

The Road Safety Wales Low Down

" What's happening in the world of road safety?"

August 2008 — Issue 9

In This Issue:

- Kerbcraft Certificates
- Road Safety Knowledge Is Put To The Test
- Retired Teacher Makes Foray into Road Safety
- Learning to Drive Public Consultation
- Motorcycle simulator unveiled
- 'Driving GSCE' under development
- Road Safety In Our Cities
- English as a second language free resource
- Launch of DSA Motorcycle Training Aid DVD
- Older People's Deaths on the Roads
- Travel Training: Key Stages 3 and 4
- Drivers Failing To Protect Child Passengers

Kerbcraft Certificates



Kerbcraft learners at the presentation ceremony. Also pictured are Karl Napieralla, Director of Education (left) Councillor Arwyn Woolcock (right) and Road Safety Manager Joy Smith (right)

Dedicated Neath Port Talbot volunteers who help youngsters learn the dangers of the roads, have been learning themselves. And now they have been presented with certificates after successfully completing a unique training scheme developed in the county borough.

The 15 volunteers have been studying the equivalent of an NVQ in Child Pedestrian Skills. The qualification was developed by the Kerbcraft Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Open College Network and Neath Port Talbot Lifelong Learning Service and is unique in Wales.

The Kerbcraft scheme, which has been operating in Neath Port Talbot for the past six years, currently involves 29 schools and is aimed at providing on-road training for children aged between 5 and 7. Because of their success with the children the volunteers were offered the chance to gain the qualification and now they have received their certificates.

Road Safety Manager Joy Smith said: "We are delighted with the achievement of our volunteers. "They selflessly give up their free time to train our vulnerable young people and remain cheerful and upbeat whatever the weather. The nationally recognised qualifications they have achieved further enhances our Kerbcraft scheme and goes a small way to repay them for their dedication and hard work.

Road Safety Knowledge Is Put To The Test



Lansdowne Primary School, who recently became Cardiff School's Road Safety Quiz champions are now South Wales Primary School Road Safety Quiz champions.

The final was held at South Wales Police Headquarters in Bridgend on Friday 20th June and the team beat five other schools that represented local authorities across South Wales. The annual competition is co-ordinated by South Wales Police and sponsored by Lion Laboratories.

Retired Teacher Makes Foray into Road Safety

Safety on the Road - A New Music Resource for Year 2. Music and Road Safety may seem like a strange partnership but as teachers in Monmouthshire recently discovered, this new and innovative scheme has certainly captured the imagination, struck a chord so to speak!

What started as a classroom scheme of work written for pupils in Thornwell Primary School, Chepstow, has been scaled up and developed into an invaluable teaching resource.



Teachers from primary schools in south Monmouthshire recently attended an INSET training course to learn how to integrate basic road safety messages into a terms music lessons. Bob Young is the teacher who devised the scheme, formerly of Thornwell Primary School, but now "retired".

The scheme of work he wrote and presented will now be used in schools in Monmouthshire. Positive feedback from the course participants justified all the preparation in putting this scheme together.

"Good delivery and pace to training. I found all the ideas, information and activities useful. Good to see how activities used with Year 2 class. Super responses and participation." Miriam Buchan, Assistant Head and Year 5 Teacher, Shirenewton Primary School.

"The music content actually fitted the road safety aspect. It didn't feel forced." Marc Williams Music Coordinator, Thornwell Primary School.

Learning to Drive Public Consultation



The Government (DSA) has published a Consultation Paper called Learning to Drive, which sets out proposals for a major review in the way we learn to drive. The Consultation Paper explains the reason why change is important and how the public can be involved in the process.

The need for change

Over the past ten years the number of people killed or injured on Britain's roads has fallen by a third, making road travel in the UK safer than almost anywhere else in the world. But there's still a long way to go.

Experts estimate:

More than three hundred newly-qualified drivers and their passengers were killed in accidents in 2006.

One-fifth of all car deaths involve newly-qualified drivers and their passengers.

The proposed changes

The Learning to Drive Consultation Paper outlines what we have found that people would like to see in a new training, testing and driving for life programme. We want to provide:

An improved driving test

An improved learning process

Better information about instructors and improved instructor training

Further options for learning and qualifications

What do you think?

So that members of the public have everything they need to join in the consultation we have published a wide range of information and created a number of feedback mechanisms. You have from now until 8 September 2008 (when the public consultation closes) to get involved.

A special Learning to Drive consultation web site: <http://dsa.gov.uk/learningtodrive>

The Learning to Drive Consultation Paper: www.dsa.gov.uk/consultation

Motorcycle simulator unveiled



A motorcycle simulator has been unveiled by researchers in the UK. Its creators say the machine will be used to monitor rider behaviour, leading to advances in road safety and bike design.

The project has been led by Dr Alex Stedmon, at the University of Nottingham. He said the machine is the first of its kind, combining elements not seen in previous simulators.

Dr Stedmon said: "It is going to be a fantastic research facility. It's the first full-sized, moveable simulator that's linked to a projection screen and reconfigurable software. On the simulator we don't have to worry about the safety of riders or the weather (because it is indoors)."

The bike - built with the chassis of a real Triumph Daytona - is linked to software previously used for car simulators. A team of four students worked on the project, integrating the bike and software. The bike leans left and right, pushed by four pneumatic actuators. A road environment, including traffic, is projected onto a large screen in front of the bike.

[View the video](#)

'Driving GCSE' under development

An organisation called a2om is developing a BTEC in Driving Science (GCSE), which it says is the 'world's first academic and vocational qualification for learner drivers'.

The course provides a structure for instructors and students covering the physical skills involved in learning to drive and pass the driving test, and preparing the learner for a safer driving life.



The new qualification will be delivered by ADIs, for whom a2om is rolling out a programme of training days.

The course also embodies post-test training - developing students' on road experiences, and covering the responsibilities of licence acquisition and risk management techniques.

Adrian Walsh, director of RoadSafe, said: "Being able to drive is an important route to employment and should be embedded in our education system. This breakthrough will give young people a chance in life which was just not there before."

For further information contact [Dave Parkin](#) on 07894199374, or go to: www.a2om.com

Road Safety in our Cities



In Europe's ambitious project to save 25,000 lives on our roads, European Road Safety Days are intended to raise awareness, give visibility to best local practices and European policies and offer all those involved the opportunity to work towards more road safety in a truly European and global community.

The second road safety day, to be held in 2008, will address the subject of "Road Safety in our Cities". As mentioned in the Commission Green Paper "Towards a new culture for urban mobility", adopted on 25 September 2007, "one of the next European road safety days could focus on urban areas". Indeed about two thirds of the accidents and one third of the road fatalities occur in urban areas and affect the most vulnerable road users.

This second European road safety day will be held on 13 October 2008. The main event will take place in Paris. Events planned for Wales will hopefully include Cardiff, Newport and Swansea.

[Read More](#)

English as a second language? Free new road safety resource



With the help of Birmingham City Council Road Safety Department, and the support of the Department for Transport, RoSPA has developed a new teaching resource ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Key Stage 2 Road Safety Resource consists of a **Teacher's Guide** and six **Children's Workbooks**, the resource is designed to develop the spoken and written skills of learners of English as a second language, using a Road Safety theme.

Research shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to be involved in road accidents – even more so if those children have poorly developed English language skills. This resource aims to help address this problem. A number of key road safety words, phrases and messages are written in **Bengali, Punjabi, Urdu** and **Polish** – as well as in English (although speakers of other languages can be included as well).

These workbooks are available from RoSPA as a free booklet whilst stocks last (MS348 & MS358), or to download as a [pdf](#).

Please call **0121 248 2126** for further information.

Launch of Official DSA Motorcycle Training Aid DVD

The Driving Standards Agency have launched a brand new official training DVD for post-test riders and motorcycle trainers.

'Better Biking – the Official DSA Training Aid DVD' provides expert advice on improving bikers' skills and aids post-test rider training to DSA standard. Motorcyclists can learn how to advance their biking expertise whilst watching professional trainers deliver post-test training and the assessment for the Enhanced Rider Scheme (ERS). Trainers can use the clips and analysis to explain key skills and demonstrate them safely and in detail.

The DVD features Sgt. Rick Weaver, chief trainer in advanced riding for Cheshire Constabulary, who personally demonstrates an ideal solo ride in each skill category to show the standard of riding to which a rider should aspire.



In addition to rider analysis the DVD provides authoritative advice on bikes, clothing, machine checks and security with Louise Brady, presenter of Bikes Aloud and Isle of Man TT. Brady is delighted that the DVD caters successfully for both trainers and post-test motorcyclists advising: 'The DVD is the perfect companion to enhance post-test training programmes as well as ideal preparation for the ERS assessment which could help bikers cut insurance costs.'

Better Biking: the Official DSA Training Aid, ISBN 97801129559 Visit www.tsoshop.co.uk/bike

Reducing Older People's Deaths on the Roads



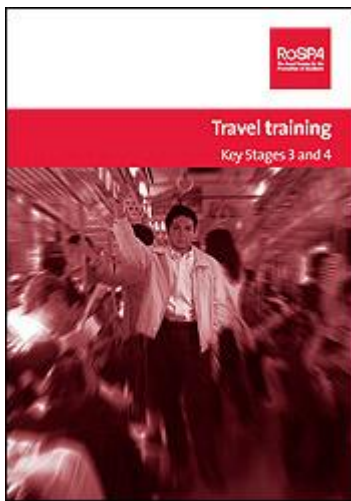
The European Transport Safety Council reports that at least 8,260 people 65 years old and over were killed in the EU27 in 2006. While older people account for one sixth of European population, every fifth person killed in road traffic is aged 65 or over. Moreover, due to population ageing,

older people will represent an increasing share of the total population. This could have a negative impact on road safety development in the future. If the risk rates of older people and others decline at the same pace, by 2050 one death out of three is likely to be an elderly person. Providing safe mobility to senior citizens deserves special attention and requires a re-think of policies and strategies.

Portugal, Israel and **France** scored the best year-to-year reduction in older people's deaths on the roads over the past decade.

[Read the full report](#)

Travel Training: Key Stages 3 and 4



The older children get, the more likely they are to die or be injured on the roads. Traffic is one of the biggest killers of 12-16 year olds in the UK.

It is at this age that children begin to venture beyond the boundaries of home and school, and start to use public transport on their own, as well as travelling on foot. Travel training lessons will benefit these students, especially as finding your way around on buses and trains can be a challenge even for seasoned travellers!

This training package is relevant to professionals or other individuals or groups with an interest in the welfare of young people – including teachers, PHSE co-ordinators, work experience co-ordinators, road safety officers, school travel plan co-ordinators and police officers.

The resource contains dedicated worksheets covering a range of topics and issues associated with independent travel. There are also brief teaching notes for each worksheet. This resource is aimed at helping to meet Government targets for significantly reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 2010.

[Click here for the free online pdf.](#)

Drivers Failing To Protect Child Passengers



A Europe-wide campaign has revealed an alarming number of motorists do not wear a seatbelt. Organised by TISPOL, Operation Seatbelt saw police in 22 European countries carry out checks between February 18th – 24th 2008.

A total of 142,209 car users were found not to be wearing seatbelts. This is despite the fact that seatbelt use has been compulsory in Europe since 1993.

“We know one of the greatest threats to life on the roads is the failure of the driver or passengers to wear a seatbelt so these results are very concerning” said TISPOL President Adam Briggs.

The title of the TISPOL campaign was “Save Your Children. Adults have a choice, children do not” and police were concerned to find that those not wearing seatbelts included over 4,000 children.

“It was worrying to find that so many adults are prepared take such a risk with the lives of their children” said Mr Briggs.

“Research suggests that up to 10,000 people die on Europe’s roads each year as a result of not wearing a seatbelt – these are needless deaths and easily avoidable.”

[Click here](#) for the full results table with breakdown by country.

Contact the Editor

Copyright © 2008 by RoSPA Wales - All Rights Reserved.

Editor: Steve Baker, RoSPA
sbaker@rospa.com

02920 250 600

