

In this issue

■ Dedication	2
■ News from the office	3
■ Decade of Action for Road Safety	4
■ Europe and beyond	5
■ Justice campaign	6-7
■ Support	8
■ Remembrance	9
■ Road danger reduction	10
■ Local groups	11
■ Fundraising	12

About this newsletter

Contributions from members in the form of letters, testimonies, news stories, poems and photographs are very welcome.

Deadline for contributions to the next issue: 2 September 2011.

Printed on non-chlorine-bleached and non-wood based paper by Russell Press, Bulwell Lane, Nottingham NG6 0BT

Cover image: a word cloud from the Plan of Action, a Decade for Road Safety 2011-2020

Join RoadPeace today

Individual and joint/family members get regular newsletters, invitations to events, information and publications. Membership is by donation.

Associate members (companies, local authorities, organisations etc).
Businesses: £50.
Charities and voluntary groups: £20.

RoadPeace is a member of the Telephone Helplines Association



RoadPeace
Shakespeare Business Centre
245a Coldharbour Lane
London SW9 8RR
Email info@roadpeace.org
Website www.roadpeace.org
Helpline 0845 4500 355
Tel 020 7733 1603

Registered charity 1087192

Follow us on 
www.twitter.com/roadpeace



THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO

Ben Baker, who was killed cycling on a family holiday in Spain in 2003 by a speeding van driver who was neither prosecuted or even breathalysed. His parents, Jeff and Sue, and older brother Craig, have worked since then to reduce the threat of this happening to other families, both in Britain and abroad. Their work continues, and we are inspired and grateful for their strength and courage, knowing the extent of their devastation.

About RoadPeace

RoadPeace is Britain's national charity for road traffic victims. It was set up in 1992 in response to the overwhelming need for a national organisation to support bereaved families and injured victims of road crashes, and to draw attention to their lack of rights, the disregard of their needs and the casual attitudes taken towards them.

Our work is focused on improving the post-crash response by the justice sector, including campaigning for improved collision investigation, criminal prosecution and civil compensation.

The work of RoadPeace involves direct support for bereaved and injured people through a national helpline, and providing guides that explain legal procedures following a crash.

RoadPeace supports road danger reduction and the promotion of transport policies which give greater consideration to vulnerable road users and the environment.

RoadPeace is also a member of FEVR, the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, which has United Nations consultative status.

The information we gather is used to educate and inform the public and

relevant agencies ranging from government departments to individual coroners.

RoadPeace Board of Trustees

- Brigitte Chaudhry (MBE), President/Founder
- Cynthia Barlow, Chair
- Jeff Baker, Vice Chair
- Sue Baker
- Pauline Fielding
- Laura Middleton-Guerard
- Peter Salter
- Rebecca Steinbach

Website and Internet Memorials

Ludwood Interactive
www.ludwood.com

Patrons and Advisors

- Nicholas Atkinson QC
- Professor Danny Dorling
- Colin Ettinger
- Dr Mayer Hillman
- Dr Narinder Kapur
- Ken Livingstone
- Professor Ian Roberts
- John Stewart
- Dr Noreen Tehrani
- Harry Trusted
- Professor John Whitelegg

Dear friends,

AS our members will know, now is not a good time for charities, crash victims or vulnerable road users. In light of this, it is good to be able to start with news of progress. On May 11, the UN is launching the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, in the hope that it can at least halt, if not reverse, the current rise in road deaths. In this newsletter, we have included more information on the Plan for the Decade.

This Decade is being launched nine years to the day that the British Medical Journal published its issue dedicated to road traffic injury prevention, entitled 'War on the Roads', co-edited by RoadPeace Patron, Professor Ian Roberts. This included a powerful commentary by Roger Browning, a RoadPeace Trustee at the time, which can be read on our website. It asks where are all the protests from those who have to pick up the pieces after a road death or injury.

In March we attended a WHO Road Safety and Road Victim NGO meeting in Washington, DC, where the importance of our work was acknowledged. We were asked to give a presentation on our Road Death Investigation Guide for Bereaved Families, which was recommended as a template for other countries. NGOs from around the world thanked us and praised our efforts highlighting the injustice road crash victims encounter and our work campaigning for increased priority by justice sector agencies.

Our work has also been appreciated by the Network for Social Change who have awarded us a grant to further our Justice Campaign. See the Justice pages for more information.

We give thanks to our members who have kept us informed and independent (please don't forget to renew your membership). Challenging the complacency surrounding road death and road danger is not easy, especially in these times where time-savings to motorists seem to take precedence over human life and environmental sustainability. It is in the memory of loved ones taken unnecessarily that we will continue to fight for a safer and fairer world.



Amy Aeron-Thomas, Executive Director

News from the office . . .

Run for RoadPeace

ROADPEACE has secured a number of places on the London Royal Parks Half Marathon on 9 October 2011. If you would like to combine the challenge of running a half marathon with raising funds to support our work please contact the office.

Save the date

THIS year's AGM and Open Day will be held on Friday 15 July, at the Diana Memorial Fund on the South Bank in London. This year we will have presentations from the 20's Plenty For Us campaign and on civil compensation reform.

Keep in touch

DO we have your up-to-date email address? We have started sending out e-news updates, but we are missing email addresses for many of our members. Communicating with you via email helps us reduce costs and our impact on the environment. Please email info@roadpeace.org with your name and postcode, so we can update our records.

Together, tackling the injustice of road death

ROADPEACE is proud to welcome Professor Danny Dorling as a new Patron. Danny is known for highlighting and challenging society's acceptance of injustice and inequality, and how this impacts on how and when we will die. He says: *"There is no need for us to continue to tolerate the greatest direct danger to our health and wellbeing at younger ages being on the roads we have built. We can afford to slow down when we travel and have hopefully become clever enough to start to realise this more widely. The benefits of safer roads far exceed the immediate reduction in suffering and anguish that would result. Slower, safer roads increase everyone's freedom."*



Brigitte Chaudhry, RoadPeace President welcomes this news: *"For over 18 years, RoadPeace has worked to make the roads not only a safer place but also a fairer one including calling for more priority to be given by the justice and health sectors to tackle the leading cause of death and disability among young adults. We welcome the opportunity to work with Danny as a RoadPeace Patron to convince others of the need for a new approach to tackling the injustice inherent on our roads."*

We look forward to working together. Danny will be speaking at an event in Bristol to mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in November. Look out for more information in our next newsletter.



Tackling a global problem – a Decade of Action for Road Safety

In March 2010, the UN proclaimed the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with a goal to stabilise and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world.

ROAD death and injury is a global epidemic. Currently, 1.3 million people are killed on the world's roads each year, with over 20 million injured. With global vehicle growth expected to double by 2020, taking no action on road danger is simply not an option. If the current trend continues, deaths are likely to reach nearly 2 million per year by 2020. By 2030, it is expected that road deaths will outnumber those from malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/Aids at all ages.

The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety sets out priorities for the forthcoming decade under five main 'pillars' as follows:

Pillar 1 – Road safety management

Encourage the creation of multi-sectoral partnerships and designation of lead agencies with the capacity to develop and lead the delivery of national road safety strategies, plans and targets, underpinned by the data collection and evidential research to assess, countermeasure, design and monitor implementation and effectiveness.

Pillar 2 – Safer roads and mobility

Raise the inherent safety and protective quality of road networks for the benefit of all road users, especially the most vulnerable (eg pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists). This will be achieved through the implementation of road infrastructure assessment and improved safety-conscious planning, design, construction and operation of roads.

Pillar 3 – Safer vehicles

Encourage universal deployment of improved vehicle safety technologies for both passive and active safety through a combination of harmonisation of relevant global standards, consumer information schemes and incentives to accelerate the uptake of new technologies.

Pillar 4 – Safer road users

Develop comprehensive programmes to improve road user behaviour. Sustained or increased enforcement of laws and standards, combined with public awareness/education to increase seat-belt and helmet wearing rates, and to reduce drink-driving, speed and other risk factors.

Pillar 5 – Post-crash Response

Increase responsiveness to post-crash emergencies and improve the ability of health and other systems to provide appropriate emergency treatment and longer term rehabilitation for crash victims.

Initially the draft plan referred to the 5th Pillar as post-crash care. RoadPeace lobbied with others to get this amended to Post-crash response. This pillar now includes activities that refer to thorough investigations, civil compensation and justice.

The official launch of the decade is on 11 May, and is an opportunity for national governments to share their plans to halt this epidemic. Now is the time for action to confront one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century, with the potential to reduce death and serious injury by 50 per cent, or 5 million deaths and 50 million serious injuries, by the end of the Decade. We look forward to hearing what the Coalition Government's plans are.

With a road danger reduction approach this is also an opportunity to tackle the twin crises of climate change and obesity by discouraging dangerous modes of travel, and promoting safer more active modes such as walking and cycling.

Our commitment to support the Decade of Action

OVER the next decade, RoadPeace will continue its core work of:

- Campaigning for justice for road crash victims with an improved post crash response, and highlighting criminal, civil and social injustice that adds to the suffering of the bereaved and injured.
- Supporting victims of road crashes by providing practical information and advocacy, as well as emotional support.
- Campaigning to reduce road danger, particularly the speed, volume and dominance of motor vehicle traffic, whilst promoting more active and sustainable ways of travel. ■

Save the date – 11 May 2011

ROADPEACE will be marking the beginning of the Decade of Action with an evening of talks at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine entitled 'Saving people and planet – a road danger reduction approach for a safer and fairer planet'.

We will hear from two of our Patrons, Professor Ian Roberts and Dr Mayer Hillman as well as Jenny Jones, London Assembly Member for the Green Party, Duncan Kay from the Sustainable Development Commission and Ashok Sinha from London Cycling Campaign about the importance of embedding a road danger reduction approach into the forthcoming decade.

The evening will begin at 5pm, and will be followed by Q&A. All are welcome, but please RSVP to info@roadpeace.org.

Designing out danger – success in Europe but lorries still killing on our roads

TIRELESS campaigning by the family and friends of Eilidh Cairns, who was killed by a lorry whilst cycling in London in February 2009, has paid off and resulted in success at the European Parliament. RoadPeace supported the Written Declaration 81, (WD81) tabled by North East MEP Fiona Hall, which calls for the use of sensors and cameras to eliminate blind spots in lorries that cause thousands of collisions each year. WD81 was passed by 401 MEPs. The next step will be to meet with the Commission to see how it responds with proposals, and this will then go back to European Parliament to be voted upon.

Reducing lorry danger is a key campaign area for RoadPeace. We are pleased to report that we have recently received funding to support two new initiatives:

- a new micro-website that will focus entirely on the issue of reducing lorry danger and
- a briefing for Coroners which will highlight the opportunities to make a recommendation for cost-effective measures to eliminate blind spots through proximity sensors and cameras following the death of a pedestrian or cyclist.



Ghost Bike to remember Dan Cox who was killed by a lorry in London in February

European Commission Road Safety Policy for the next decade

FEVR and RoadPeace have jointly responded to the draft report for the Committee on Transport and Tourism on a European Parliament Resolution on European Road Safety 2011-2020 (2010/2235(INI)), and we are pleased that our suggested amendments have been incorporated. The committee is chaired by UK MEP Brian Simpson. You can read our response on our website, www.roadpeace.org/why/our_work/consultations.

On Cross Border Enforcement, which has been on the EC agenda for some time, Mr Simpson's office wrote to us recently to say that he was

“very disappointed at the UK Government for opting out of a European scheme that could have saved many lives on British roads. The rest of Europe will now plough ahead with the cross border enforcement of some of the most basic road traffic offences, while the UK will continue to allow foreign drivers to flout traffic offences and get away with it unpunished.”

NGO ‘Brussels Declaration’

NGOs advocating for road victims and road safety, including RoadPeace, are calling on governments to drastically change their transportation policies with 33 recommendations for the Decade of Action for Road Safety. You can read about these recommendations on our website:

www.roadpeace.org/resources/NGO_Declaration.pdf.

European Commission update

THE European Commission has adopted Vision Zero as a long term objective with the target to reduce road deaths by 50 per cent by 2020. It has also stated that reducing speed is an extremely effective way to reduce not only the risk of collisions but also fuel consumption.

United States

Spotlight on the United States

IN 2009, the road death rate in the US was three times that of Britain, with children two times more likely to die on US roads than British roads. If the US had the same death rate as Britain, **over 22 000 people would not have died in crashes in 2009**. The US has the same high drink drive limit as Britain, but suffers from a lower seat belt wearing rate. Motorcycle helmets are not mandatory in 30 of the 50 states, and using a hand held mobile phone remains legal in many states. The effectiveness of its reliance on conventional short term high-visibility speed enforcement campaigns is also of uncertain value.

This poor record is acknowledged in a new report ‘TRB Special report 300 – Achieving Traffic Safety Goals in the United States: Lessons from other Nations’ by the Transportation Research Board which states:

“The United States is missing significant opportunities to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries. The experiences of other high-income nations, and of the US states with the best improvement records, indicate the benefits from more rigorous safety programs.”

Recommendations include improved reporting by state agencies, development of the US Road Assessment Programme and enabling legislation for automated speed enforcement.

RoadPeace's Justice Campaign calls for a thorough investigation; effective inquests; appropriate prosecution and sentencing, fair compensation; and lessons to be learned so that risks are reduced.

New RoadPeace justice funding

WITH a grant from the Network for Social Change, we will be able to do more work on our campaign to end the discrimination against road crash victims. Our focus is on 'Getting counted, getting included' as there remain too many ways in which road crash victims are excluded, including in basic statistics. The number of people injured by drivers breaking the law is not monitored, nor is the number of inquests involving a road death, nor how many are killed abroad in road crashes. We will work to change this so no-one can remain ignorant of the size of the problem.

We want road crash victims to have the same right of information as other victims of crime. They should also qualify for the same support services as other victims of crime as long as the crash is being investigated or prosecuted. Concerns about road danger should also be included in community consultations and crime surveys.

We will be hiring a justice intern and expect to learn much from the progress made by campaigners working to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape, as well as improve the support for victims. Victims are often blamed in rape as they are in crashes. Judges and prosecutors are required to have specialised training before they can hear or prosecute a rape case. We have not yet achieved this with culpable road deaths.

One of our first actions will be to compare the right to information of crash victims in Britain with our counterparts in other European countries. ■

ACPO Roads Policing Conference

THE ACPO Roads Policing Conference in January 2011 included a workshop on collision investigation. Assistant Chief Constable Sean White, who has the ACPO policy lead on Road Death & Serious Collision Investigation, spoke on Forensic Collision Investigation. Key issues highlighted included:

- Training and accreditation
- Collision investigation capability and inter-force collaboration
- Vehicle borne data systems and diagnostic equipment
- Quality assurance of expert evidence
- Use of forensic service providers
- Relationship with CPS, courts & partners
- Supporting victims and their families, and
- Promoting trust and confidence in our work

RoadPeace asked about the general issue of collision investigation quality assurance and will be keen to work with ACPO, particularly on the latter two key issues that ACC White raised.

Capacity and cuts

WITH central government cutting police budgets by 20 per cent, and traffic policing a traditionally low priority for senior police officers, there is reason to fear that collision investigation capacity will suffer disproportionately. The BBC have reported traffic police in Dorset and Surrey are to be cut by 40 per cent. Some forces, like Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Police, are going to combine their collision

investigation units, whilst there are rumours of others such as that in Greater Manchester Police of being closed.

Over the next year, RoadPeace will collate information on the collision investigation capacity and interview the heads of collision investigation units as to how they are coping. We will focus on those areas where we have local groups and active members. Our first interview is with Nick Chalmers, head of the Metropolitan Police Service collision investigation unit, who has been successful at keeping 36 collision investigators and increasing the use of detectives with serious crime cases. For the full interview, see our website.

Investigating impairment

THE government's intention to close the Forensic Science Service, the provider of forensic evidence to the police, will have serious consequences for the analysis of toxicology tests of drivers. Proving use of drink or drugs will be made much harder and represents a step backwards.

New research on delay from investigation

THE RAC Foundation has published a report on the issue of delays caused by serious road collisions. It discusses how best practice could be extended so as to reduce the time of road closures, including having 24 hour cover by specialist collision investigation teams.

How many drivers are convicted of causing death?

FOR the first time, we have data from a whole year on the prosecution of drivers in fatal crashes with the new charges of Causing Death by Careless and illegal (unlicensed, disqualified and uninsured) driving. There were 464 drivers convicted of causing a fatal crash in England and Wales in 2009. The majority were convicted of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving (287) with very few convictions of Causing Death by Careless Driving Whilst Under the Influence (35). Another 93 drivers were convicted of Causing Death by Careless or Inconsiderate Driving and 32 drivers of Causing Death By Driving Whilst Unlicensed, Disqualified or Uninsured. On average, one in five drivers surviving a fatal crash is prosecuted for causing it.

The table to the right shows conviction data for several police areas. The data includes bodily harm convictions, as death by driving convictions are not provided separately for police areas. But there were only 18 convictions for causing bodily harm. Over 95 per cent of the data refers to causing death by driving convictions. ■

Causing death or bodily injury convictions (2009)

Police areas

Avon and Somerset	10
Devon and Cornwall	10
Gloucestershire	3
Greater Manchester	18
Lancashire	14
London, City of	–
Merseyside	12
Metropolitan Police	38
Norfolk	8
Thames Valley	19
West Midlands	24

Prison sentences

A CUSTODIAL sentence was given to almost all drivers convicted of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving or by Careless Driving Whilst Over The Limit, with most being given prison sentences of under five years. Only three drivers were imprisoned for Causing Death by Careless Driving and these were all Crown Court decisions. Concerns about drivers being locked up for minor lapses have proved to be as unfounded as RoadPeace warned.

With over 1200 drivers killed in crashes in 2009, drivers are four times more likely to receive a death sentence than a prison sentence for causing a fatal crash.

Getting bad drivers off the roads

IN 2009, Magistrates banned a total of 108,818 drivers and another 6,043 were banned at the Crown Court. Some two-thirds of bans were for drink driving. Only 12 drivers were banned for life and another 92 for 10 years or more. Almost 27,000 drivers had bans of less than one year or until they passed the driving test.

Careless or dangerous?

ROADPEACE and CTC (Cyclists Touring Club) continue to work together to monitor questionable cases where Careless Driving has been charged, instead of Dangerous Driving. One case is that of Stephen Benson, a career criminal who hit and killed Mike Silcock, an off-duty police officer, in a hit and run in Cheshire. Benson was only charged with Causing Death by Careless Driving despite the judge stating

“This is a case of you driving badly over a significant distance.”

He was sentenced to four years and two months in prison for causing the death and for conspiracy to commit fraud.

Careless Driving charge still a problem

THE time restriction on the laying of the Careless Driving charge continues to cause harm and injustice. The CPS had to drop the prosecution of the lorry driver involved in the crash that killed Harry Wilmers, the partner of Rebecca Stephenson, daughter of Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Stephenson. Many of our members will remember our long fight for reform with fatal crash charges. A key aim was to remove this six month deadline. We campaigned for many years just to get bereaved families warned of this deadline as the government funded guide did not mention it. Our hearts go out to the Wilmers family.

Compensation reform to hurt victims

JUSTICE Minister, Ken Clark, has announced plans to reform the ‘no win no fee’ system with success fees coming out of the victim’s compensation claim. RoadPeace is alarmed as this is intended to discourage solicitors from taking cases and/or accepting less favourable but quicker settlements. Crash victims will suffer from both reduced collision investigation capacity, including less forensic analysis, and reduced interest and availability of solicitors. This does not bode well for their access to justice.

Post crash response in the Global Plan

THANKS to lobbying by RoadPeace and others, the 5th pillar, Post-crash response, in the final version of this plan now includes:

Activity 5: Encourage a thorough investigation into the crash and the application of an effective legal response to road deaths and injuries and therefore encourage fair settlements and justice for the bereaved and injuries.

Befriending

“I decided to become a befriender because I know talking to someone who understood the depth of this pain would have helped me, after my son was killed.”

BEFRIENDERS provide peer support to those who are struggling after injury or bereavement. Befriending is usually provided as ongoing telephone support and provides invaluable ‘validation’ to those recently affected. Feedback suggests that after the devastation of a death or life-changing injury, contact with someone who truly ‘understands’ is extremely important.

We have an active network of benders but are always looking for more volunteers. While benders are trained in best practice and encouraged to look after themselves, we always stress that befriending is NOT counselling and is not a replacement as such. RoadPeace held a training day for benders in London in March and plans to hold another in Manchester later in the year. Training includes advice on how benders can avoid secondary trauma.

Status of crash victims

ROADPEACE met with Victim Support to clarify its work with road crash victims and they agreed to include on their website an explanation of when they will assist families bereaved by road crashes. A follow-up meeting discussed its interest in adapting and extending a version of their Homicide Service to all families bereaved by road crashes, not just those involving a prosecution. Unfortunately Victim Support was unable to attend the February meeting of the Road Victim Working Group, where it was agreed to write to the Ministry of Justice with a formal request to clarify the rights and support services for which bereaved and injured crash victims qualified. RoadPeace is coordinating this letter and follow-up action.

Financial costs of bereavement

ALARMED by the stories of financial devastation caused by homicide and road death, Louise Casey, the (independent) Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses, has initiated a survey of bereaved families of the financial costs associated with the death. RoadPeace is reporting on case studies of families recently bereaved by road crashes. Please contact us if you would like to share your experiences.

Casey has also convened a Policy Review Group, where RoadPeace represents families bereaved by culpable road death. Her staff has had follow-up meetings with RoadPeace to learn more about the advocacy and support services we provide. They have pledged to put the experience of the victim at the heart of the report they are undertaking.

Building Resilience

OUR pioneering Resilience Building programme improves coping skills and reduces isolation following a bereavement. An application to extend it has been submitted to the Ministry of Justice with a response expected by mid April. We have requested funding to run our London programme twice a year whilst also extending it to the South West and North West where we have active local groups. We are pleased that the Metropolitan Police Service has supported our application.

This programme offers groundbreaking trauma support and feedback from the last two years has been really encouraging; *“I learnt to control unwanted feelings and images”, “I realised what I was experiencing was ‘normal’ in traumatic deaths”, and “it provided a safe and calm environment with other people who had been through the same thing”.*

Supporting witnesses

WE have had several calls in recent months from traumatised witnesses and people who had been first on the scene after a crash, who have been struggling to cope with the demands of day to day life in the aftermath. The accounts we heard resonated with their similarities and we have produced a briefing sheet on trauma for witnesses that discusses what can be helpful after this experience.

Road Victim Working Group

In 2009, RoadPeace initiated, and is now co-ordinating a working group of charities supporting road crash victims. The aim of the group, which consists of RoadPeace, Aftermath, Brake, SCARD, Road Victims Trust and Victim Support, is to keep each other informed and to work together to improve support services for victims.

New 'Remember Me' internet memorial site

ROADPEACE'S new internet memorial site www.remembermememorials.org will be available in May. Thank you to everyone who has waited so patiently whilst important work to upgrade this site has taken place. All the memorials and tributes that were created on the original internet memorial site will be available to read again.

This new site links with our Remember Me roadside memorial plaques that are often placed at collision sites. This was inspired by the response to the street memorial to Ben Kinsella, a teenager who was stabbed to death in London. Before removing the street memorial, the Metropolitan Police Service and Islington Council photographed it and put it up on a dedicated website. Cynthia Barlow, RoadPeace Chair, spoke about this at a World Day of Remembrance service in London and urged the authorities to do the same for families bereaved by road crashes. Our new site should help them with this.

The new internet memorial site will be officially launched on May 11 to commemorate the launch of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. We are contacting local authorities, police Family Liaison Officers, and other support charities to let them know about the memorial site and the opportunities for remembrance that it offers to bereaved families and communities. ■



RoadPeace Wood

ROADPEACE Wood, planted with trees dedicated to those who have lost their life on our roads, is part of the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Every second Saturday in August, RoadPeace organises a ceremony of remembrance, which is open to anyone to attend. This year it will be on Saturday 13 August, starting at 2pm with a service in the Millennium Chapel, followed by a short walk and ceremony amongst the trees of RoadPeace Wood. Oak leaves from this service and from World Day of Remembrance services will be buried beneath the trees.

For more information contact Susanna Wright, 020 7733 1603 or susanna.wright@roadpeace.org. For directions to the National Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire see their website (www.thenma.org.uk) or call 01283 792333.

If you would like information about sponsoring a tree at RoadPeace Wood, please contact the National Arboretum, as they are in charge of the trees and all fees go to them.

Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG)

THE CMPG has sponsored a tree within RoadPeace Wood and is holding its first annual service of remembrance on Sunday 22 May. CMPG provides a police service for the motorway network within the West Midlands, West Mercia and Staffordshire and its service will be remembering particularly those who have lost their lives on these roads. CMPG's Family Liaison Officers have invited bereaved families that they have

supported recently but have been in touch to let us know that others are welcome to attend who may have been bereaved earlier on motorways in this area.

A half-hour service will be conducted from 12pm by Central Motorway Police Chaplain, Rev Viv Baldwin, who spoke at the RoadPeace Wood ceremony in 2008. For further information please contact Inspector Mark Fullwood, CMPG, tel 0345 113 5000 or email m.fullwood@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk.

World Day of Remembrance and the Global Plan

THIS year the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) will be held on Sunday 20 November. The Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, which is launched on 11 May, includes increasing public awareness with particular reference to the WDR. Therefore, an overall theme for the World Day of Remembrance throughout this decade will continue to be *From Global Remembrance to Global Action*.



Speed matters

Coalition cutting fuel prices, but not speed

RECENTLY Spain announced it has reduced both its national speed limits and train fares as part of a national programme to respond to rising fuel prices and energy bills. Meanwhile in Britain, the Minister for Transport, Phillip Hammond, in keeping with his declaration to end the (so-called) war on the motorist, has suggested that he will be considering increasing the motorway speed limit to 80mph if it can be shown to decrease journey times.

This was then followed by Chancellor George Osborne cutting fuel prices in the March 2011 Budget, a short-term measure aimed to appease the motorist.

Our updated Motorway speed limit briefing is on our website.



Freefoto.com

Green case for slower speeds

ROADPEACE has received funding to support making a green case for slower speeds. We will be making the case that without slower speeds we will not make the much needed modal shift towards more walking and cycling. Fear and intimidation of speeding traffic is often cited as reasons why people don't use more active modes to get around.

New approach to community activism

A REPORT published by Baroness Newlove, the Coalition Government's champion for active safer communities, sets out a new approach to community activism. One of the recommendations in 'Our vision for safe and active communities' includes letting communities set their own local speed limits. ■



Freefoto.com

'Big Brother' saving lives and money

ROADPEACE welcomes the launch of the Co-operative Insurance's new 'Young Driver' policy, which will use black box technology, the 'SmartBox', to monitor driving behaviour, including braking and acceleration, and speed. Data collected will then be used to determine what premium should be paid – with safer driving being rewarded with lower premiums. Younger drivers are more likely to be involved in crashes, and road death is the leading cause of death for young people.

RoadPeace has been calling for smart in-vehicle technology such as black boxes to be fitted as standard for many years. Evidence shows that drivers who have black boxes fitted drive more cautiously. Black boxes can also provide evidence regarding responsibility for crashes and crash damage, providing vital information to both the police and family about what has happened when someone has been killed or injured. Whether the motivating factor is justice or economics, any technology that results in better driver behaviour is to be encouraged.

Drink drive limit to remain too high

WE are disappointed but not surprised that the Coalition Government has decided against reducing the drink drive limit (from 80mg per 100ml to 50mg) despite the recommendation to do so in Sir Peter North's Review of Drink and Drug Driving Law. In 2010 Ireland committed to reduce its limit from 80mg to 50mg so now, along with Malta, Britain has the highest limit in Europe.

DfT and road safety

THE Department for Transport (DfT)'s departmental Business Plan, published in November 2010, included a commitment to publish a strategic framework for road safety by April 2011. We are expecting a much shorter and briefer document from the Coalition – more a statement of principle and ideology with a fraction of the actions than the previous Road Safety Strategy. There was no formal consultation but RoadPeace provided feedback in a seminar organised by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) on behalf of the DfT.

Helmets – a matter of choice

ROADPEACE submitted evidence to the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for the Environment which is considering whether to make it illegal to ride a bike without wearing a cycle helmet. Our submission highlighted that there is no real-world evidence that helmets reduce the likelihood or severity of head injuries when involved in a collision with a vehicle, and that helmet compulsion would also very likely have a negative impact on public health and personal well-being through the reduction of cycling. We also stressed the need to focus resources and energies on the real risk to cyclists, ie road danger from other road users, particularly freight vehicles, as well as promoting stricter liability and slower speeds.

Local groups and activities

Updates from local groups and members



David Midmer speaking at the IMTD meeting

RoadPeace North West

DAVID Midmer presented the work of RoadPeace at a March meeting of the Institute of Master Tutors. This came a week after Amy Aeron-Thomas, RoadPeace Executive Director, spoke at the Approved Driving Instructors (ADI) Road Safety conference in Wirral which was attended by over 100 driving instructors. She spoke about new RoadPeace activities and the latest statistics on causing death by driving convictions. Since these events David has been invited by the ADI National Joint Council to speak at its conference next year.

The North West group meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 7.30pm, with upcoming meetings in May, July, September and November. **The annual Flower Laying Ceremony of Remembrance will be held on Wednesday 31 August on the steps of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Whilst this event marks the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, it is in honour of all road crash victims.**

For more information, contact Pauline Fielding on 0151 342 6381 or Margaret Highton on 01695 727804.

RoadPeace South West

ROADPEACE South West group met on the evening of Monday 21 March. Guest speaker, Dr Adrian Davis, from Bristol City Council spoke about the local 20 mph pilots. Dr Davis is the only health professional funded by a Primary Care Trust to work on transport issues with the local government. He was also the advisor on the recent report on Road Danger Reduction in Bristol. The report was the result of a partnership project between Bristol City Council, Bristol NHS and the University of the West of England and investigates an alternative and more radical approach to road safety.

The South West group meets regularly in Bristol and the next meeting will be Saturday 7 May at 11am.

For more information, contact Steve Duddell on 0117 945 3034 or sduddell@metcalfes.co.uk.

RoadPeace Manchester

THANKS go to June Webb who has once again organised a group of runners to take part in the Great Manchester Run on Sunday 15 May. Raising funds for RoadPeace, many of the runners work for the Youth Offending Team in Trafford, whilst others are bereaved and running in memory of their loved ones.

June also holds an annual ceremony of remembrance on the anniversary of her daughter Jodie and best friend Joanne's death, which was also Jodie's 21st birthday. As the anniversary falls on a Saturday this year, the ceremony will be held a day early, on Friday 5 August at the RoadPeace Memorial Garden in Beswick, Manchester, which is another of June's achievements.

June also features in a powerful new website www.no-accident.co.uk which was created by Manchester City Council.

For more information, contact June Webb on 0161 273 7049 or squarefold@googlemail.com.

RoadPeace Lancashire

THE RoadPeace group in Lancashire continues to meet every two months in Preston (January, March, May, July, September and November).

For more information, contact Maria Hodgson on 01772 720279 or maria14mul@myway.com.

RoadPeace London

ROADPEACE London members have been campaigning on local issues for many years, particularly on the issue of reducing lorry danger for cyclists and pedestrians. Now we want to formalise our RoadPeace London group and we will begin by organising regular meetings in our London office and we are looking for people to get involved. As well as our lorry danger reduction campaign, we will also be monitoring the efforts of police and transport authorities in traffic law enforcement and speed reduction in Southwark and Lambeth, working in partnership with Southwark Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists. We work closely with the national campaign group 20s Plenty for Us and will be launching a joint local 20s Plenty campaign.

For more information, contact the RoadPeace office on 020 7733 1603.

RoadPeace in Norfolk

ROADPEACE members Bridget Wall and Liz Voysey have been in correspondence with Chief Constable of Norfolk, Phil Gormley, after hearing him speak at a local forum on Justice and Crime. Chief Constable Gormley has the new lead for Roads Policing for the Association of Chief Police Officers. Bridget Wall has also been engaged in discussions with Norfolk Coroner, William Armstrong, including collating information on local support services for newly bereaved families.

Fundraising and donations

Thank you to all our members and supporters who renew their membership each year and give generously through donations and fundraising efforts. Special thanks go to those below that have raised money or made donations in recent months;

Donations

- Daphne Portnall in memory of her son, Aiden
- Mr Kallender
- Natalie Worsley
- Robin Lane in memory of Ros Dadej
- Johan Heemskerk of Heemskerk & Partners, donations from sales of the Fuchsia Beckie-Lou
- HSBC in memory of Shane Bowen-Baker
- Mrs Lockton
- Mr and Mrs Green in memory of Julie Anne Sheppard
- David Winskill in memory of Susan Godfrey
- Janet Howell
- Ted Prangnell
- Mrs Cox
- Dr Leunig
- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Friends and family of Linda Waite
- The Fox family in memory of Carl
- The Maclaren family in memory of Carrie
- The Burton family in memory of Ollie
- Mrs Sunley
- St Nicholas Church in Pluckley
- Mr and Mrs Sewell
- The Amisvelo Racing Team
- Friends and Colleagues at JIB Pensions in memory of Hazel Griffin
- The Bath Car Share Club
- Orbis Investment Advisory Limited, on behalf of Hannah Murrill
- Cemex UK
- C Mortimer

- Marta Vilaseca, in memory of her brother David
- Godfrey Manning's collection box at the North London Transfusion Centre

Fundraising events

- Pat and Roy Bentley organised a golf competition and raffle in memory of Pat's son, David
- Rhyl Cycling Club held its annual evening criterium race in Prestatyn
- Stuart Fryer and friends cycled from the highest pub to the lowest pub in England
- Sue Jackson did a sponsored swim on World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
- The Louise Nuttall and Sarah Wilkinson Memorial Fund raised money through an Elvis impersonator night, charity football match and birthday party
- Jill Loudon and the Catholic Women's League Upminster had a fundraising lunch
- Paul Robbins ran the Brighton Marathon
- Clubmates, family and friends of Anthony Maynard organised a sportive in his memory, for the second year.
- Gillian Wallis power-walked the Great North Run
- The Lewis West Memorial Fund held a golf day
- Susan Baillie completed a sponsored walk
- Mrs Moore raised money at a

- pre-Christmas lunch and gathering of ex-librarians
- Year 11 of the William Howard School held a charity day collection
- Danielle Williams organised a concert in memory of Carrie Maclaren
- The Taylor family organised a raffle in memory of Rebecca, with match funding from Royal Mail
- Becca Doidge organised a cake sale in memory of Carrie Maclaren
- Roy and Mary Cook donated collection box proceeds and in lieu of sending Christmas Cards
- The Friends of Ian Terry sponsored Sean Wheatley, who completed the Tough Guy Challenge

Grants and Trusts

- Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund)
- Kenneth Miller Trust
- MOJ Victims Fund
- Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation
- The 1970 Trust
- The Alex Roberts-Miller Foundation
- The Ian Cadbury Charitable Trust
- The Robert Roaf Charitable Trust

Corporate Sponsors

- Fentons Solicitors LLP 
- Irwin Mitchell LLP 
- Leigh Day & Co 
- Pannone LLP 

Some upcoming events, see justgiving.com

- Yvonne Cornes has been fundraising for her forthcoming climb of Mount Kilimanjaro
- John Hill will be running this year's London Marathon
- Mark Eaton will be running this year's Edinburgh Marathon
- Sam Jerrom has been raising funds in memory of her sister, Ali
- Benn Harlow is participating in a number of upcoming cycling events in memory of Sophie Harrison

- Numerous fundraising activities are underway in memory of Christian and Niggy Townend:
- Richard Townend has organised the upcoming Team Townend Pushbike Challenge
- Blain Rooney, Harry Shepherd and Joseph Baxter are all taking part in the Team Townend Pushbike Challenge
- Will Shaw will be running the Sheffield Half Marathon

Anthony Maynard Sportive

The Anthony Maynard Sportive is run in memory of Anthony Maynard who was killed when he was hit from behind by a van driver whilst out cycling with his club. The event aims to be something that Anthony would have enjoyed – a day of tough yet enjoyable cycling through the beautiful Berkshire and Wiltshire Downs. RoadPeace benefits from the proceeds. More information can be found at: www.readingcyclingclub.com/anthonymaynardsportive.