



Newsletter No.59

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant). Published October 2025.

UK – Women in Bus & Coach Awards. At a recent awards event in Birmingham, women in the community transport sector were celebrated. Christina Christie, Community Transport Development Officer for Swansea Council for Voluntary Services, was named winner of the Best Woman in Community Transport award. Gemma Lelliott, Wales Director of Community Transport Association, and Kathleen Lyons of Westway Community Transport also received a nomination. The judges could not separate the three nominees for the Rising Star award, and so in this category Una D’Arcy (of Easilink Community Transport) became a joint winner.



<https://www.route-one.net/news/michele-elliott-is-woman-of-the-year-at-women-in-bus-and-coach-awards/>

UK – Legal Amendment Enables Charity Marketing

Opportunities’ Russell-Cooke said: “One of the most important updates for the charity sector is an amendment to the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) that will, for the first time, allow charities to use the soft opt-in approach for direct electronic marketing. This change is expected to come into effect in around December 2025. It could be transformative for charity fundraising and supporter engagement, but it comes with strict rules and limitations... The soft opt-in is an exemption under PECR that allows organisations to send electronic marketing (such as emails and texts) without first obtaining UK GDPR-standard consent, provided certain conditions are met.” <https://www.russell-cooke.co.uk/news-and-insights/news/the-data-use-and-access-act-changes-to-the-soft-opt-in-rules-for-charities-explained>

CTA Updates

- J CTA is undertaking new research into how Community Transport can better support disabled children and young people, funded by the Motability Foundation. The survey is here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJPK79G>
- J What would happen without Community Transport?
<https://ctauk.org/news/what-would-happen-without-community-transport>
- J Celebrating safe, legal and comfortable journeys: MiDAS & CTWeek
<https://ctauk.org/news/celebrating-safe-legal-and-comfortable-journeys-midas-ctweek>
- J Celebrating Scotland's Community Transport Movement in Scotland's Parliament
<https://ctauk.org/news/celebrating-scotlands-community-transport-movement-scotlands-parliament>
- J Talking Transport with Pembrokeshire People First
<https://ctauk.org/news/emma-meets-dream-team-talking-transport-pembrokeshire-people-first>
- J Planning for Change: Why Succession Planning Matters in Community Transport
<https://ctauk.org/news/planning-change-why-succession-planning-matters-community-transport>
- J More Than a Minibus: Our CEO's Welcome to CTWeek25!
<https://ctauk.org/news/more-minibus-our-ceos-welcome-ctweek25>

Derbyshire – High Peak CT Service Appeals for Volunteers. Connex Community Support, formerly known as Buxton Volunteer Bureau, operates a volunteer car scheme, which also utilises a wheelchair accessible fleet car, and covers an area across the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales from Sudbury to Furness Vale. Head of transport service at Connex Howard Gunn said: "Volunteers in any role are the backbone of every community. Without them, the whole country would come to a standstill. Volunteering for a local charity helps the community you live and work in and can benefit your own mental wellbeing too. Last year our volunteer drivers covered over 97,000 miles and completed more than 7,800 passenger journeys... The service is reaching more people than ever before, and we'd love more volunteers to join us and help keep that momentum going. With your support, we can continue providing our service to the people of the High Peak and South Derbyshire Dales." If anyone is able to offer even a few hours it would be



beneficial and there is no minimum commitment. Expenses will be paid for driving your own vehicle or volunteers can use the accessible vehicles owned by the charity. For more information call Howard on 01298 23970 or email transport@connex.org.uk.

<https://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/business/volunteers-needed-for-lifeline-transport-service-in-high-peak-5310992>

Scotland – Community Transport Week in Fife. The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) Fife Community Transport Service has celebrated Community Transport Week 2025 by emphasising the More Than a Minibus theme. This spotlights the vital role of community transport in transforming lives by supporting health, independence and social connections, which RVS has been providing for over 15 years. RVS service manager Kimberley Gray said: "Community transport in Fife is more than a minibus - it's a lifeline for people who might otherwise face isolation, missed appointments, or compromised wellbeing. During Community Transport Week, we want to highlight that behind every journey is a story of dignity,

connection, and community. We're immensely proud of our volunteers, staff, and partners who make those journeys possible every day." RVS recently expanded its capacity with two additional 17-seater minibuses available to the communities of Tayport and Dunfermline.



<https://www.centrafifetimes.com/news/25552035.fife-transport-service-marks-community-transport-week-2025/> Also:

<https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/people/vital-role-of-fifes-community-transport-service-much-more-than-just-a-minibus-5366341>

Scotland – EV Grant Support for CT Sector. Scottish CT operators are being invited to bid for grants from the Plugged-In Communities fund to cover the costs (up to £75,000) of a new electric minibus or van. An additional £20,000 can be available for any accessibility adaptation and installation of charging facilities. Jim Fairlie, Minister for Connectivity, said: "The community transport sector provides many of our most vulnerable groups with access to essential goods and services and to employment, social or leisure activities. We recognise that these organisations may not have the same access to finance as commercial entities. We're making £4m available for zero emission vehicles and charging infrastructure for operators which provide affordable transport for those who are unable to use conventional public transport, or

where public transport is not available.”

<https://www.highwaysmagazine.co.uk/4m-EV-support-open-to-community-transport-operators/14802>. CTs can apply here:

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/plugged-communities-grant-fund/>

Scotland – CTA asks “Is the NHS Failing Scotland’s Patients, Passengers and Community Transport Operators?” CTA Director for Scotland David Kelly writes: “Community Transport is playing a major role in improving access to health & social care. Using data from the new operator survey and our 2022 State of the Sector report, we estimate around 329,000 journeys to health-related destinations and 200,000 journeys to social care-related destinations each year... Community Transport is at the heart of healthy communities across Scotland but not at the heart of our health & social care system. Non-emergency patient transport delivered by charities, community groups and social enterprises does not receive the recognition, funding or support it needs. Most NHS Boards are failing to comply with their 2019 legal duties. More than six years on, Community Transport operators are still struggling and passengers are still waiting. We’re calling for:

-) Investment in Community Transport to save lifeline services, meet rising demand and prepare for an ageing population.
-) Prevention first: harness community solutions to public health challenges to protect the NHS, improve outcomes, and reduce costs.
-) Partnership: a new agreement between Community Transport, the NHS and the Scottish Ambulance Service to prevent missed appointments, reduce waiting lists and end delayed discharge.

<https://ctauk.org/news/nhs-failing-scotlands-patients-passengers-and-community-transport-operators>. CTA has also posted a video on the Healthy Communities Scotland theme which profiles South West Community Transport. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pteVMt1IBMkm>



Scotland – Cumnock-based CT Celebrates Motability

Foundation Grant Award. A £430,000 grant has been awarded to Coalfield Community Transport in a programme which includes two new accessible vehicles and creates three new jobs. CEO of Coalfield CT Susan Dever said: "This funding will transform access to trips and outings for those living with reduced mobilities in our community, the creation of local employment will support raising awareness for beneficiaries who feel they are excluded from activities many of us take for granted." Covering 345 square miles in the South West of Scotland, the Coalfield area is mainly rural with over 17 scattered settlements often with limited access to public transport. Ruba Aljarf, programme director at the Mobility Foundation, added: "We're proud to have funded Coalfield Community Transport to improve community transport services for disabled people in East Ayrshire. This project will help create more flexible, accessible and community-led transport options, building a future where all disabled people have the freedom to make the journeys they choose." <https://www.cumnockchronicle.com/news/25555267.coalfield-community-transport-support-vulnerable/>

Essex – New Minibuses for Tendring CT Operators. From a grant source of the Community Regeneration Partnership, Tendring District Council has awarded over £180,000 to enable three new minibuses to be provided for Tendring Community Transport, Harwich Connexions and UTurn4Support. CEO of Tendring CT Pauline Mann commented that: "The new minibus will be a huge boost for us. It will replace one of our ageing vehicles which is now more than 12 years old and be much more reliable, spend more time on the road and help us continue to assist residents in getting where they want to go." Richard Colley chair of Harwich Connexions said: "We're delighted to have secured this funding. Our services are incredibly busy and a chance to refresh the fleet will be a massive benefit for us. Our services already extend to Clacton, Holland, Jaywick Sands and beyond, so a new vehicle is incredibly welcome to support those routes." Speaking for, UTurn4Support Tania

Swanson added: "Having reliable transport means we can offer young people greater access to activities, opportunities and support that might otherwise be out of reach. It's more than just a vehicle; it's a gateway to new experiences, growth, and community connection. Lack of access to reliable, safe transportation is one of the biggest barriers young people face when trying to engage



with opportunities in their community. This will help us ensure that, regardless of background or circumstance, anyone can take part in educational trips, youth programmes, training, volunteering, health, and social activities."

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/news/hat-trick-of-brand-new-minibuses-set-to-support-community-after-successful-ps180k-funding-programme>

Essex - New Community Bus for Manningtree. A new minibus has entered service for Manningtree and District Community Bus Organisation after the group raised nearly £100,000, including £20,000 from National Lottery Community Fund. The bus will offer subsidised services to residents of Manningtree and the surrounding villages, and will be driven by volunteers. Chair Steve English said: "The bus itself has been in operation for some 30 years. It allows the members to meet on a regular basis for trips out to shops, day trips to Bury St Edmunds or wherever it may be. It's an



invaluable service for those who need it and it's a lovely opportunity for them to get out and just have a chat. It may also be their only opportunity to get out in the week in a social setting." Treasurer Jane Rumble said: "We're really chuffed about our nice new bus. It goes on most days. We do shopping at Highwoods Tesco every Thursday morning and we go to Morrison's in Dovercourt every fortnight on a Friday. The difference between the

two buses is this one is automatic so it's a smoother ride for the passengers. It's got air conditioning and heating, it's a little bit longer and a little bit wider for comfort. It's very important for some of the ladies. It's just nice hearing them chatter in the back and they are just so grateful. Several ladies said to me they don't go anywhere, so they look forward to coming out on the bus once a week. It just gets them out and I think it's important."

<https://www.harwichandmanningtreestandard.co.uk/news/25509118.manningtree-community-group-unveils-new-minibus-residents/>

Worcestershire – Wyre Forest CT Needs Volunteers. An appeal for volunteer drivers has been made by Wyre Forest Community Transport. David Muggeridge, chief officer, said: "We provide door-to-door affordable transport enabling people to live as independent and fulfilled lives as possible, freeing them from the worry of how they are going to get out and about and from isolation. With around 2,400 journeys required every month, we need more drivers, men and women, who can give a few hours a week on a regular basis. We are very flexible and plan around their commitments, holidays and so forth. The role is ideal for people who work part-time or are retired." Drivers are required for both the fleet minibuses as well as using their own vehicles for

the car scheme. 93-year-old passenger Elsie Farley said: "I've been using the service for more than 16 years and I couldn't go anywhere without it. They take me to Tesco's Tuesdays and Thursdays and it means I have my independence and can do my own shopping. The drivers are lovely, so kind and helpful. They help carry my shopping and we have a good laugh with them." <https://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/25467743.wyre-forest-community-transport-appeal-volunteer-drivers/> Wyre Forest CT have also benefitted from a £500 donation from Stourport Masons: <https://www.expressandstar.com/your-world/2025/09/25/stourport-masons-give-2000-boost-to-charities/> Wyre Forest CT Week profile: <https://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/25546994.wyre-forest-community-transport-hailed-lifeline/>

Devon - £100,000 Fund Available for Rural Transport.

Transport operators, including the CT sector, have been invited to bid for funds provided by a joint scheme backed by two sub-national transport bodies in the South West: Western Gateway and Peninsula Transport. The fund is able to support pilot services that meet the eligibility criteria, which is to meet at least one of six challenges: operational sustainability; meeting Net Zero targets; making rural mobility more equitable and affordable for users; making tourism-related mobility more sustainable; and meeting local community needs. The deadline for applications is 5 October 2025. For more details or to apply, visit the Peninsula Transport website at www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk. <https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/25488272.100-000-offer-improve-devon-rural-transport/>

Devon – Okehampton CT Requires More Volunteers. Increasing demand has prompted Okehampton and District Community Transport Group to seek additional volunteers for its car scheme. The operator has undertaken 2,374 community car scheme journeys — a rise of more than four per cent on 2,272 journeys the previous year. Manager Paula Anscomb said: "The hardest part of our job is having to tell a client that we are unable to fulfil a journey. We understand the anxiety this can cause, as well as potential



financial hardship where more costly alternative transport has to be used". Claire King, Community Engagement Officer, added: "From enabling clients to attend medical appointments and social groups, to shopping in town and at the supermarkets, our charity supports independence, builds friendships and strengthens communities. At a time when local bus services are being reduced and with Okehampton Hospital no

longer serving the community as it once was, demand for our community car service is growing and we need more volunteers." Okehampton CT's users have testified to its value.

One passenger's relative said "Thank you to all the volunteers that are an integral part of this wonderful organisation. Without you people like my mum wouldn't be able to get out and about in the local area and beyond! My mum is physically disabled and didn't really leave the house much before a friend started encouraging her to use the ring and ride with her. Ever since she has enjoyed being able to see new places and people. It's been a big confidence boost for her and she's even done one trip to Lyme Regis all by herself, which isn't something I could have seen her doing a year ago. Giving up your time to help others really does make a difference and means so much to those whom might not otherwise get the opportunity to leave their homes. Thanks to your efforts my mum has got more confidence and is looking forward to lots more days out." Sandra Towler added: "An incredible service that has been a lifeline for my elderly parents. The kindest of drivers who always go above and beyond." Prospective volunteers should contact Okehampton CT via 01837 55000 or email office@odctg.co.uk. <https://www.tavistock-today.co.uk/news/okehampton-transport-charity-seeks-more-volunteer-drivers-amid-rising-demand-843272>

Wales – New CT Vehicle Stationed in Llandoverly. Another of the CT vehicle placements has been made as part of the Dolen Teifi & Age Cymru Dyfed partnership funded by Motability Foundation.

A seven-seater accessible vehicle has been stationed at Llandoverly Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre car park. Local volunteers are being sought to drive the vehicle. A spokesperson said: "To help strengthen local delivery and community benefit volunteer drivers are required to ensure its success to support the scheme on a flexible basis with free Midas (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) Training provided via Dolen Teifi."

<https://www.southwalesguardian.co.uk/news/25503602.llandoverly-community-transport-service-launched/>

Wales - Powys CT Steps Up after Knighton Group

Withdrawal. Following the recent closure of the car scheme provided by Knighton and District Community Support, residents of Knighton are set to benefit from a new service being offered by Knighton and Area Community Transport Scheme. "The team at Knighton ACTS have been beavering away to ensure the community car scheme keeps running when



the current scheme closes on September 30. In the space of a few short weeks we have organised office space and equipment, recruited and trained a team of volunteer co-ordinators to match service users with our great team of drivers, formed a brand new charity from scratch and printed thousands of leaflets to advertise our new phone number...However, we desperately need some more drivers to add to our experienced team. This is the heart of the scheme, so if anyone out there feels they could give a small amount of time, this would also be much appreciated. There are lots of local journeys, as well as regular hospital journeys, particularly Hereford, Shrewsbury, Llandrindod and even Gobowen. Drivers do the routes that work for them, mileage is paid at 45p a mile and you would be filling such an important need for your community."

Contact: 07410 210045, email knightonacts@gmail.com

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/25489388.powys-scheme-will-save-knighton-community-transport-service/> Also:

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/transport/2025/10/01/new-knighton-community-car-scheme-launches-today/>

Norfolk – Funding Boost for CT Service. £25,000 has been awarded by the Royal Countryside Fund to North Norfolk Community Transport.

The CT is described by RCF

as "a charity which helps people overcome 'huge barriers' over access to transport in rural areas, both in affordability and availability. The grant will help the organisation support more people with disabilities and limited mobility 'to reach the people



and places they need to reach". [https://uk.news.yahoo.com/river-trust-community-transport-charity-](https://uk.news.yahoo.com/river-trust-community-transport-charity-110000310.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAADn77drmjacmk-eR9w97v_g-e5emZ62SLx6acqiUN9WgOZsnySrq4HYktGmwUxZzZts_cMeAZ7GZe07OfZSEjPaIDDO0WG4e8_QK7CEsfJh-redt9d86f2Tkz50pBNZEb5LKykhroNoPck3zYM5szYoF-re1TBaxUO82dJxttLCO)

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Shropshire – Fund Raisers Support Bishops Castle Dial-a-Ride. A coffee morning is being held on 20 November at Abbeyfield House, Oak Meadow in order to raise funds for Bishop's Castle Dial-a-Ride which has recently lost a mini-bus in an accident write-off. "There will be coffee, chat, cake and biscuits as well as the opportunity to meet dial a ride drivers, volunteers and users to hear about the service and its future. A raffle and Christmas bric-a-brac will also be on offer."

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/your-world/2025/09/11/coffee-morning-in-aid-of-bishops-castle-dial-a-ride/>

Shropshire – Oswestry CT Seeks Parking Spaces for its Vehicles. Oswestry Community Action (aka Qube) operates the local CT service and is due to move premises in early 2026. However, the proposed move has prompted a search for additional parking spaces in the town. It has recently requested parking bays at Smithfield Road car park, along with one additional space in the Central Car Park from Oswestry Town Council. Kim Wootton, Chief Officer, said: “We have delivered a community transport service for over 30 years across Shropshire for mainly people living in the Oswestry area. In that time we are proud to say that we made a meaningful contribution to improving access to transport for our community. From its beginning in 1992 with one car delivering prescriptions, it has grown to a service which has four minibuses, three cars and a further 10 volunteers using their own vehicles to carry out community car journeys. Community transport is a lifeline to our members, many of whom would be socially isolated and lonely without the service. The lease for our community building on Oswald Road expires in August 2026, and we have been actively seeking alternative premises for some time. We are pleased to confirm that an agreement has been reached to relocate to

10 Smithfield Road, Oswestry, with the move planned for early 2026. Currently, Iceland kindly allows us to park our community transport vehicles in their car park, enabling our drivers and passenger helpers to take breaks and liaise with the transport team. This arrangement is essential from a health and safety



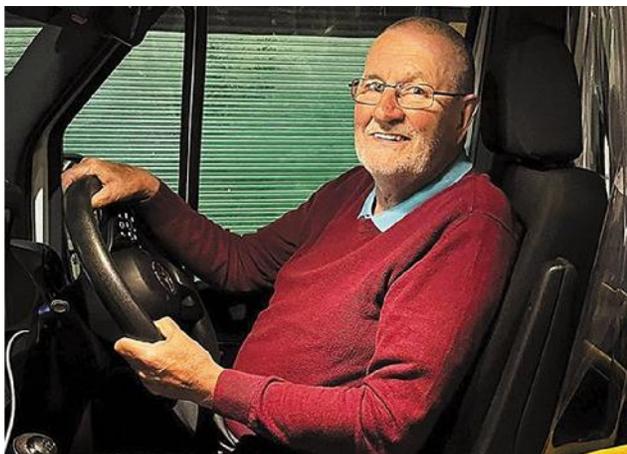
perspective and supports the smooth and effective running of the service. However, once we relocate to Smithfield Road, it will no longer be feasible to use the Iceland car park. While we would be extremely grateful if these spaces could be allocated free of charge, we recognise this may not always be possible. However, we ask councillors to take into account the vital role our community transport service plays in supporting some of the most vulnerable residents in Oswestry. With rising costs and increasing difficulty in securing funding, any additional expense places further strain on the sustainability of the service. By supporting us with this request, the council would be directly helping to safeguard a lifeline that enables people to remain independent, connected, and active within their community.”

<https://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/25526814.qube-charity-wants-free-parking-spaces-transport-service/>

Northern Ireland – Popular Driver Retires from Down CT. At 75, Pat Magee (of Kilclief) has retired from driving for Down Community Transport after over 18 years behind the wheel. Pat was employed as a driver in 2007. He said: “I always liked to drive and when I retired from further education, I saw the opportunity to work as a driver so I signed up and stayed over 18 years and I can honestly say I’ve loved every minute. In fact, I loved the job from the moment I started.

I’m a keen driver and used to be behind the wheel of my local Gaelic club’s 45-seater bus which had no power steering... I drove that bus all over the country.”

Of Down CT, Pat said “The people who ran the place were great and they made the job so enjoyable and so worthwhile and I am grateful for everything they did for me. The passengers I picked up over the years were also great...I



have been overwhelmed by the kind words of so many people, a lot of them via social media. They really mean a lot. Thank you to everyone”.

http://www.thedownrecorder.co.uk/pages/?title=When_I_retired_I_saw_the_opportunity_to_work_as_a_driver_so_I_signed_up_and_stayed_over_18_years_and_I_can_honestly_say_I%28%99ve_loved_every_minute

Northern Ireland - DfI Minister thanks Armagh Rural Transport for Connecting People. Department for Infrastructure release: Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins has thanked a community transport provider for its commitment to connecting people across the wider Armagh area. The Minister committed additional funding for the Community Transport sector to protect this valuable transport service as part of the budget for this financial year. Minister Kimmins visited Armagh Rural Transport (ART) ahead of Community Transport week, which will run from October 13-18. This is one of a series of visits by the Minister in recognition of their important role providers play connecting people and communities through affordable and accessible transport. ART, which recently celebrated 25 years of providing local transport services, offer the rural Dial-a-Lift transport service to those who live in rural areas outside of Armagh city and the urban Disability Action Transport Scheme to those who live in Armagh city. Minister Kimmins said: “Community transport services are a valuable life-line for many in local communities and I am delighted to see first-hand the important role Armagh Rural Transport plays in reducing social isolation by improving access to services, facilitating independence and vital connections and allowing people

to contribute to local communities...Community transport services can be the only transport option for some and without the services of providers like ART, vulnerable groups in our communities would find it difficult to access goods and services and to remain connected."

Joanne Curran from ART said: "We are delighted to welcome Minister Kimmins here today so she can see first-hand the important role our organisation plays in our community. Community transport connects people by providing access to services and encouraging continued independence when other forms of transport are not an option. We delivered 7,737 trips in the Armagh area in 2024/25, many of those trips were particularly helpful connections for our rural communities. We welcome the recent funding increase by the Minister's department that allows us to continue to provide this valuable service connecting communities. It is wonderful that the Minister has visited to hear of the value and significance those trips and connections have made." <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/dfi-minister-thanks-armagh-rural-transport-connecting-people>. See also: <https://armaghi.com/news/armagh-news/community-spirit-in-action-assembly-urged-to-increase-armagh-rural-transport-funding-to-preserve-vital-lifeline/282729> and <https://www.newry.ie/articles/news/minister-highlights-vital-role-of-community-transport-services>



Northern Ireland - Importance of Transport Links Highlighted During Positive Ageing Month. Timed to align with Community Transport Week and Positive Ageing Month, an event was held in Strabane providing a platform for local older people to share their views and experiences on transport services in the area, with a focus on community transport options. The event was hosted by Derry City & Strabane District Council in partnership with Easilink. Cllr Ruairí McHugh (Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District) said that: "This event is a fantastic example of how we can work together to ensure that older people in Derry and Strabane can access the services and social opportunities they deserve. Community transport plays a crucial role in tackling social isolation and improving quality of life for older residents. Listening to their needs today will help us build more inclusive, accessible, and connected services for the future." CEO of Easilink Claire Russell, said: "Community transport is more than just a service – it's a lifeline for many older people who may struggle to access traditional forms of transport. We are grateful to the Mayor and to everyone who took part in today's event. The feedback we've received will be instrumental in shaping how we can continue to improve our services and ensure that everyone has

the mobility they need to stay engaged in their communities.”

<https://www.derrynow.com/news/local-news/1921043/importance-of-transport-links-highlighted-during-positive-ageing-month.html>

Northamptonshire – Local Car Scheme Wins BBC Award.

Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme says: “We are so happy that Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme has been recognised in the BBC Radio Northamptonshire ‘Make a Difference’ awards, alongside individual recognition for our long-standing volunteer, Paul Hardwick. Paul is an extremely dedicated individual and volunteers five days a week to help elderly and disabled people get to their medical appointments. He has done over 1,000 journeys for the scheme in that time and is instrumental in training new volunteers to be drivers. He

is a vital part of the Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme. All of us here at Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire are immensely proud of the Car



**NORTHAMPTON
VOLUNTEER
CAR SCHEME**

Scheme and everything it does for the community. We cannot thank our volunteer drivers enough for the time and commitment they give, going above and beyond in the efforts they put in to making sure people in Northampton can attend their vital medical appointments. Northampton Volunteer Car Scheme takes elderly and/or disabled people who live in postcodes NN1 to NN5 to medical appointments. All journeys are done by volunteers in their own cars or we do have a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) which volunteers are able to drive. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver or joining the scheme as a member, please contact on carscheme@voluntaryimpact.org.uk or call 01604 628234.”

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/community/bbc-radio-northamptonshire-make-a-difference-award-winners-5315235>

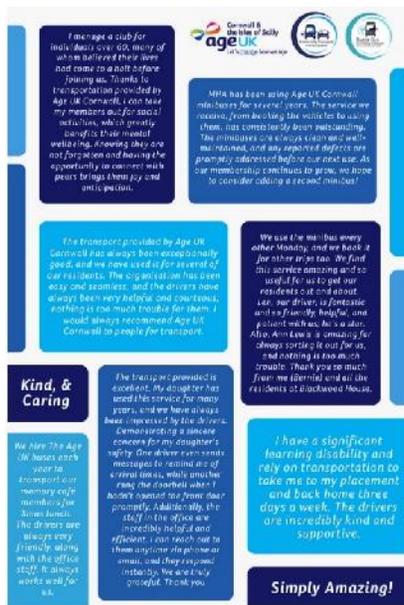
East Riding of Yorkshire – Volunteers Wanted for Bridlington

Car Scheme. The new Bridlington Local Community Lift car scheme is seeking volunteers who can use their own cars to enable the scheme to build capacity. A minimum of 10 volunteers is required, and the new service will complement the existing Medibus and HART schemes. The scheme is being operated by Beverley Community Lift. For information call 07815-489682 or email jane.evison@eyct.co.uk. <https://www.hu17.net/2025/10/02/volunteer-drivers-wanted-for-new-community-transport-in-bridlington/> and <https://www.thescarboroughnews.co.uk/community/volunteer-drivers-wanted-for-new-community-transport-service-5342621>

North Yorkshire – Heck Sausage Community Bus celebrates 1st Year. During its first year the HECK! Community Bus has completed 107 trips in the Bedale area, sponsored by the HECK sausage company.

Television’s Yorkshire Vet, Peter Wright, has been a supporter since the bus was launched, commenting: “The HECK! Community Bus is a great example of community spirit in action. In rural Yorkshire, isolation and loneliness can be a real challenge, but this bus has become a lifeline, connecting people across generations, from schoolchildren to seniors. It’s heart-warming to see so many volunteers... stepping forward to help their neighbours and make a real difference.” Becky Keeble, HECK!’s Community Ambassador, said: “When we launched the HECK! Community Bus a year ago, we hoped it would make life a little easier for people in our community. What we didn’t expect was just how many friendships, memories, and connections it would create. We’ve seen everyone, from schoolchildren to retirees, travelling together and sharing stories.” To find out more or volunteer email sausages@heckfood.co.uk or give HECK! a call on 01845 567 709.

<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/25551365.heck-celebrates-year-community-bus-service/>



Cornwall – Age UK Publishes Feedback from its CT Users. Age UK Cornwall & Isles of Scilly have produced an infographic to reflect the views of users of its community transport service. Age UK says “In the past year, we have proudly supported over 13,000 individuals through our Electric Vehicle Services, completing more than 50,000 journeys within our wider Community Transport Service. This includes a fleet of minibuses, over 100 dedicated drivers in our volunteer car scheme, and the Sustainable Transport Service.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cornwall/about-us/news-and-campaigns/articles/2025-news/community-transport-feedback/>

Sussex – High Five Friday at CT Sussex. Community Transport

Sussex has posted the following on LinkedIn: “We received this heartwarming message from a family member after one of our recent journeys: ‘I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your team. Our transport yesterday was spot on. Your drivers are lovely. Mum was so pleased to get out. We will definitely be booking again for next month.’ Elaine our Horsham Depot Manager shared this lovely response: ‘Thank you for the lovely feedback. I have passed it onto the drivers — they really appreciate hearing back from our passengers. We are all passionate about providing a safe and



reliable transport service for the local community, whether it's a group trip to the seaside or a weekly visit to the supermarket.' A big well done to the Horsham team for going the extra mile and delivering such fantastic service! Here's to another week of smiles, safe journeys, and community spirit."

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ct-sussex/posts/?feedView=all>

Greater London – Volunteers Sought for Harrow CT. New volunteers have been requested by Harrow Community Transport, in conjunction with Community Transport Week. Chair Gerry Devine said: "Community Transport Week gives us a real opportunity to remind people that

Harrow Community Transport is 'More Than a Minibus' — it's about enabling friendship, access, independence and dignity. We could not do it without volunteers, and we welcome anyone who wants to help us keep Harrow moving." Volunteers are sought for the following roles:

-) Volunteer Minibus Driver
-) Volunteer Community Car Scheme Driver
-) Volunteer Administrator
-) Trustee

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Harrow Community Transport on 020 8427 6619, email admin@harrowct.org.uk, or visit www.harrowct.org.uk for more information.

<https://harrowonline.org/2025/10/19/harrow-community-transport-calls-for-volunteers-to-help-keep-borough-moving/>