



December Newsletter 2025

Welcome to December edition of the Sussex Advanced Drivers Newsletter

Firstly, our apologies for the delay in bringing this edition to you, and thank you for your patience.

As winter settles in and the roads become busier with darker commutes and more challenging driving conditions, it's a timely reminder of the importance of the effective use of information, anticipation, and planning in advanced driving. In this issue, we look back on recent meetings and events, including our visit to the RNLI, a fascinating talk from **Roy Stagg of SERV Sussex**, and insights from **Dave Taylor, RoSPA Examiner**. We also share details of upcoming meetings and events.

Safe driving,
Sussex Advanced Drivers Committee



RNLI Newhaven Lifeboat Station

Visit - 21st November 2025



On **21st November**, members enjoyed a fascinating visit to **RNLI Newhaven Lifeboat Station**, where **Peter Hodd** and a team of dedicated volunteers generously gave their time to show us around the station. The visit included a guided tour of the facilities and the opportunity to **go aboard the lifeboat**, providing a real insight into the vital work carried out by the RNLI.

Peter and the volunteers shared their experiences and explained how the crews train, respond to emergencies, and operate in challenging conditions, giving members a deeper appreciation of the professionalism and commitment involved in lifesaving at sea. The visit was both informative and enjoyable, and our thanks go to everyone at RNLI Newhaven for such a warm welcome.

To find out more about the vital work of the RNLI, please visit their website below.

[RNLI Newhaven Lifeboat Station](#)

Guest Speakers



SERV Sussex – Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers

This autumn we were joined by **Roy Stagg** from **SERV Sussex**, who gave us an insight into the vital work carried out by the charity.

SERV (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers) provides free, urgent transport of blood, blood products, and other essential medical items to NHS hospitals across Sussex.

Operating **7pm – 6am on weekdays and 24/7 at weekends and bank holidays**, their volunteer riders and drivers use their own vehicles, supported by a fleet of SERV-marked bikes and cars funded entirely by donations.

Roy explained how SERV Sussex also delivers donated human milk for premature and sick babies, in partnership with the [Hearts Milk Bank](#), and highlighted how every journey helps save lives.

The talk was a reminder of how much is achieved by volunteers behind the scenes, and how vital their work is for hospitals and families across our county.

👉 To find out more, or to support SERV Sussex through volunteering or donations, visit: [SERV Sussex](#)



Dave Taylor

Focus on Speed Management

We were pleased to welcome **Dave Taylor**, Director of **Driver Training Taylormade Ltd** and a highly experienced driver trainer

and **RoSPA Examiner**. Dave shared valuable insights into **speed management**, a core aspect of safe driving that can make a significant difference to both safety and control on the road.

During his talk, Dave emphasised the importance of **managing your speed appropriately for the conditions**, and how doing so increases your ability to anticipate and respond to hazards effectively. One particularly useful tip he highlighted was maintaining a **2-second gap behind the vehicle in front** under normal conditions — a simple but powerful way to ensure you have enough time to react if the unexpected happens

Dave's extensive experience — from serving as a Police Class 1 Advanced Driver and Instructor to training drivers of all levels — ensured a session that was both practical and engaging, with plenty of real-world examples. Our thanks go to Dave for sharing his expertise and helping our members refine their driving skills.

To find out more about Dave's driver training and experience, please visit his website below.

[Driving Training Taylor Made](#)

🔍 Myths on the Road “Daytime Running Lights mean I don’t need headlights.”

Myth:

If my car has Daytime Running Lights (DRLs), I don’t need to switch my headlights on in the day or at dusk.

Reality:

✗ Not always. While **some vehicles illuminate rear lights when DRLs are active**, many do not — meaning your vehicle may be **far less visible from behind**, particularly in rain, fog, or fading light. Drivers may



also be unaware that only their DRLs are on, especially if the dashboard is illuminated.

👉 **Tip:** Always check your **rear lights** are on when visibility drops. If in doubt, switch to **dipped headlights** so you're clearly visible from all directions.

Driving Forward

Tech Talk : Lane Assist - Helpful or Hazard?

Many modern cars now come with **Lane Departure Warning** or **Lane Keep Assist** systems. These use cameras and sensors to detect lane markings and either alert you if you drift or gently steer the car back into position.

The positives:

- Keeps tired or distracted drivers from unintentionally drifting.
- Useful safety net on motorways and long journeys.
- Some systems even combine with cruise control for “semi-autonomous” driving.

The limitations:

- Cameras can struggle in poor weather, worn road markings, or at roadworks.
- Relying on the system too much reduces your own observation and lane discipline.
- Sudden steering intervention can surprise drivers not expecting it.

👉 **Bottom line:** Lane Assist is a **support**, not a substitute. Use it as an extra safety layer — but never let it replace good observation and steering control.



Learning Point

MOT Reminders - Never Miss your Date again

Did you know you can sign up for a **free government reminder service** to make sure you never forget your MOT?

The **DVSA MOT Reminder Service** will send you:

- A text or email **1 month before** your MOT is due
- Another reminder **2 weeks before** if the MOT still hasn't been completed (the system updates once a garage records the test result)

It's free, quick to set up, and helps you avoid driving without a valid MOT (which could result in a fine of up to £1,000).

👉 Sign up here: [GOV.UK MOT Reminder Service](https://www.gov.uk/mot-reminder-service)

You'll just need your vehicle's registration number and a mobile number or email address.

🔍 *Tip: You can also check any car's MOT history and due date online: [Check MOT Status](https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status)*

Drivers Spotlight



Name: Edward Redman
(Group Secretary)

Member since: 2022

First car: 1961 Morris Minor 1000

Dream car: Bentley Turbo R

Best driving tip:

Don't hit anyone or anything

Annoyance on the road:

People not cancelling right hand signal before taking their exit on a roundabout

Favourite journey:

Driving to a UK holiday destination



Spotlight: Graham Feest & the UK Road Safety Network

We're delighted to highlight **Graham Feest**, a highly regarded UK road safety consultant whose work supports education, policy, and safety best practices across the country.

One of Graham's key contributions is the **UK Road Safety Network**, which produces a regular monthly newsletter titled *Traffic Safety Roads*. Membership is free, and subscribers receive updates, in-depth analysis, and resources aimed at improving road safety for drivers, policymakers, and safety professionals alike.

Graham recently joined us as our guest speaker at our **January group meeting**, where he presented on *Transport Traffic Safety Roads*. Members found the session both informative and thought-provoking, and we'll be sharing more highlights and key takeaways from Graham's visit in our next newsletter.

If you're interested in receiving the newsletter, you can **register via Graham's website** — just look for the *Newsletter / UK Road Safety Network* section.



Upcoming Events



Group Meeting -
Air Ambulance Charity, Kent
Surrey Sussex
7.30pm refreshments,
8pm start



Scaynes Hill Millennium Hall, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, RH17 7PG

Committee Members

Chairman - Paul Purdy

Vice Chair - Kevin Reader

Treasurer - Philip Doyne

Group Secretary - Edward Redman

Membership Secretary - Margret Preece

Training Officer - Duncan Hauser

Events Organiser - Kevin Reader

Newsletter Editor - Travis Spruit

Website Manager - Edward Redman

Committee Member - Anthony Platts



Sussex Advanced Drivers

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