



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

Visit the **BEDFORD Group** online at [www.roadad-bedford.org.uk](http://www.roadad-bedford.org.uk) **Nov 2009**

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## November Meeting

A talk by Geoff Willis, on the work of the **Association Of Industrial Road Safety Officers**. See [www.airso.co.uk](http://www.airso.co.uk) for further details of their work.

Geoff is also the Operations Manager and Health & Safety Adviser for St John Ambulance, Bedfordshire and the Assistant County Commissioner (Operations) St John Ambulance – Bedfordshire

8pm on the Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the Training Centre of the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service Southfields Road Kempston.

Our usual meeting room is no more. Parking and the way in to the venue is as before, but walk past our usual lecture theatre venue until you reach the end of the corridor then turn right (at the T-junction!) to our new meeting room.

**The September Meeting:** Thanks to Andrew for organising the quiz night. I was not able to attend so can't comment first hand on the quiz and our new lecture theatre, but I am told that a good time was had by all who attended.

The chaos of the A6 works to the southern edge of Bedford seems to have improved: Gone are the roundabouts to be replaced by a new road layout and traffic light system. After a week it does seem to make getting between Bedford and Kempston at the southern end easier.

**Staged Accidents:** Since I published last month's article, Mohammed Patel, a 24-year-old man from Bolton has been jailed for four-

and-a-half years after admitting his part in a £1.6m "crash for cash" conspiracy in Greater Manchester.

He had caused at least 93 car crashes in three years, each costing insurers about £17,000. He charged £500 a time to stage accidents, which enabled car owners to claim for bogus damages from insurers.

Mohammed Patel forced a number of low speed crashes by braking suddenly, often at roundabouts, so the driver behind would crash into the back of him.

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Claimants - who owned the cars Mr Patel was driving demanded compensation for personal injury, courtesy cars and legal fees at the expense of the other party's insurers.

As a result of the conspiracy he earned about £46,000. But the cost to the insurance industry was huge, the court heard.

Mr Patels' scam came to an end when office workers whose offices overlooked the roundabout that Mr Patel used for his accidents had noticed "one vehicle colliding with another at low speed with minor damage, and often the same person driving the lead vehicle".

"They told drivers of the rear vehicles they thought they were the victim of fraud".

Mr. Patel pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud, six counts of dangerous driving and four counts of driving while disqualified between May 2005 and August 2008.

He was arrested days after he was observed staging two crashes in one day.

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You can't have failed to miss that Christmas is looming as the advertisements start earlier and earlier each year.

**There will be no meeting in December, but we will be back with the first 2010 meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010.**

Take care over the Christmas and New Year Periods. Have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year:

**I thought the following was quite apt.**



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