



The **BEDFORD** Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Members Newsletter

Visit the **BEDFORD Group** online at www.road-a-bedford.org.uk **Nov 2011**

President **Dr. Lisa Dorn** BSc PhD CPsychol, AFBPS

Bill Brady (Chairman and Senior Tutor) 01234 768408 chairman@road-a-bedford.org.uk

Stan Jones (Secretary) **NEW Phone number** 01234 266070 secretary@road-a-bedford.org.uk

Melia Taylor (Membership and Treasurer) 01234 312210 treasurer@road-a-bedford.org.uk ,
membership@road-a-bedford.org.uk

Keith Hooson (Newsletter Editor) 01234 404830 newsletter@road-a-bedford.org.uk

November Meeting

After many years of providing support, advice and his expertise to RoSPA, **Eric Simpson** will be standing down as Regional Senior Examiner.

We would like to thank Eric for his long-term involvement with RoSPA, but in particular his support of our Bedford Group. We have invited him to our November meeting to give us some more words of wisdom and no doubt an entertaining story or two.

We will also welcome Eric's replacement, Tony Gabb at the meeting.

Below is a brief résumé from Stan Jones of Eric's involvement with our group:

ERIC SIMPSON has been the RoSPA Regional Senior Examiner for many years and has supported the Bedford Group since its inauguration in 1997. He has talked at our meetings on several occasions guiding associates in what they may expect in their tests and how to help their performance.

Full day in car training days have been a great help to Observers (now Tutors) over the years and Eric's humour has made them all enjoyable events. He has always been receptive to comments we have made regarding RoSPA's expectations and how they have varied between examiners and it has been Eric's skills that enabled him to monitor those differences.

I had known Eric for some years prior to the Bedford Group formation as secretary of the previous but now defunct Mid Beds Group. I arranged around 25 years ago for a fleet of tanker drivers and sales representatives to be examined by RoSPA and Eric examined the HGV tanker drivers. So it is not just cars in which he has the skills but also HGV.

We would like to see a good attendance at the meeting to convey our thanks to Eric, so hope you will be able to join us at 8pm on Tuesday 15th November 2011 at
the **Barkers Lane Fire Station MK41 9SB**

Parking: We cannot park at the fire station itself. There is however plenty of parking space available at the **Bedford International Athletics Stadium, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9SB** opposite the fire station. Please take care crossing the road.

October meeting: A big thank you to Dr Julie Gandolfi from Driver Research Limited, who gave us a very informative and thought provoking presentation on her research on “Managing the Older Driver Problem”. The research identified that older drivers are likely to be faced with greater driving risks for many reasons. These increased risks can come from both personal physical changes as well as a change in their cognitive responses. The research, whilst identifying the risks, does not respond to this in the way that some do by demanding compulsory re-tests or blanket bans on driving. Julie’s research recognises that there is a potential massive social impact if a driving licence is withdrawn. The research concentrates on how we can still allow older drivers to continue to drive without significantly increasing driving risk. The research, like any “suitable and sufficient risk assessment”, seeks to identify how these risks can be effectively managed so that (safe) driving can continue. It is all about engaging the drivers, by firstly getting them to acknowledge what the risks are and why they may be increasing. Then it is a question of working with the drivers to look at ways that these risks can be managed. A risk, such as changes in eye sight can be easily managed by ensuring that eye tests are regularly conducted and then the correct glasses are worn whilst driving. Further details on Julie’s work can be found at:

<http://www.drivingresearch.co.uk/>

Better Drive Course: We will be running another Better Driving Course for 6 consecutive Wednesday evenings 8:00pm to 9:30pm commencing 1st February 2012.

Topics covered 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 & use of main controls, Accidents and breakdowns, Dealing with corners & bends, Personal safety for women drivers, Correct positioning, Drive

commentaries, Effective signalling, Assessment drives.

Further details and an application form are available at:

<http://www.roada-bedford.org.uk/bdc.htm> or Contact Stan Jones on 01234 266070.

Seen on an overhead sign on the M1: “**IS YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR WINTER?**” Whilst the sign should say “**IS YOUR VEHICLE SAFE FOR THE ROAD?**” it should serve as reminder to us all to make sure we are checking our vehicle on a regular basis. **MADNESS AGAIN.** The latest proposal is to change the first MOT test to start at 4 years and then be every 2 years from then on. This despite the fact that 40% of vehicles fail their MOT and have therefore been driven to the test centre in an unroadworthy condition. Add to this (see last month’s newsletter) the proposal to increase the legal motorway speed limit to 80MPH!



Sir Jimmy Saville 1926 - 2011. We should remember that Sir Jimmy was a great Charity and Road

Safety Champion with his 1972 “Clunk Click Every Trip ” advert. See it again at:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/1964to1979/filmpage_clunk.htmT.

Why 39 years on do some still travel without wearing the greatest safety aid that comes free with every vehicle?

December 2011: There will not be a monthly newsletter in December or a monthly meeting. The newsletter will return in January 2012 and our first meeting of 2012 will be on Tuesday 17th January 2012. Early I know, but have a happy and a safe Christmas and New Year and I hope to see you in 2012.



Editor: Keith Hooson