



## Bedford Group RoSPA Advanced Drivers

RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders Accredited

## Members Newsletter

May 2023

Visit the Bedford Group of RoSPA Advanced Drivers online at <http://www.roada-bedford.org.uk>



ROSPA is on Facebook. Join the Facebook Group at: [RoSPA Advanced Drivers and Riders](https://www.facebook.com/RoSPAAdvancedDriversandRiders)

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**Welcome to the May 2023 issue of the Bedford Group of the  
RoSPA Advanced Drivers Newsletter.**

### Main topics:

**Committee meeting – 18.04.23**

**Forward Notice of AGM – Tuesday 6 June 2023**

**Snippets –**

**Magpas Air Ambulance**

**Quiz answers and new quiz**

Val Jones

April 2023

## Committee update

The committee meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April was held face to face & via Skype.

Discussions included future activities, planning for the AGM and support for Tutors. The possibility of including motorcyclists in future training was also mooted. Further enquires and discussions to follow.

You may be interested in visiting the **May Festival at Elstow Abbey**? If so, here are the details:



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## Retests – a reminder

Members with a retest are invited to arrange a free observed drive to provide any pointers to prepare for their test.

Val Jones, Newsletter Editor

## **Forward notice: our Annual General Meeting for members scheduled for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. All members welcome!**

This is a chance to hear about the work of the group. We report on what we've been up to over the last the past year and elect our committee and officers. Perhaps you're even interested in becoming a Tutor or joining the committee?

**Further details will follow along with a Skype link for any members who would like to join us virtually.**

Martin Kidds, Chairman and Secretary

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## **Congratulations are in order**

It gives us great pleasure to share that **Henry Lafferty** achieved a silver pass with Chris Devlin. He relayed his thanks to Mike Hitchcock for his pre-test drive.

Congratulations are also in order for one of our driving tutors **Jenny Holliday** who achieved a gold pass on her recent retest.

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## **Reminder**

**If you are waiting to be allocated a Tutor**, you are advised to purchase and read the current edition of Roadcraft (2020) and The Official Highway Code (2022).

When you are allocated a Tutor, you are advised to **make contact within a four-week period**.

*Drives can be arranged at a mutually convenient time. If contact has not been made within the four-week period, you may be put back on the waiting list to allow another member access.*

**Remember to forward details on your test passes, dates and grades to [secretary@roada-bedford.org.uk](mailto:secretary@roada-bedford.org.uk) to ensure we have the correct details and can celebrate your successes.**

**Have you been notified by RoSPA that you are due a retest?**

If so, **the group offers an observed drive to members ahead of a retest.** Let us know if you would like to book an observed drive through our Training Co-ordinator? [training@roada-bedford.org.uk](mailto:training@roada-bedford.org.uk)

If we have the relevant details of your last test in our membership records, we can anticipate when a request may be forthcoming.

## Snippets: The Mail March 25th

### Sneaky fines you've never heard of

Did you know you can be fined £1,000 plus the cost of court and legal fees for parking the wrong way on the street (i.e., against the traffic.) The fine can go up to £2,500 for good vehicles with more than eight seats. Rule 248 of the Highway Code states: "You must not park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space."

Before you go on holiday its worth checking online to see if the country you are visiting has laws which could cost you for infringing them.

In Germany for example, you can be fined 100 euros (£88) if you stop or run out of fuel on the autobahn.

### How can you claim for pothole damage?

A shocking 13 million cars were damaged by potholes last year costing £1.7 billion to repair, according to Kwik Fit Repairs.

In fact, pothole repairs are at a ten-year high, having doubled since 2013, and the average cost of repair is £127.



So, what can you do if your car is damaged after hitting a pothole? Well, you might be able to claim compensation from the council for the cost of any repairs. However, that is a big "might." Many such cases against the council fail in court.

To have some chance of redress, first write to the council responsible for the road that has the pothole, including as much detail as you can gather: including copies of your quotes, invoices and repair receipts. Also add photographs, the location, size and description of the pothole. Councils are supposed to keep roads safe, so you need to argue that they've failed in this duty.

If your claim for compensation is rejected, you can appeal. Ask to see the council's road inspection reports and try to re-claim. The AA advises if the damage is very expensive you should speak to your insurance



company or seek legal advice. Meanwhile Kwik Fit says ensuring your car is in its best condition can minimise problems caused by pothole impacts.

Make sure your tyres are properly inflated as that will not only save you hundreds of pounds in petrol a year but will also act as a protective cushion against problems in the road.

Also, rather obviously it recommends practicing good driving skills, e.g., driving around puddles which could hide potholes.

## Questions raised by an associate

It is always really pleasing to hear from an Associate.

I would like to thank Judith Slaymaker, for asking the following questions

(N.B. I asked Tutors to check these responses before adding to the newsletter!)

### Potholes

#### Question

“Some of our roads are in a terrible state with potholes and collapsed sides. I know several people who have had tyres damaged. Do members have any tips on how to keep looking up and far enough ahead whilst also watching out for potholes.”

#### Response

Judith is clearly aware of the importance of looking far enough ahead. Observation skills and reducing speeds under poor road conditions is key. Potholes may look darker in colour. Leaving a generous gap will increase the likelihood of being able to read the road conditions. Leaving more than the two second rule and being aware of what's behind you can be helpful. If you can safely avoid the pothole, then do so. Making sure you have the correct tyre pressure will also

provide a safety cushion. If you can't avoid a pothole (e.g., due to risk of conflict with oncoming traffic) then reducing speed should reduce the risk of damage.

## Safety Posts / Marker Posts on bends

### Question

Judith has noted “at some bends there are black and white vertical posts with white or red reflectors on the top.”



She asked what these were called as she couldn't find a reference in the Highway Code

### Response

These are hazard markers. Treat them as you would with chevron markers on posts on a bend.

## School Crossing

### Question

“On the B660 going south into Bedford, there is a 20 mile an hour speed limit when the lights are flashing for the school crossing. How do drivers know where the 20 miles per

hour limit ends, especially if the lights are flashing and there is no crossing patrol?



Judith notes that there isn't another sign to indicate the end of the restriction. She asks if she should just look out for the back of the sign on the opposite side of the road?"

### **Response**

It is more difficult where there is no clear sign which indicates end of restriction. In this case is advisable to continue to use your observational skills and proceed with caution within the restricted speed restriction until clearly out of the area. You may be able to see the sign in the opposite direction in your rear-view mirror.

Thank you for these questions Judith. If any Associates have similar questions please feel free to email them to me (the Newsletter editor.)

### **The Official Highway Code**

**Do you own a copy of the latest highway Code? (January 2022)**

**Have you looked at it recently?**

The Highway Code is an unusual document in that it governs the way every individual, driver, cyclist, motorcyclist, horse rider or pedestrian uses the roads.

It is not a legal document, and its rules are not official highway laws. It contains 307 regulations and contravention to many of these can give rise to penalties.



Much of the code is actually supported by laws and it is easy to tell which ones because they use the explicit terms "must" or "must not".

For the rest of the rules, if you fail to comply you may not be directly liable to a fine, prosecution or disqualification, but the text of the rules can be used in a court of evidence of a transgression.

In traffic cases, sections of the Highway Code are frequently read out to clarify for the judge and jury the standard of behaviour expected of a competent driver.

### **A Brief History**

The history of the Highway Code predates the first highways legislation, the Road Traffic Act of 1930, and was published to give motorists guidance on the use of traffic signals.

As the use of motor vehicles increased and road systems became more complex, the regularly updated highway assumed the hybrid status it enjoys today.

Knowledge of the Highway Code is essential, because unless drivers are familiar with its provisions it can have only retrospective application which will do little for road safety.

If you ask older drivers when they last read the Highway Code the answer is usually, many, many years ago.

This means that they may have forgotten a significant amount of its detail and certainly won't have assimilated recent updates.

This problem with awareness is one of the principal concerns surrounding the government's latest revision of the Highway Code in 2022.

The AA polled 13,000 members in December 2021 and found that two out of three had no idea that changes were imminent.

**Many of the new rules carry legal force, making drivers liable for offences they didn't even know exist.**

For many people, driving is an essential part of their working day. Those who work in the transport industry are the most obvious examples, but the numbers run into the millions across the sectors.

### **The new rules in summary – a reminder**

The main change to the Highway Code is what is being called a new "road user hierarchy" or pyramid which classifies road users in terms of the danger they represent to others.

Obviously, this puts HGV drivers at the top of the list, ahead of van and car drivers, with motorcyclists and cyclists next, and pedestrians, unsurprisingly at the bottom.

In principle, this should improve safety for the most vulnerable, but it requires all users to be as clear about the rules as they are abouts rights of way on roundabouts.

The effect of this hierarchy will be to imply automatic culpability for those at the top of the pyramid if an accident also involves members of classes lower down the list.

(Note also that there remains an obligation on all road users to take reasonable care).

Cyclists are to enjoy priority over all motorists at junctions, where drivers who are planning to turn or change lanes must allow the cyclist to proceed first.

Cyclists in turn, must give way to pedestrians on shared tracks.

Drivers and cyclists must now give way to pedestrians who wish to cross the road at any point if traffic is slow or stationary. In addition, should a cyclist wish to cross in these circumstances, drivers must allow them.

However, the common practice of flashing your lights to invite a pedestrian to cross is formally banned.

The code goes on to prescribe rules designed to give more space to cyclists, horse-riders and horse-drawn vehicles on roads generally. If in doubt, give way.

These changes will undoubtedly lengthen journey times so this needs to be taken into account when planning your journeys. You don't want to be committing any offences in your haste.

At speeds below 30mph, drivers will be expected to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between their vehicles and slower road users and motorbikes, and two metres at speeds in excess of 30.

An unusual measure being introduced mentioned in an earlier edition of our newsletter is the Dutch Reach.

The "**Dutch Reach**" is the practice of opening your door with the hand furthest away from it. This forces your body to turn towards the window and makes it much more likely you will see an approaching cyclist or pedestrian, who might otherwise be hit by an opening door.

The new Highway code came into effect in January 2022. None of these rules has an automatic effect on insurance, but the danger is that a poor campaign on public awareness will leave most road users ignorant of their new rights and obligations.

The result of this could be an increase in the number of minor offences and a few major ones. This proliferation could push up insurance premiums which could be avoided by proper education.

### Key Changes

**RULE H1** – Those in charge of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they may pose to others.

Cyclists and horse riders have a responsibility to look after pedestrians. It also stresses that all road users have responsibility to ensure their own safety, as well as that of others.

**RULE H2** – For drivers, motorbike riders, horse riders and cyclists it states: “At a junction you should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from you are turning”.

Essentially this means you are turning into a road and there is a pedestrian waiting to cross, you should give way to them. Cyclists also have to give way to pedestrians on shared use cycle tracks.

**RULE H3** – The next update is aimed at drivers and motorcyclists.

It states: “you should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction or changing direction or lane”.

You shouldn't turn at a junction if doing so would cause a cyclist or horse rider to stop or swerve. Instead, you are advised to wait for a safe gap to turn in.

For more information, see:

[The Highway Code: 8 changes you need to know from 29 January 2022 - \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022).

### The original Road Traffic Act of 1930 – it's purpose

The **Road Traffic Act 1930** made provision for, amongst other things, "the regulation of traffic on roads and of motor vehicles and otherwise with respect to roads and vehicles thereon" and "the protection of third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles".

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From the RAC Drive Magazine –

How maximum speed limits have changed!



### UK Speed limits a brief history

1865 - 1896 locomotives on the highway could go no more than 2 mph in a populated area and 4mph elsewhere.

1896 the maximum speed limit was increased to 14mph. The London Brighton Run took place in celebration of this!

The Motor Car Act 1903 increased speed limits to 20mph. This was

widely ignored and in 1930 it was abolished.

The absence of speed limits ended when the Road Traffic Act introduced a 30mph speed limit in a built-up area (defined as a place having streetlamps no more than 20 yards apart).

There were no speed limits on motorways until December 1965 when a national speed limit of 70mph was imposed initially for a four-month trial. This was made permanent in 1967.

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Gov.UK website

### **Speeding penalties**

The minimum penalty for speeding is £100 fine and 3 penalty points added to your licence.

You could be disqualified from driving if you build up 12 or more penalty points within three years.

#### **If you are caught by a speed camera:**

Within 14 days of your car being caught you will be sent a:

- Notice of intended prosecution (NIP)
- Section 172 notice

You must return the Section 172 notice within 28 days, telling the police who was driving the car.

You may have to go to court if you ignore the notice.

After you've sent the Section 172 notice back, you'll be sent either a:

- Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)
- Letter telling you to go to court.

#### **If you are stopped by the police, they can:**

- Give you a verbal warning.
- Give or send you an FPN.
- Order you to go to court- you'll be sent a letter telling you what to do.

### **Getting a fixed penalty notice**

If you get an FPN you can choose to plead guilty or not guilty.

#### **If you plead guilty:**

You'll have to pay a £100 fine and have 3 points added to your licence, unless you're given the option of a speed awareness course.

Your driving licence will have a code on it **for 4 years**.

You may be given the option of a speed awareness course if:

- The police decide its appropriate for your offence,
- You have not been on a speed awareness course in the past 3 years.

#### **If you plead not guilty:**

You'll have to go to court if you plead not guilty.

You can be fined more and get more penalty points if the court decides you're guilty of speeding.

The amount you are fined depends on what speed limit was and how much



over it you were driving. It's usually a percentage of your weekly income, up to a maximum of £1,000 (£2,500 if you were driving on a motorway)

You can also be disqualified from driving or have your licence suspended.

### **NEW Drivers**

If you're still within 2 years of passing your driving test, your driving licence will be revoked (withdrawn) if you build up 6 or more penalty points.

### **Resources**

Please remember the free RoSPA e-newsletter covering all safety matters including road safety for all RoADAR members.

RoSPA's premier health & safety newsletter brings you the very latest safety news, expert views and advice.

Every issue includes news on road safety, workplace, home and public safety, also details of events you will find interesting! When you sign up, you'll receive access to an exclusive collection of e-books covering a wide range of health and safety topics.

Don't miss out, sign-up via  
<https://www.rospace.com/safety-matters>

Also remember to check out the members Benefit Platform too.



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The committee are pleased to be able to share a few words from **Paul Firman** **FIAM** Magpas Community Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Magpas Air Ambulance give the very best pre-hospital emergency care, in the air or on land, including treatments usually only available in hospital. Operating 24/7, the charity answers four calls for help a day on average, treating around 900 patients in life-threatening emergencies every year.

Magpas Air Ambulance serves the communities of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and across the East of England and are dispatched by both the East of England and the East Midlands Ambulance Service Trusts – caring for a population of over 10 million.

The charity relies on generous public donations to continue saving lives.

For more information, see  
<https://magpas.org.uk/about-us/>

## February 2023 Quiz

### Answers in bold and underlined

From Theory 4 in 1 Driving Test app

**I will start with some easy ones**

**Tick which one you think applies**

1) You're on a three-lane motorway. Which lane are you in if there are red reflective studs on your left and white ones on your right?

- a) In the middle
- b) On the hard shoulder

**c) In the left lane**

d) In the right lane

2) What is the speed limit for a car towing a caravan on a dual carriageway?

- a) 70
- b) 60**
- c) 50
- d) 40

3) When may a passenger travel in a car without wearing a seat belt?

- a) When they are sitting in the rear seat
- b) When they are under 14 years of age
- c) When they are under 1.5 (5 feet in height)
- d) When they are exempt for medical reasons**

4) A cycle lane, marked by a solid white line, is in operation. What does this mean for car drivers?

- a) They may use the lane when necessary.
- b) They may park in the lane (in residential areas)
- c) They may drive in the lane at any time (when not in use by cyclists)

**d) They mustn't drive along the lane**

5) Your vehicle has broken down on a motorway. What should you do if you aren't able to get into the hard shoulder?

- a) Stop the traffic and ask for help
- b) Switch on your hazard lights**
- c) Attempt to repair the vehicle quickly
- d) Stay behind your vehicle to warn others.

6) When will you feel the effects of engine braking?

- a) When you change to a higher gear
- b) When you only use the parking brake
- c) When you are in neutral
- d) When you change to a lower gear**

7) Following a collision, someone has suffered a burn. The burn needs to be cooled. What's the minimum period?

**5 mins** (5 mins in the recommended **minimum period**....Ideally the burn should be cooled for 20 minutes.)

10 mins

15 mins

20 mins

(N.B this one caught me out!)

8) When can you park on the right-hand side of the road at night?

**Answer: In a one-way street**

9) Where may you overtake another vehicle on the left?

**Answer: In a one-way street**

10a) What would the stopping distance be in icy conditions at 70 mph?

**Answer: 315 feet x10 = 350 ft**

10b) What would the stopping distance be for wet conditions at 60 mph?

**Answer: 240 feet x 2**

## **Quiz for May's Edition**

### **More From the Theory 4 in 1app**

which is a free app to help a learner gain a full driving licence.

### **The Highway Code**

- 1) Bus stop road markings will be painted \_\_\_\_\_ on the road surface.
- 2) Certain local councils are able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice to motorists making an illegal manoeuvre such as a u turn  
True or false?
- 3) When making a u-turn you must follow this routine  
Prepare, \_\_\_\_\_ and manoeuvre.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ studs mark the central reservation of a dual carriageway.
- 5) What colour studs mark the edge of the main carriageways at lay bys and slip roads?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) What colour studs indicate temporary adjustments to lane layouts? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

7) Green beacons are found on \_\_\_\_\_ cars

8) A regulatory no waiting sign is often used with a \_\_\_\_\_

9) Is eating while driving illegal?  
Yes / No



Answer : \_\_\_\_\_



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What do these signs mean?



Answer \_\_\_\_\_



Answer: \_\_\_\_\_