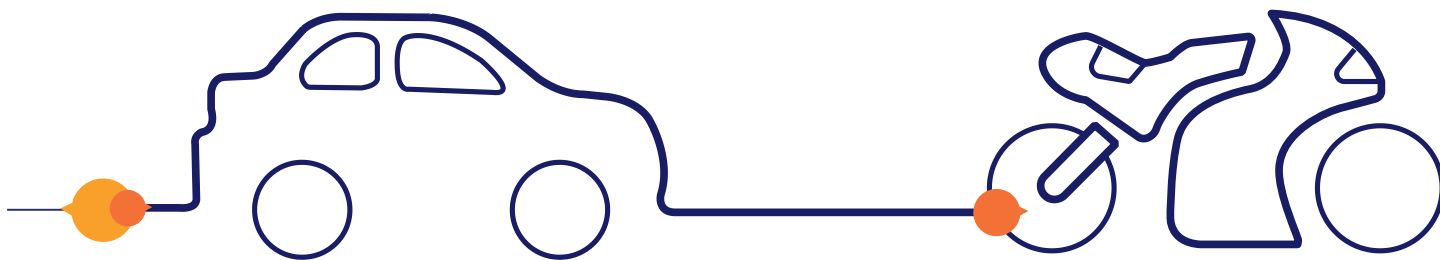




# Eastern Region Groups' Newsletter

September 2020  
Simon Burgin  
Regional Co-ordinator





# View from the East

## September 2020



### **Hello and welcome.**

I am not really sure where to begin with the news thus far in the Eastern Region. At the close of business when I sent my last update, we were well into lock down. None of us really knew quite where we would be heading, and the profound effect that Covid-19 would have on our daily lives.

'Engage, Educate and Enforce' became the buzz words around our offices, with policing genuinely trying to educate and encourage people to do the right thing and follow guidelines. Enforcement being a last resort.

This is not a massive departure from what Traffic Cops (Roads Policing Officers) do daily, for some road users enforcement will always be the starting point, No Seatbelt, Mobile Phone Use, Excessive Speed, Drink and Drug Driving will always see the ticket book and arrests being the only options. Everyone knows what they should or should not do by now, but this is always backed up by officers trying to educate the motorist as well.

As we have all seen shoots of normality returning, we are once again doing battle against this unseen menace. This time my hopes are that we maintain some freedoms, Driving and Riding being two of them.



From my last news update, you will recall the number of fatal road traffic collisions continued unabated. Sadly, we have seen no change and I can honestly say that the numbers of road deaths we have dealt with in the last two months have been astonishing. Despite the massive reduction in road volume, our fatalities have continued to rise above 'normal' levels. The saddest news is the number of drivers that have been responsible for the loss of innocent lives due to the consumption of alcohol or drugs, or on some occasions both, whilst at the wheel.

## In the news:

**More Cops = Less Collisions:** It was no surprise that a recent report highlighted a clear link between the increase in Killed and Serious Injury Collisions (KSI's) with the reduction in Roads Policing Officers nationally. The report stated that Chief Constables can no longer see Roads Policing as optional. I await what if any impact this has on our numbers locally, suffice to say we have fewer now than ever before.

**Me myself and I:** Thankfully I do not need an excuse to ride my motorcycle at any opportunity. With advanced testing for cars and bikes on hold I had some time to myself to do exactly that. A trip across country on familiar police driving school roads to Oulton Broad, where I used to spend many holidays as a youngster sailing a dinghy with my brother. Despite the lovely sunny weather no one was to be found on the shores of this lovely little place, which is home to the oldest power boat racing club in the UK (LOBMBC). Well worth a visit on a sunny Thursday evening for Fish and Chips and some close competitive racing on the water (suspended for this year but will return in 2021). It was also the first opportunity to try out my lock down purchase and grab a cheeky picture on the slip way.



**Testing times:** A good smattering of tests completed in the Cambridge area since the restrictions were lifted. It's a shame not to be able to sit and have a tea or coffee afterwards, but we will get there in time.



## What's Next?

As soon as restrictions lift I will to get around and see you all. Thank you for keeping things going via “virtual meetings” – there are so many platforms you can use, and for some it is an invaluable link to the outside world and a bit of normality.

Please take care of yourselves, stay safe and keep in touch with one another.

Simon.

Simon Burgin  
Eastern Region Co-Ordinator

## 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.

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