

View from the East

October 2019



This Month

A day in front of the lens for me again in October with Rav Wilding from BBC's Crime Watch. He had been asked to do a motorcycle safety video in partnership with BMW and Police Bikesafe – hence my involvement.

We had a great day out on the roads in the sunshine observing Rav and offering advice as we went along our route. Observations and positioning being the main areas to be improved.

He really enjoyed his day and we all got a great deal out of it. I'll add the link to the video when it goes live in my next newsletter.

Motorcycle tests have begun to tail off as we head into the winter months. My advice to all of my two wheeled friends, is don't throw a blanket over the bike and forget about it until April. If you find yourself at a loose end on a sunny dry Sunday morning, wheel it out and go for a gentle bibble on a familiar route to keep your skills up.

Ahoy shipmates

Before you hit delete, no I am not writing for the wrong newsletter!

The first frosty mornings are upon us as temperatures have fallen below zero for the first time this Autumn.

I have marvelled at many drivers ability to drive and navigate a motor vehicle whilst peering through the tiniest of portholes carved into the frozen windows. Who knew we had so many sailors living in Cambridgeshire? As a daily commuter on a motorcycle, I am all too aware of my vulnerable status as stated in the Highway Code, which has now doubled in my opinion, if other road users cannot be bothered to throw an old sheet or stick a frost cap on top of their car at night so they can have trouble free travel the following morning.

I am sure many of us have experimented with various solutions to this regular winter problem. My favourite is still to cover the car; better still put it in the garage (I would if my BMW RT was not in there); failing that, scrape the windows – hot water poured over is the worst thing you can do, and even de-icer just does not quite cut it. Get out of bed 10 minutes early so you have time



to do it properly. Make sure your screen wash is topped up with 50% solution to stop it freezing. Carry a bottle of water if you do not have heated washer jets so you can manually clean your screen.

Drink and Drug Driving campaign.

By the time I write my next newsletter, the UK will have started the annual Christmas Drink Drive campaign, which will run through to January.

Whilst the inevitable press releases from Police Forces across the UK will put out a positive message of “fewer drivers caught drink driving” please remember this is on the back of fewer Roads Policing Vehicles on the road. The real concern is the rise in those people being arrested or hospitalised and prosecuted for drink driving having had a collision.

So many party goers spend weeks and hundreds of pounds planning their night out, but forget the most important part – how to get home safely at the end of a great night!

Group Visits

I have managed to get out and about in the region, and have met many of you, and given you an insight into my world as a Forensic Collision Investigator, the feedback from you has been great and I am so very grateful for the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences. If you would like me to come and talk to your group please do get in touch.

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.

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Catch up with some of you soon.

Simon.

Simon Burgin
Eastern Region Co-Ordinator

