



Community & Voluntary Transport at



The TAS Partnership Limited
Passenger Transport Specialists

Newsletter No.29 February 2023

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant)

TAS has provided expert advice, guidance and support for the CT sector for over 30 years. This general newsletter follows from our well-received COVID-19 coverage between April & September 2020. Please let us know of any items that might be of interest to the wider CT sector. Back issues of these newsletters are uploaded on our website: <https://taspартnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

Happy New Year from TAS Partnership!

UK – £2 Price Cap on Bus Fares. From 1 January 2023, 130 bus operators will introduce a £2 fare cap on single tickets. The cap will remain in place until 31 March 2023. A number of CT operators has opted to participate in the scheme, which is applicable for 'open door' and routed services:

Bishop's Stortford Community Transport CIO, CT4N Ltd, Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd, Harting Minibus CIC, Newton Abbot Community Transport Association, Walsall Community Transport, and Western Dales Community Bus Service Ltd. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=b2e488b0-6ca4-4381-b563-e8c351437b72&utm_content=immediately#bus-operators-taking-part-in-the-scheme

UK – DVSA Advice on Part Worn Tyres. CT operators who use part-worn tyres need to be aware of their responsibilities. **Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency** says: "Part-worn tyres are in use every day. If you buy a second-hand vehicle and do not replace the tyres with a new set immediately you are, in effect, buying part-worn tyres."

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/33bc5c9>

UK – Motability Funds New Inclusive Transport Centre. In response to the statistic that disabled people make 38% fewer journeys than non-disabled people, **Motability** is grant funding a new **Evidence Centre for Inclusive Transport** with the main aim of closing this gap. The £20m project is to be developed by **Coventry**



University, working in collaboration with charities **RiDC** and **Designability** and organisations **Connected Places Catapult**, **Policy Connect**, and **WSP UK**. <https://www.motability.org.uk/motability-news/coventry-university-awarded-grant-for-new-inclusive-transport-centre/>

Wales – Looking Back on the Newtown Santa Run. Santa Runs have become a common means of raising money for charity – runners simply dress in Santa Claus outfits and are sponsored for a pre-Christmas running effort. It may not be appreciated that the whole idea originated with **Newtown & District Dial-a-Ride** in Powys, who between 2001 and 2011 raised around £150,000. Each year the proceeds were split between Newtown Dial-a-Ride and another nominated charity. Unfortunately, whilst Santa Runs have flourished elsewhere, Newtown no longer hosts the event.

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/23196402.rapid-rise-sad-demise-newtown-santa-run/>

Wales – Volunteers Praised for Dinas Powys Transport Service. Readers of the **Penarth Times** nominated **Judith Anderson** and **Wendy Lees**, of **Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern** for special praise for their services to the Vale of Glamorgan community during 2022. The service started as a community transport scheme but has extended to providing other services such as befriending. <https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/23228172.dinas-powys-voluntary-concern-make-difference-2022/>

Essex – Epping Forest CT DaRT87 App Launched. Users of the **DaRT87** service operated by **Epping Forest Community Transport** can now book the DRT through a new **Flexiroute Passenger App**. A new flat fare has also been introduced for the first 7 miles of travel. The App can be downloaded here: <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/new-travel-app-for-dart87-bus-service/>

Devon – Okehampton’s Community is Celebrated by Rotary Club. Among 13 local projects to be awarded a certificate and plaque at an event at the London Inn was **Okehampton and District Community Transport**.

<https://www.themoorlander.co.uk/rotarys-celebration-of-okehamptons-community-work/>

Sussex – Community Transport Sussex Vehicle Rebranded to Support Carers Support West Sussex and Alzheimer’s Society. Over fifty CT minibuses and cars from **Community Transport Sussex** will adopt branding to reflect support for **Carers Support West Sussex** and **Alzheimer’s Society**. The initiative arose from the **West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy** and the vehicles will carry a QR code for passers-by to access the **West Sussex’s Connect to Support** website.



<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/fifty-minibuses-and-volunteer-cars-to-be-given-carer-support-west-sussex-and-alzheimers-society-branding-to-highlight-support-services-for-dementia-carers-3950679>

Norfolk – Service Withdrawal Leaves Residents Struggling. One of **West Norfolk Community Transport’s** routed bus services under the **Go To Town** brand has been withdrawn from the Docking area. **Lynx** buses has attempted to cover some of the former route but local Bircham Tofts resident **Sophie Brittain** has threatened to chain herself to a bus in protest.

<https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/i-m-very-worried-about-a-lot-of-vulnerable-people-outrage-9292145/>

Yorkshire – Good Neighbours in Ilkley. Food parcels have been distributed to deserving older residents in Ilkley, Addingham, and Burley in Wharfedale by **Ilkley & District Good Neighbours** and pupils from **Ilkley Grammar School** as part of the **Christmas Parcels Project**. 85 food parcels were put together at the Olicana Masonic Lodge, and special thanks were expressed to **Ilkley Community Transport** which delivered the parcel contents to the hall.

<https://www.rombaldsradio.com/news/featured-stories/ilkley-good-neighbours-team-up-with-local-organisations-to-bring-christmas-cheer/>

Yorkshire – Ryedale CT’s Former Chief is Recognised in New Year Honours. An MBE has been awarded to **Ken Gill**, who until last year spent many years as chief officer of **Ryedale Community Transport**. Our congratulations to Ken, as awards are infrequent for the CT sector.

<https://www.gazetteherald.co.uk/news/23221207.ken-gill-ryedale-community-transport-awarded-mbe/>

Yorkshire – Calderdale CT Gets Cash Boost from Campaign for Real Ale. The Halifax and Calderdale branch of **CAMRA** adopted **Calderdale Community Transport** as the charity beneficiary of its **2022 Calderdale Beer and Cider Festival** in September, and raised £1,265 for the project.

<https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/people/calderdale-community-transport-handed-financial-boost-by-camra-halifax-and-calderdale-3972378>

Cumbria – Border Rambler Bus Needs Volunteers. For the past eight years the **Border Rambler** bus has served Cumbria villages such as Laversdale, Irthington, Hethersgill, Scaleby Hill, Linstock, Brampton, Lanercost, Birdoswald, Gilsland, the Dentons and Low Row. With a new bus arriving soon, the service is looking to expand its service and is seeking 10 or 12 volunteer drivers. Anyone interested in volunteering should email info@borderramblerbus.co.uk or call 07510 643 084.

<https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/23226627.border-rambler-bus-seeks-new-volunteers-expand-service/>

Northern Ireland – Additional Funding Support for Fermanagh and Easilink Community Transport. As part of a measure to assist with cost of living crisis, **Fermanagh and Omagh District Council** has allocated £20,000 to **Fermanagh Rural Transport** and **Easilink Community Transport**.

<https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/23201462.cost-of-living-council-supports-fermanagh-community-transport/>

Shropshire – Wheelbarrow Race Fundraiser in Support of North Salop Wheelers. In Wem in December a charity fundraiser was arranged in the form of a wheelbarrow race cum pub crawl with a Christmas theme. The proceeds of £511 were donated to North Salop Wheelers. Adult participants had to drink a half pint of beer at a number of pubs around the town.

<https://www.whitchurchherald.co.uk/news/23201224.shropshire-wheelbarrow-run-raises-money-community-bus-service/>



Shropshire – Teme Wheels on Xmas Standby. Urgent transport needs over the Christmas and New Year period from Tenbury passengers will be met by **Teme Wheels** volunteers, who have announced that they will respond to any urgent transport requests, especially for medical appointments. Passengers should call Teme Wheels on 01584 233131.

<https://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/23198411.teme-wheels-tenbury-standby-provide-emergency-transport/>

Shropshire – QUBE Hosts a Mayoral Visit. Oswestry Mayor, **Jay Moore**, paid a visit to **QUBE** to view its annual exhibition of arts and crafts. QUBE also operates Oswestry Dial-a-Ride and Shopmobility along with other community development projects. QUBE is also providing transport to New Saints Football Club on Boxing Day where older people can enjoy a free Boxing Day lunch.

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local->

[hubs/oswestry/2022/12/21/mayor-learns-more-about-well-being-charity-in-visit-to-exhibition/](https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/oswestry/2022/12/21/mayor-learns-more-about-well-being-charity-in-visit-to-exhibition/) and <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/oswestry/2022/12/19/boxing-day-lunch-on-offer-for-older-people-thanks-to-football-club/>

Northamptonshire – Brackley’s Volunteer Hero. The **Chatty Café** in Brackley has been featured on **Good Morning Britain** recently and the work of one of its volunteers **Jon Haslam** has been highlighted. Jon also serves as a volunteer driver for **South Northants Volunteer Bureau** and local residents can get a free trip to the Chatty Café with **Ability Community Transport**. See video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/835864652/videos/pcb.868581767899950/1503017720180485>

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/people/the-joy-of-volunteering-can-make-you-feel-so-good-about-yourself-says-chatty-brackley-hero-3972946>

Scotland – Lottery Support for Killin Car Scheme. An £8,650 grant from the **National Lottery Awards for All Scotland** fund has been awarded to **Killin and District Volunteer Car Scheme**. This will enable the scheme to continue to serve areas around rural Stirling.



<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/future-volunteer-car-scheme-safeguarded-28742358>

Scotland – CTA Spotlight on Carbon Literacy. The **CTA Scotland** team has recently increased its environmental credentials by completing a **Climate Emergency Training** programme (which involves two online sessions) and which was administered by **Keep Scotland Beautiful** “an organisation with key aims to combat climate change, tackle litter problems and protect our environment.” **Lara Henderson** CTA’s Development Officer for Scotland, has recommended the training for CT operators to enhance carbon literacy and it can be accessed here: <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/climate-change/climate-change/climate-emergency-training/climate-emergency-training-for-charitable-organisations/>. <https://ctauk.org/becoming-carbon-literate/>

Scotland – CTA’s Response to Independent Skills Review. A response has been made by **CTA’s Director for Scotland** to **Scottish Government’s Skills delivery independent review: call for evidence**. The review is to “inform recommendations in relation to the future of the skills delivery public body and advisory landscape, including the future remit and status of Skills Development Scotland”. CTA’s full response is here: <https://ctauk.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2022/12/Scotlands-Skills-Delivery-Landscape-Call-for-Evidence-CTA-RESPONSE-FINAL.pdf](#)

Scotland – Manager of Galloway Community Transport Retires. After eight years in post, **Glen Murray** has retired from **Galloway CT** at the age of 67, although he will continue in a consultancy role. Glen leaves the project in good shape with £230,000 for an electric bus in the coffers and a large electric cycle fleet and active bike club. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/galloway-community-transport-manager-retire-28823926>

Scotland – CT takes Ukrainian Refugees on Sight-seeing Trip. A number of free trips for Ukrainian refugees in Dumfries and Galloway has been provided by **Glenkens Community Transport**, including a visit to the Christmas market in Carlisle. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/glenkens-community-helping-ukrainian-refugees-28786907>

Scotland – Aberdeenshire Council Prompts Local Residents to Use the A2B Bus. Individuals in Aberdeenshire have been urged to use the free A2B bus that runs to Banchory from Lumphanan and Torphins. Trips are pre-booked on 01467 535333. <https://www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/a2b-dial-a-bus-minibus-service-operating-in-banchory-area-297713/>

Scotland – New Glenfarg Bus Service is Launched. A group of local volunteers have organised their own bus service to serve residents of Glenfarg following withdrawal of **Stagecoach** services in Perth & Kinross. The bus will initially be run each Thursday by the **Glenfarg Community Transport Group** and **Perth & Kinross Council** has loaned the group a minibus. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/business-environment/transport/3993865/glenfarg-group-launches-free-bus-as-local-services-dwindle/>

Hampshire – Minibus Fire in Basingstoke. An engine fire on 6 December destroyed one of **Basingstoke Community Transport's** vehicles, although luckily no one was injured in the incident which happened whilst the vehicle was parked up at the base at Chute House. A fund raising effort has now been launched at [gofund.me/18ed1847](https://www.gofund.me/18ed1847) to replace the vehicle. <https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/23197906.fundraiser-set-basingstoke-community-transport-minibus/>

Somerset – Bristol Charity Advent Calendar Profiles Sprint CT. On day 17 the calendar revealed **Sprint Community Transport** which, it is keen to point out, is "more than just a bus". The CT operates a door to door service from **Inns Court Community & Family Centre** in Knowle West, and has organised a range of activities and meals out for members. See the Sprint

Community Transport video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=918103279033171&t=5>

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/bristol-charity-advent-calendar-2022-day-17-the-sprint-community-transport/>

West Midlands – Tackling Loneliness with Transport ‘Let’s Chat’

Scheme. A partnership between **Transport for West Midlands** and local CT operators hopes to reduce loneliness through signposting individuals at risk of loneliness to various support services. The project is delivered in Walsall and Wolverhampton by **Walsall Community Transport**; in South Birmingham by **Shencare Community Transport**, and in Sandwell, Dudley, North East Birmingham, and Coventry by **Community Transport**.

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2022/12/22/community-transport-operators-on-board-with-new-bus-scheme-to-tackle-loneliness/> and

<https://bromsgrovestandard.co.uk/news/all-aboard-in-bid-to-end-isolation/>

<https://coventryobserver.co.uk/news/new-support-mini-buses-helping-coventrians-tackle-loneliness/>

Gloucestershire – Robin DRT Hailed a Success.

Councillors in the New Forest travelled on **The Robin** DRT service operated by **Lydney Dial-a-Ride**.

Cllr. **Philip Robinson** was enthusiastic about the service: “It’s fantastic to see this service doing so well. The Robin is doing a



brilliant job of serving our residents and getting them to vital appointments, into the community and connecting them with town centres.”

<https://www.theforester.co.uk/news/all-aboard-the-robin-forest-councillors-hail-brilliant-new-bus-service-584772>

Surrey – Woking Bustler Welcomes New Electric Buses. Two new **eDeliver 9** vehicles have been added to the **Woking Bustler** fleet, the first of an expected 18 from **GM Minibus**. Chief Executive of Woking CT, **Guy Padfield-Wilkins** said: “The eDeliver 9 is the next generation EV, which will be able to operate on any of our routes, whether that be dial-a-ride, NHS patient transport or home to school, to name but a few. The specification we have selected has an extra-high roof and an 88kw battery, capable of providing over 200 miles of range on a single charge.”

<https://www.wokingnewsandmail.co.uk/news/first-of-18-new-electric-buses-arrive-585790>

Greater London – Ultra Low Emission Zone Due to Expand Later this Year. London's **Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)** is set to expand to cover all London Boroughs from 29 August 2023. From that date, dependent on vehicle type, charges of up to £27.50 a day could be due. Community Transport vehicles, however, may be eligible for a grace period lasting until 26 October 2025, and for wheelchair accessible vehicles and some Private Hire vehicles this is extended to 24 October 2027. Vehicle eligibility can be checked here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/>
<https://www.whatcar.com/advice/owning/ulez-compliant-vans-everything-you-need-to-know/n25325>

Greater London – Transport for London's Dial-a-Ride Criticised for Early Finishes. Users of the **Dial-a-Ride** service have been ill-served in the evenings, with the advertised availability until 10pm not being honoured, a report by **Transport for All** and **Age UK London** has claimed. Many vehicles have offered schedules that have finished at 8.30pm. **Caroline Pidgeon** (Lib Dem **London Assembly Member**) took up the concern with Mayor **Sadiq Khan** saying: "The last bookings are often 8.30 in the evening, nothing like the service you [TfL] are advertising." The Mayor said in response that "it's not the offer on the tin, so I will personally take that away and look into what we [TfL] can do because she's spot on. It's a quality of life issue actually." <https://www.mylondon.news/news/north-london-news/tfls-lifeline-dial-ride-service-25890801>

Greater London – Three Seasonal Stories from Westway Community Transport. **Westway CT** is a community transport provider operating across Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham. We provide community transport to community groups and individuals; older people and disabled people or anyone who can't access public transport easily. Our goals include championing social inclusion, reducing isolation and alleviating loneliness while encouraging our members to live life independently, the way they want. <https://westwayct.org.uk/> Tel: 020 8964 4928.

- **Dalgarno Trust and Westway CT - Working together for the local community.** Across the borough community organisations are working together to support the most vulnerable residents, ensuring that they don't go without essential supplies. **Westway CT** and **Dalgarno Trust**, which works across North Kensington, have been working together since 2020, Westway CT provides the vehicles so that Dalgarno Trust can keep

its food bank stocked up. Demand for Dalgarno's food bank has grown considerably over the last three years, first the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis has seen user numbers rise from 50 a week pre-pandemic to over 120 today. Food needs to be collected once a week from donating supermarkets, often topped up with extra essential items by the Trust's own funds. Ensuring supplies can get to the food bank is critical and that's where Westway CT plays a role.



- We met **Farhad**, Facilities Manager for Dalgarno Trust. He's been working with the Trust for several years, first as a volunteer and now as an employee. In 2020 Farhad needed a goods van, Westway provided that vehicle and a driver training assessment for Farhad with our Driver Trainer. This has saved pounds for Dalgarno Trust, which can be invested in supporting the food bank rather than hiring or purchasing a van on the open market.
- Over the last year, the food bank delivered 19,654 bags to those unable to get to their centre, and 8,135 visits across North Kensington, mainly in W10 and W11 to residents, where many (55%) struggle with a health condition. Westway's relationship with Dalgarno goes further, we also help the Trust deliver its Youth Programme, Westway CT's minibuses transport young people to summer camps and activities, and we're looking forward to exploring new partnership opportunities with Dalgarno to help them deliver more for their community in the future.
- **Community Organisations work together to help 300 Local Families this Christmas.** Every year a very special event takes place in W11 helping 300 young people and their families in need. Three organisations come together to ensure that no one misses out on the festive season. **Chepstow House School** and Westway CT make sure that gifts reach families supported by the **Rugby Portobello Trust** in time for Christmas. The **Shoe Box Appeal** has run for 10 years, and this year the need is arguably greater than any other as families across London struggle with the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.



- Pupils at Chepstow House School in Lancaster Road fill Christmas gift boxes for 300 young people and their families across the borough helping to share Christmas joy and kindness. Launched in November at a special assembly, pupils hear from the Rugby Portobello Trust about how it supports young people with emotional and practical help, in a borough that has some of the highest levels of income inequality in London.

Inspired, pupils gather and pack gifts which are delivered by Westway CT to Rugby Portobello Trust's community locations.

- Westway CT has been helping local people stay connected to their community with accessible and affordable transport since 1991 and has supported the Shoe Box Appeal with a dedicated driver and van for several years, thanks to a much-needed grant from its trading arm. Together with Chepstow House pupils, Westway CT loads up the goods van with 230 shoe boxes and hampers, which are then distributed across W11 to a young peoples' hostel and play centres and direct to families locally, all of whom receive support from the Rugby Portobello Trust.
- **Colin Simmons**, Chair of Westway CT said; "This is such a lovely Christmas giving project and to have the help from Chepstow House School children is just amazing. Westway CT is proud to be part of this Appeal. Too often people struggle to access the things they need, that are right on their doorstep, but with our fleet of community minibuses and drivers we can make it possible."
- **Westway CT Rivals Santa's Sleigh to get toys to Children in Need this Christmas.** 1,500 children in Kensington & Chelsea will get their toys this Christmas thanks to Westway CT. **SMART London**, a charity and community well-being centre supporting people in Kensington & Chelsea donated 450 Christmas presents to children and families who are struggling this year, and Westway CT made sure they were delivered. Westway CT volunteer **Tim Sai Louie** collected the presents from SMART London on Thursday 21 December and delivered them to **Holmfield**

House Children's Centre in Golborne Road from where they will be distributed to families in need for Christmas. Without Westway CT's van, the presents might not have made it. This year everyone is feeling the cold and the cost of living squeeze but for families who are already struggling it's even more difficult. Across the borough, local organisations are working together to ensure no one misses out on Christmas. Kensington & Chelsea is no stranger to poverty with one in four children (24.4%) in the borough living in poverty and in the Golborne ward 38.9 percent of people experience deprivation due to low income.



Glimpse into the CT Past - TAS Community Transport Photo Archives



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email john.atkins@taspartnership.com