of a 15-strong team of fully-trained rescue technicians from Search And Rescue Assistance in Disasters (SARAIID) who have set up a base near the main airport in Kathmandu. From there, they will be tasked by the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to search areas of the city and outlying towns and villages. The volunteers have taken

1.5 tonnes of the latest rescue equipment including sound and vibration detection equipment and specialised search cameras, cutting equipment and big drills to help tunnel into collapsed buildings. The team also carries stretchers and medical kit, ropes, generators, tents, satellite communications and their own food – to ensure they are not a strain on local resources once in country. The work is unpaid but the team has been helped by Virgin Atlantic and Air India to get them and 74 pieces of hold luggage from London to Kathmandu.

*Reproduced with the kind permission of the EDPs*

**We are proud of you Alan**



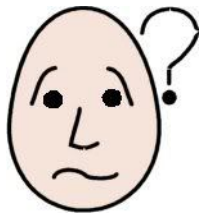
# Test Results

During March/April, we were notified of the following test passes:

Paul Pywell                      Gold (Retest)  
 Alan Rockley (Tutor)      Gold (Retest)

WELL DONE **to both of you**. Please remember though, if you take a test or retest, let us know or we cannot publicise your achievement!

## Refreshing(!) Drives



Do you remember when your next test is due or that we offer refresher training drives prior to your triennial retests? These drives are intended to assist you in maintaining or even improving your grade. With three years between the tests, please plan early – the offer of refreshers is there for your benefit. If you wait until a month before the retest is due, this is likely to be too late, especially if remedial practice is recommended. Such short notice can also be quite disruptive to the tutors' scheduled drives and their personal commitments.

So.....

**Observation & Information**      ➔      **Please plan ahead!**

**Contact the Training Officer in plenty of time**

## New Speed limits

Do you know the changes that have been introduced?

Type of vehicle	Built-up areas mph (km/h)	Single carriageways mph (km/h)	Dual carriageways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph (km/h)
Cars, motorcycles, car-derived vans and dual-purpose vehicles	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Cars, motorcycles, car-derived vans and dual-purpose vehicles when towing caravans or trailers	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Motorhomes or motor caravans (not more than 3.05 tonnes maximum unladen weight)	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Motorhomes or motor caravans (more than 3.05 tonnes maximum unladen weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not more than 12 metres overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (more than 12 metres overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Goods vehicles (not more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112) 60 (96) if articulated or towing a trailer
Goods vehicles (more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in England and Wales	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Goods vehicles (more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in Scotland	30 (48)	40 (64)	50 (80)	60 (96)

(Source: Highway Code dated 8 Apr15)

## Drug Driving – Do You Know The Law?

We are all more than familiar with the laws about drink driving and very few of us would dream of driving or operating



machinery while under the influence of alcohol, but are you aware of the laws relating to driving while under the influence of drugs? Drug driving doesn't just apply to being in charge of a motor vehicle after taking illegal drugs; certain prescription drugs can also render you unfit to drive and, should you be found to be driving with evidence of them in your system, may lead to prosecution. With the drug driving legislation for England and Wales having been updated recently, here's a brief guide to the law.

As from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015, police officers across England and Wales have authority to carry out drug testing at the side of the road, using **DrugWipe** detection kits. It is no longer necessary for a driver to be impaired by the drug in order to be prosecuted; the mere

presence of a trace in the bloodstream or saliva is now sufficient. The DrugWipe kits can test both saliva and skin for evidence of a number of both illegal and legal drugs. This means that, even if roadside tests for impairment are passed by the driver, the tests carried out at the police station could result in a prosecution.

The drugs which will be tested for include:

- Clonazepam
- Diazepam
- Flunitrazepam
- Lorazepam
- Methadone
- Morphine or other opiates/opioid-based drugs
- Oxazepam
- Temazepam

While it is permissible to drive after taking these drugs provided they have been prescribed by a medical professional and do not impair your ability to drive, having more than a certain level of the drug in your system could lead to prosecution where a prescription has not been issued.

In addition to these prescription drugs, the tests will identify common illegal drugs such as cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy, LSD, ketamine and heroin.

Drug driving is responsible for approximately two hundred deaths on UK roads each year, yet is not as common a consideration as drink driving. Statistics published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse suggest that those driving under the influence are up to seven times more likely to be involved in an accident than those who have not partaken in any drugs or alcohol.

One of the government's advisors on drug driving policies, Dr Kim Wolf of King's College London, said

*"Illegal drugs seriously impair skills required to drive safely, such as reaction time and decision making. "In many cases those who take certain illegal drugs believe that they are safe to drive, but are in fact putting themselves and others at risk. Greater awareness of the dangers of drug driving is important as we move forward with this important step towards safer roads."*

If convicted of drug driving, the possible penalties include:

- A minimum of one year driving ban
- An unlimited fine
- Up to six months in prison
- A criminal record
- A driving license endorsement showing you have been convicted for drug driving, which will remain for 11 years

The legal penalties for drug driving are not the only issues which may be faced following conviction. The offense is likely to lead to a significant increase in the cost of motor insurance, as well as having a negative impact on those whose employment involves driving. People with convictions may also find it difficult to travel to certain parts of the world, with USA in particular being reluctant to allow entry to those previously found guilty of drug-related offences.

Of course, even if a prescription drug is not mentioned on the list, you should never take control of a motor vehicle when your judgement and reaction times are at all impaired.



## **GUIDE TO SELLING YOUR CAR - PRIVATELY**

When the time comes to swap your car for a newer or more suitable model, the easiest option is generally to offer your existing vehicle as a trade-in at a dealership. However, there are various reasons why you may not want to go down this route – if you're getting rid of your car completely or have not been offered a good price, to name but two. Selling your car through a private listing has its advantages but it also carries a higher risk than selling to a dealership. In this article, we will explain how to stay safe and avoid scams.

### **Staying safe**

- Don't meet the prospective buyer alone. Whether you have arranged for them to come to your home or meet you elsewhere, bring a friend or family member with you.
  - Always meet the buyer in daylight. As well as helping you to feel safer, it gives the buyer the opportunity to inspect the car fully.
- Stay with your car throughout the viewing. Make sure you are sitting in the passenger seat of the car before handing the keys over for a test drive.

### **Conducting the viewing and test drive**

- Make sure to check that the buyer has at least third-party insurance before allowing a test drive of your car. Holding a comprehensive insurance policy for their own car will normally automatically provide third-party on another vehicle.
- Always ask to see their driving licence before allowing an interested party to test drive your car. Take a note of the licence number for identification purposes.
- Before setting out on a test drive, make sure you let the buyer know that any speeding fines or other penalties incurred during the drive will be their responsibility.
- Allow the buyer plenty of time to drive the car on different roads and get a feel for it. Avoid rushing them as this will cause suspicion that you are hiding damage or problems with the car. 30 minutes is a reasonable timescale for a test drive.

### **Taking payment**

- Once a prospective buyer confirms they would like to buy the car, take a deposit. This should be a substantial enough amount that it gives you confidence that the buyer will go ahead with the purchase. These non-refundable deposits tend to be around £100.
- Never hand over paperwork or keys for the car until you have received full payment. Payment should always be made using a secure method such as BACS or CHAPS. Bankers drafts used to be seen as being as good as cash but, due to high volumes of counterfeiting, this is no longer the case.
- If you do accept a banker's draft as payment, leave it in your account for at least six business days before giving the keys or paperwork to the buyer. If it has not been returned after this time, the bank is obliged to honour it even if it turns out to be fraudulent.

### **Paperwork**

Once you have received cleared payment from the buyer, you must produce two copies of a sales agreement. This document should include the following information:

- Make and model of the vehicle
- Registration number
- VIN
- Year of registration
- Mileage – this should only be stated where you are certain it is genuine. Write "mileage not verified" if you are in any doubt whatsoever
- Agreed sale price
- Deposit amount paid
- Seller's name and address
- Buyer's name and address
- Statement that the vehicle has been sold as seen

In addition to providing this sales agreement, you must always:

- Fill in and send off the form on the V5C form
- Inform any security register you have enrolled the vehicle with
- Inform any warranty provider of the change of ownership and the new owner's details

Lastly, do not cancel any car insurance policy until the new owner has paid in full and taken the car away.

## A SMALL QUIZ TO PASS THE TIME!

### Identify The Car Manufacturer

Name the car manufacturer in each of the photos below.

If the name of the manufacturer appears in it's logo, we have air-brushed it out



ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

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#### End Piece

That's all folks! Hope you enjoyed this month's edition. Still waiting for articles to include in future editions to try and make it as interesting as possible. Please forward to me via E Mail, telephone or even snail mail. The next few monthly meetings appear very interesting with good speakers and the outside social event a very excellent change from our Cringleford meet. Hope to see you there. Is there no one out there who would like to do this job of Editor? Please get in touch?

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This Newsletter is produced for the interest of the members of the Norfolk and Norwich Group of the RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Association. It details forthcoming events and has articles of a general interest to our members, which have been supplied by the members, the committee and Editor. As a result any views expressed are those of the local Group only, unless so detailed and not of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents being the parent organisation.