Welcome to the newsletter for October 2014

**Tyre Safety Month**

Check your vehicle tyres

As winter approaches it is even more important to check your tyre tread depth and pressures. So we are asking every driver to do the ‘20p test’ this month.

![Tyre Safety Month image]

Take a 20 pence piece, place it in the groove of your tyre, and if you can see the outer band of the coin then your tyre has a tread depth above the legal minimum. If you cannot see it, then you need to consider changing your tyre. You must get it changed if it is less than 1.6mm deep across the central three-quarters section of the tyre.

During October the Bedfordshire and Luton Casualty Reduction Partnership will be offering free vehicle checks at local businesses. This award-winning event, first held at the end of 2013, has so far seen nearly 750 vehicles checked.

Cllr Dave Taylor, Executive Member with responsibility for road safety, urged motorists to undertake the same basic tasks at home themselves.

He said: “As a winter approaches it is extremely important that your tyres are able to remove the water from the road surface so that they have contact with the road and you can brake, steer and accelerate properly.

“Remember, you only have four small areas totaling the size of a sheet of A4 paper holding you to the road, so do please check your tyres’ tread and pressure at least once a month.”

Look out for the next public vehicle checks in February. For more information go to [www.drivesafely.org.uk](http://www.drivesafely.org.uk).

If you would like to know more about Tyre Safe Month, visit [www.tyresafe.org](http://www.tyresafe.org).

**Fatigue and driver competition winner**

Last month our newsletter detailed a competition for members of the public to join in a multiple-choice questionnaire informing road users about driver fatigue.

We received a large number of entries and the winner of the competition was Annmarie Shiels who said: “I’ve never won anything before, I am happy and surprised!”

Annmarie won a beautiful hamper filled with a variety of items to use on a long car journey.

Annmarie added: “We all need to know that we have to be aware of road safety for the sake of us and others, as silly mistakes cost lives.”
I thought I'd controlled it pretty well, until the view of the sky through the windscreen turned into foliage.

‘It just shows how easy it is to lose control’

As the car entered the ditch it violently jerked to the left to match the camber of the ditch, and I braced for the car to roll. Thankfully a wire fence behind the bush kept the car flat (almost!) and we were able to get out via the driver’s side door.

It was such a shock to see what had happened, especially as I missed a tree by about two metres. A few motorists stopped to ensure we were both OK, the biggest injury being a few nettle stings from the surrounding shrubbery. However the most worrying thought was how close I was to that tree, maybe if we were going that little bit faster it could have been severe injuries all round. Definitely a thought-provoking incident as it just shows how easy it is to lose control.”

Stefan went on to tell his experience at the MORE Drive Course in September.

‘An eye-opener as stopping from 70mph took forever’

“I feel the MORE Drive course will help me in my daily driving, the presentations were eye-opening and graphically show the repercussions of idiotic driving. The skid pan was great, it showed me how to control a car that’s sliding out of control in various ways, and the ABS car showed how long it takes a car to stop at certain speeds, this was an eye-opener as stopping from 70mph took forever, even in perfect conditions. The reactions test, with the ‘drunk goggles’ on, gives an impression of how alcohol can affect your reactions, and the car check section helped to show how to spot flaws on a vehicle.”

Registration for the next young driver training courses now open for 16 November

Bookings are being taken now for the next courses on 16 November.
For more information on either the MORE 16 or MORE Drive programmes, email roadsafety@luton.gov.uk

Read on for ... a true life story

The MORE 16 and MORE Drive courses on 7 September 2014 were full to capacity. We had some positive feedback and found that participants were able to share different experiences of being either behind the wheel or a passenger.

Stefan’s true life story

Stefan, a motorists who attended the MORE Drive course, shared a true life accident experience, and would like to also share it with you.

‘I decided to go for a drive with my girlfriend’

“It was a roasting July afternoon and, having finished work for the week, I decided to go for a drive with my girlfriend. We had no destination in mind, it was just nice to enjoy the weather and put off the post-Ibiza blues. We managed to end up around Thurleigh in Bedfordshire and, after meeting a dead end and gently reversing into a bollard, decided it was a good time to leave.

“Unfortunately, yet typically, the good old English weather decided to come out, and it started to heavily rain. As I wasn’t sure where I was going in the first place, I took a complete guess as to which road to go down which happened to be a winding country road into a village called Riseley.

‘I felt the car skid’

“Going round one of the corners, I felt the car skid a little, thought nothing of it until I braked. I remember the car going all over the place, and me trying to fight the steering back into a straight line. I thought I’d controlled it pretty well, until the view of the sky through the windscreen turned into foliage.

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Editorial information
This newsletter has been produced by the road safety team. For more information or queries please call 01582 546861 or email roadsafety@luton.gov.uk
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