



VICE CHAIRMAN

My name is Anthony Platts and at the moment I am Vice Chairman. I have been a member of RoSPA since 1984 and of the Sussex Group since its start. I am currently involved in the driver training industry as an ADI.

I do not drive an automatic but I read in the last issue of the "Care on the Road" that when starting up it may be convenient to start in "Neutral" rather than in "Park" when it means to get to "Drive" you have to pass through reverse, I wonder however if a driver has parked forwards into a parking bay then it may be better to remain in "Park" should you need to reverse off the drive?

I came home from Hastings this weekend, Sunday 10th Feb in terrible weather and still people were driving too close. It is, I would say, obvious that a safe gap of at least 4 seconds is best, but even more if conditions require.

Well I wish you all safe motoring for the rest of the winter. Clocks go forward at the end of March so the lighter evenings will be with us again and hopefully some better weather, which will make driving more pleasurable.

Our next general meeting is in March so hope to see you then.

KENT SURREY SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE - 31 JANUARY 2013



This scene was one of many such incidents attended by the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance who are called out to assist in the event of a serious "life threatening" or "life changing" injury.

On 31 January our speaker Richard Draycott gave us a fascinating insight into the work of the air ambulance service, which currently operates a day-light emergency service from two locations – Mardon in Kent and Redhill in Surrey. The service covers an area in excess of 3,500 square miles with a resident population of 4.5 million and a transient population in excess of 90 million per year. These aircraft are capable of reaching any location in under 20 minutes flying time.

Each aircraft is crewed by an experienced Pilot and an Enhanced Care Team consisting of a senior Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic, enabling them to provide a range of advanced treatments including delivering emergency anaesthetics and surgical interventions, up to and including open chest surgery!

This service will soon be expanded to take in night flying, providing a further boost to emergency care.

Check out their website: <http://www.kssairambulance.org.uk/>

Written by **Hilary Humphreys** Email hilary@hilton-it.co.uk for your views to appear in this publication.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

We have, over the past year or so, noticed a growing increase in the number of new Associates joining the group, being allocated a Tutor, but never actually making contact with them. I have in the past relied on the Associate to make contact with the Tutor, which as we now know doesn't always happen. After discussion at the recent committee meeting we have decided to ask our Tutors, if they would be so kind as to initiate contact with the Associate. The new system will therefore be as follows: I email the Associate and copy in the allocated Tutor; the e mail will state that the Tutor will contact them, but that if they wish they are welcome to contact the Tutor.

We also feel that it is pointless for a Tutor to have inactive Associates, so we are suggesting that the Tutor contacts the Associate via email, twice over a two-week period and if no response is forthcoming they notify me. I will then remove them from that Tutor's list and the Associate will then have to wait for another Tutor to be allocated if they still wish to proceed at a later date.

We are also requesting that when they gain their Gold Grade they consider tutoring, as we as a group are quite short of Tutors. So I am asking our Tutors to please speak with your Associates and ask that they consider this - as we all know "many hands make light work". Anyone out there who would like to become involved in tutoring please drop me an email.

I am looking to book the Annual Tutors Dinner in April/May, somewhere in the Lewes area and I will confirm details at a later date.

Just as an experiment the committee have set up a Facebook page for Sussex RoSPA Advanced Drivers <http://www.facebook.com/groups/482747088448091/>, so anybody who wishes to join or "like" the new page or wish to add something, please feel free to do so.

Written By **Peter Hodd** Email rospa.trainer@mail.com



GREEN LIGHT FOR DRIVING TESTS AT HALFORDS

Stephen Hammond, road safety minister, has given the go ahead to plans to offer the practical driving test from branches of Halfords.

Driving tests will be available from the Halfords store in Wellingborough from 5 February, with other branches across the country expected to start offering tests in the coming months. All tests will be conducted by Driving Standards Agency (DSA) examiners.

The move is part of an initiative to offer a more local service for driving test candidates. As well as using conventional test centres, DSA is working with public and private sector partners to provide driving tests in areas that don't have a local test centre.

[Click here](#) for more information.

COCK-PIT CHECKS - for use on RoSPA Driving Test

Prior to getting into the vehicle today I have carried out a full POWDER check of my vehicle. (The examiner may ask you to explain parts of this. If they do not ask, **do not** go into detail.)

I am driving a (e.g. BMW 320i), motor car, which is driven through the Front/Rear wheels, via a 5/6 speed / automatic gear box – **whatever is appropriate for the vehicle you are driving!**

I am familiar with all the controls and instruments they are all adjusted to my satisfaction.

Check foot brake for firm pressure. (Static brake check)

Switching on the ignition, I see a bank of warning lights, showing there is an electrical circuit. I am depressing the clutch. I will keep my left/right hand (as appropriate) on the steering wheel to check the power steering function as I start the engine.

All relevant warning lights have now gone out. I expect the handbrake warning light to go out when it is released. I have put my seatbelt on, can I ask passengers to check that their seatbelts and head restraint are adjusted correctly.

Engaging gear, checking mirrors and blind spots, when safe I will move off.

Once on the move carry out a rolling brake check.

Candidates should be able to answer questions in relation to POWDER checks they have carried out. They should also be able to answer questions on Roadcraft and the Highway Code.

Written By **David Taylor, RoSPA ADA Examiner**

LAW ON DRIVING LICENCE EXCHANGE TIGHTENED TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

Foreign drivers must prove they have passed an appropriate driving test before getting a British licence under tough new rules announced by Road Safety Minister Stephen Hammond.

An inconsistency in the law meant that previously some non EU drivers were able to exchange their licence without proving that the necessary standards to drive in this country had been met.

The change in law means requests to exchange driving licences from outside the EU will only be accepted if the licence holder can prove they passed a driving test in a country where the testing standards are comparable with those in Britain.

The change in law came into force on 11 January 2013.

PHOTOCARD LICENCE

A warning has been given that if your photo is out of date on your driving licence you will not be allowed to participate in any of the National Driver Rectification Programmes.

ROAD FUND LICENCE DISC

Discussions are taking place which could mean the end of a tax disc – not may I say the end of paying the duty however. Watch out for further information in the coming months.

STATISTICAL BANTER

Porsche drivers are statistically the most likely to be caught speeding, with more than 14% having a conviction, according to MoneySupermarket.com. The data, from the latest MoneySupermarket Motor Monitor which is based on convictions indicated when retrieving car insurance quotes, is based on more than 14 million car insurance quotes, reveals that Aston Martin (14.1%) and Jaguar (13%) drivers are the next most likely to have speeding convictions. Conversely, at 4.6% Morris drivers are least likely to have a conviction, followed by Daihatsu (5.8%), and Proton (6%).

Looking at the data by location reveals that people living in Bournemouth are the most frequent speeders, with 12.3% having convictions. People living in London (5%) are the least likely. In terms of occupation, operations directors (23.1%) are the most likely speeders. At 23% and 21.1% respectively, surgeons and sales directors are the next most likely to have speeding convictions. On the other hand, at 3.2% warehousemen are least likely to have a speeding conviction – closely followed by driving instructors (3.3%) and casual workers (3.4%).

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

DATE	DETAILS
28 th March 2013	Graeme Lake, Highways Department
30 th May 2013	AGM + Police Forensic Collision & Reconstruction Unit
25 TH July 2013	Treasure Hunt

As always the committee of Sussex RoSPA ADA try and ensure that we have an array of interesting and varied speakers to address us at our bi-monthly meetings. We always welcome ideas from our members and would ask that you never hesitate – just put forward your suggestions to one of the committee.

Advanced Notice: Our next meeting is on Thursday, 28th March and our guest speaker will be Graeme Lake from the Inspection and Enforcement Department, of East Sussex County Council. The meeting will commence at 7.15pm with 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 therefore manned by a member of Sussex RoSPA. Can you therefore arrive in good time to ensure that the person on duty at the gate is able to get back inside the building in time to listen to the speaker.