



RoADAR CHAT

The Sussex Group of Advanced Car Drivers

Group Newsletter

February 2012

Dear Member,

The efforts of Road Safety Groups such as our own are being taken more seriously and as a result Sussex RoSPA is currently in talks to provide support in the delivery of a new driver education program. Whilst I am unable to serve you with the exact details, as they are being drafted at present, I am proud that our Group has been considered for such a task and we might be running a Pilot Scheme in due course.

As with all such schemes, success rests very much on the dedication of everyone involved. Our Training Officer, Peter Hodd is currently reviewing the way in which we, at Sussex RoSPA, provide training from new member through to tutor; thus allowing for a more consistent training provision for all our members, whilst enabling our tutors to sharpen up their skills throughout the year. Peter is updating the Tutors List and it is important that you cooperate with him on this. Any member wanting to become a tutor should please contact Peter. Remember we cannot grow without your support.

Although we are a Road Safety Charity not everything our members do involves the use of a car – Hilary Humphreys, the Group's valued Secretary decided to fundraise and will be walking a mere 100km in under 30 hours. She has given much to the group; please show your appreciation by supporting her. Good luck Hilary! You can do it.

Drive Safe.

Frank Dahmen
Group Chairman

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A few words from our Chairman
 - 2 News Items
 - 3 Training Officer's Page
 - 4 Meeting Report
Next Meeting Date
and Speaker
- Group Contacts

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 29th March 2012

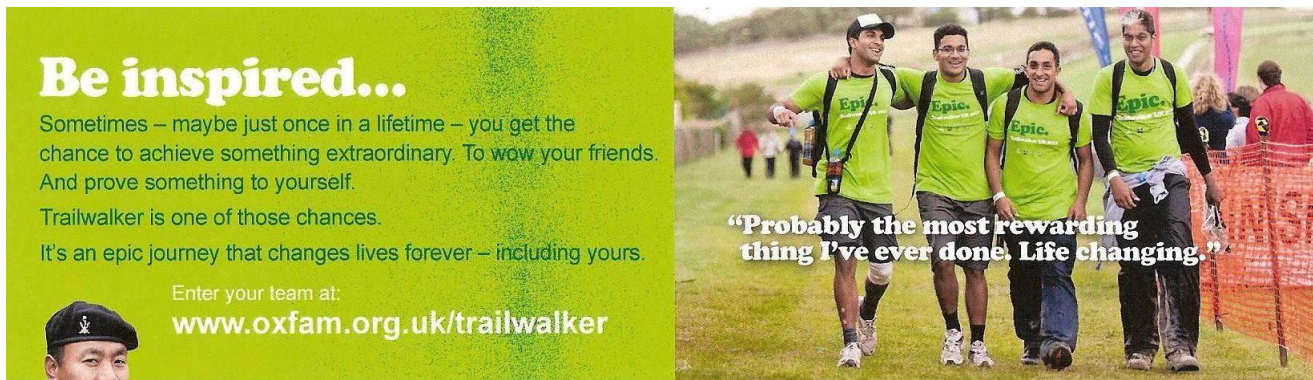
Norman Baker MP – Under Secretary to the Minister for Transport

Newsletter address: Landhurst, Peelings Lane, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex, BN24 5AD

Urgent Reminder

Please may I remind those members who have not yet paid their subscription for 2012, that they should not be receiving tuition, and that their membership expired at 31st December 2011.

If you pay before 31st March 2012 you will not have to pay a rejoining fee, but after 31st March 2012 you will have to rejoin the group as a new member.



Be inspired...

Sometimes – maybe just once in a lifetime – you get the chance to achieve something extraordinary. To wow your friends. And prove something to yourself.

Trailwalker is one of those chances.

It's an epic journey that changes lives forever – including yours.

Enter your team at:
www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker

Trailwalker is based on a Gurkha training exercise, and they'll be there to support you every step of the way.

Oxfam is a registered charity in England and Wales: no 202918 and Scotland: SC039042. Oxfam GB is a member of Oxfam International, Gurkha Welfare Trust: Registered Charity Number 1103669 Company Limited by Guarantee Number 5098591 Registered in England. Inhouse: 9110c. Photo overleaf: Catepin Hughes. This side: Richard Wearne.

Oxfam GURKHA WELFARE TRUST Gurkha Welfare Trust STATE STREET

Fundraising Request

It all started at a party! A friend told me about a walking challenge and before I knew where I was I had agreed to be part of a four "man" team, committed to walking 100 km along the South Downs in 30 hours or less!

In the cold light of day I reached my decision – well I enjoy walking and have completed a number of long walks before – albeit with a rest at the end of each day to go to bed! This particular challenge is a walk to raise funds for two worthwhile charities – Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust and I do so enjoy a challenge!

Having committed to do the walk I must now set about training and also fundraising and it is this latter factor which I am hoping you will help me with. The following link will give you an idea of what the Trailwalker challenge is all about: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaKp35Mx8sQ>

To make a donation please follow the link: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HilaryHumphreys>

Many thanks in anticipation of your generosity.....!

Headphones

The number of cases of serious injury sustained while walking along the street, wearing headphones for devices such as an iPod or MP3 player has tripled in the last six years according to some US published research. Not surprisingly it is mainly young teenagers and adults who figure in this increase.

Insulin Controlled Diabetics can now drive Buses and Lorries

Advances in the manner in which insulin controlled diabetics can now effectively control their symptoms and the condition has led to a change in the law which enables them to make application to drive buses and lorries provided they meet specific medical criteria.

MOT Testing – No Change!

Well one of the hot topics for debate when leading sessions has come to an end as the Government has announced that there will be no changes to the existing arrangements to the MoT Test.

Driving in France

French authorities have warned UK drivers planning to travel to France that they face an on-the-spot fine of €17 if they fail to carry a breathalyser in their vehicle

http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/kent_drivers_travelling_to_france_warned_to_take_breathalyser_1_1175279

A breathalyser is the latest in a long list of items British motorists must ensure they have to avoid being fined by the French authorities. Other include a spare pair of glasses, spare headlight bulbs, a warning triangle, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, headlamp adaptors, a GB sticker and a florescent safety vest.

The requirement for drivers to carry a breathalyser has been introduced as part of an on-going programme by the French Government to reduce the number of road deaths in France.

Andrew Kelly, marketing and PR manager at DFDS Seaways which operates services between the UK and France, said: “Although the new law is not due to be implemented until the spring, and final details are still to be announced, we want to ensure our passengers are fully aware of the obligation to carry a breathalyser in their vehicles when driving on French roads and will be fully prepared.”



Training Officer's Report

I hope the New Year has started in a positive and way for everyone. This looks like being a very interesting year for the group, with new and exciting ideas being introduced, which could result in further increases in the membership of our really successful group.

I am currently updating my list of Tutors so I thought I would use my spot here to ask if we have any Gold grade members out there, who haven't yet tried tutoring, but would like to pass on the benefit of their experience to others. If so please do not hesitate to contact me. Also if you have previously tutored but haven't for a while, and would like to restart please get in contact with me. The group relies on the generously donated time of the tutors, and therefore the more tutors we have the better.

Tutoring people towards their goal of a RoSPA Gold can be a very rewarding experience, for both Tutor and Tutee and I can assure you all of full back up from myself and the committee.

I have just finished reading an article from Mercedes where they are defending their idea that being able to access Facebook whilst driving is in their words “No more unsafe than using a mobile phone”. I'm not sure which planet the guy who made that statement has been living on, but I think phone use is certainly one of the biggest contributors to crash statistics, and incidents of bad driving. Searching through your “friends” status whilst driving has to be rated as a silly idea too far. Now Wii Fit at the wheel where people like myself can gain some well needed exercise and lose a few pounds whilst dealing with the everyday traffic and pedestrians chaos on our roads, now there's an idea.

But on a serious note, driving is the most dangerous thing most of us ever do, we don't need more gadgets and things to distract us from the road, there are enough already.

On a lighter note: I'm not sure how true this is but heard this the other day, a girl was taking her driving test and failed. The reason was she panicked on a round about and went the wrong way round it! Came face to face with a securicor van that thought it was a raid! All the shutters went down and alarm went off, I can just imagine the conversation between her and the examiner.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Details
29 th March 2012	Norman Baker MP – Under Secretary to the Minister for Transport
31 st May 2012	AGM – Speaker TBC
26 th July 2012	Treasure Hunt



Advanced Notice: our next meeting is on **Thursday, 29th March 2012** when we will be addressed by Mr Norman Baker MP, the Under Secretary to the Minister for Transport. The meeting will commence at 7.15pm for refreshments, ready for a 7.30pm start. We will be congregating at our usual venue: Sussex Police HQ, Malling, Lewes, BN7 2DZ – all members and their guests welcome.

Please Note: Due to staffing cut backs Sussex Police no longer have someone on duty at the entrance and this position is manned by a member of Sussex RoSPA. Can we therefore request that you arrive in good time to ensure that the person on duty is able to get back inside the building in time to enjoy listening to the speaker – thank you!

January meeting, Speakers Notes.

For those of us attending the January meeting it was a complete contrast to previous meetings. We had the pleasure of listening to John Smith, J.P. and Deputy Lieutenant of the County, who also holds a number of other voluntary posts. John recalled many of the cases he had dealt with in both the Adult and Family courts; some of which were motoring related but all were completely fascinating to listen to. There were of course some quite amusing anecdotes, not perhaps what one would expect to hear from within the confines of a Magistrates Court!

We were able to gain an insight into how a Magistrates Bench, which consists of three Magistrates, reaches their judgements. John also gave us all the opportunity to come up with our own judgements on some example cases he had brought along. It was interesting to hear the variety of questions generated from the members along with John's answers. Altogether an enjoyable and informative evening.

Malcolm Taylor

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VACANCY – Newsletter Editor