



## Newsletter No.66

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant). Published May 2026. Please send us any news items, stories of interest or press releases.

England & Wales - Charity Commission Guidance Updates. Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties. Gabriel Cohen of VWV comments: "While the underlying law remains the same, the updated guidance reflects the Commission's updated expectations for good practice, which all charities should follow. Like much of the Commission's guidance, CC20 - with a focus on fundraising - is there to promote good governance, trust in and the reputation of the charity sector, and to emphasise the key role and responsibilities held by trustees." There is also updated guidance on conflicts of interest, with research by the regulator suggesting many trustees are unsure how to recognise a conflict.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-fundraising-a-guide-to-trustee-duties-cc20/charities-and-fundraising>

<https://www.vwv.co.uk/insights/articles/updated-charity-commission-guidance-on-fundraising/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/unmanaged-conflicts-of-interest-increase-risk-of-financial-abuse-in-charities-regulator-warns>

### UK – CTA Updates

) Scotland - Driving Community Forward: How the Strathie Hopper Took Shape. In the Vale of Strathmore, the story of the Strathie Hopper is a powerful example of what can be achieved when local determination is matched with the right support. <https://ctauk.org/news/driving-community-forward-how-strathie-hopper-took-shape>

) Wales – Connect and Learn: Dementia in Transport. Small changes mean, life changing impact. CTA was delighted to launch the new Connect and Learn sessions for members with a session on Supporting people living with dementia to travel well. <https://ctauk.org/news/connect-and-learn-dementia-transport>

- J) Support for Rising Fuel Costs: “Over 300 CTA members and operators in England recently shared their experiences through our survey for the Department for Transport (DfT), helping us build a clear picture of the real impact of rising fuel costs across the sector...We have now replicated this survey in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to build a clearer UK-wide picture and strengthen our conversations with governments and decision-makers...Alongside this, we’re focussed on helping you manage costs right now. Through our partnership with The Fuel Store, CTA members can access:
- o Discounted fuel across 4,100+ UK sites (including supermarkets and motorway stations)
  - o Weekly fixed pricing, with potential savings of up to 12.5p per litre
  - o Simplified invoicing and flexible payment options to reduce admin...”
- [https://ctauk.org/civicrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=682&cid=140461&cs=f18f53a4600bcf7a96456756a6034d74\\_1777456604\\_336](https://ctauk.org/civicrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=682&cid=140461&cs=f18f53a4600bcf7a96456756a6034d74_1777456604_336)
- J) Help Shape Better Transport for Disabled Children and Young People across the UK: CTA’s Creating Connections research project is exploring how Community Transport can better meet the needs of disabled children and young people across the UK. Survey link here:  
<https://accessiblesurveys.com/v2/1qcPfe0NrrNgrIzhBBNS/intro>

Northamptonshire – Ability CT Closure. In the last edition we included the sad news that Ability was to cease operations. See: <https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/politics/pensioners-lifeline-bus-service-in-northamptonshire-makes-difficult-decision-to-close-down-due-to-rising-costs-and-uncertainty-5942401>. Ability has now contacted us to say that it is disposing of its assets. Lynn Hinch at Ability has said “We now find ourselves with vehicles and IT equipment ready for other operators to make use of them. Any interested parties should contact [nina.nickless@abilitycic.org.uk](mailto:nina.nickless@abilitycic.org.uk) in the first instance for further information.”



**ABILITY**  
Asset Disposal

We have a selection of vehicles for sale, from several minibuses to one small WAV.

Some minibuses have a lift (wheelchair access) and some without.

**With a massive 20% discount for charitable organisations, CIC's, its too good to miss!**

PLUS we have smaller items for sale, such as IT equipment, Mobile Phones, Shredders etc.

Contact us for a brochure on [admin@abilitycic.org.uk](mailto:admin@abilitycic.org.uk)

South Yorkshire – Rotherham CT Faces Driver Shortages. As part of the Door 2 Door service, Rotherham Community Transport has provided two minibuses each Thursday for the Gateway group meetings at Silverwood Miners’ Welfare club. However, of late the service has become “increasingly unreliable, with cancellations, and has now been withdrawn altogether, with Gateway volunteers told that will apply for the indefinite future.” Volunteer Debbie Sawn said “We have 200 members and like to think

it is a very progressive group, it gives people independence.” Manager of Rotherham CT Adrian Parkinson is reported as saying that “the charity had been hit by a double blow of some drivers leaving and others going off sick, leaving no option but to stop some services temporarily...New staff had been recruited and were being trained...meaning the expected conventional services to re-start soon.” <https://www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk/news/people/blow-to-disabilities-club-as-transport-service-grinds-to-a-halt-6666217>

East Riding of Yorkshire – Hull Bus Budget to Benefit CT Service. As part of its £7.8 Local Authority Bus Grant, Hull City Council has approved the following: “Marfleet Community Bus – continue working with local charity, Hull Community Transport, to maintain the Marfleet Community Bus that provides a community link three-days-per-week.” The Marfleet service was launched as a pilot in November 2024 and has proved to be sufficiently well-used to warrant continued funding.



<https://news.hull.gov.uk/04/11/2024/new-community-minibus-services-to-support-passengers-in-east-hull/>

Northern Ireland – New Minibus for Greater Shantallow Area Community Project. A new minibus has been provided to Greater Shantallow Area Partnership (GSAP), as part of a ‘Skeoge United’ Project,



funded under a PEACEPLUS project. Charlie McDaid, Chairperson of GSAP, commented that “the new community minibus represents a significant investment in our people and our future. It will help remove barriers to participation and ensure that individuals and groups across the community can access opportunities, services, and social connections that are essential for building a more inclusive and cohesive

society. We are delighted to deliver this resource as part of our PEACEPLUS Programme.” Programme Officer Mollie McMonagle added that “transport is often a major challenge for many in our community, particularly for older residents, young people, and those living in more isolated areas. This minibus will allow us to expand our reach and deliver programmes more effectively, ensuring that no one is left behind. It’s a tangible example of how PEACEPLUS funding can make a real difference on the ground.”

<https://www.derryjournal.com/news/people/derrys-greater-shantallow-area-partnership-launches-new-community-minibus-6915797>

Northern Ireland – Liz Kimmins Welcomes Increase in Local Community Transport Trips. Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins has met with the Community Transport Association and a number of rural transport service operators to hear about the impact of increased DfI funding for CT. Liz Kimmins said: “Community transport provision is a priority for me and last year I increased funding for the sector by over £1m. I was delighted to meet some of these organisations today and hear exactly how that additional funding has made such a tangible difference to the lives of so many, particularly for those most vulnerable and often isolated people who live in our rural communities. The additional funding has supported the sector to increase the number of trips delivered last year...A significant proportion of these journeys are for older people and that can have such an impact on someone’s life by helping to give them back their independence and keeping them connected with family, friends, and the wider community. I



will continue to put people at the heart of everything I do as Minister and remain determined to do what I and my Department can, to protect and deliver the quality of services that everyone deserves.”

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/kimmins-welcomes-increase-local-community-transport-trips>

Sinn Féin MLA Cathal Boylan has commented: “I welcome the minister’s commitment to continuing to do all she can to support community transport providers and the many people who rely on them as a lifeline.”

<https://sinnfein.ie/news/community-transport-crucial-in-keeping-people-connected-boylan/>

Also here: <https://www.derrynow.com/news/home/2081457/leonard-welcomes-ongoing-commitment-by-minister-to-community-transport.html>

Northern Ireland – Fermanagh CT responds to Liz Kimmins.

In response to the article noted above, the manager of Fermanagh Community Transport Jason Donaghy, has stated: “I impressed upon Minister Kimmins that the £1 million uplift for the community transport sector across Northern Ireland last year was very important for the sector. I asked that last year’s funding not be seen as a one-off, and that the funding should represent the new baseline from which we need to build. I further stressed the need for funding to be linked to demographic change, especially given our rapidly ageing population and, with this, the increasing prevalence of

mobility issues, disability and multimorbidity needs, which translate into greater demand for rural door-to-door accessible community transport [which must] be seen as on par [with conventional public transport]. It must be viewed and engaged with within wider public transport policy, not set apart from it or seen as outside it. We must be seen as a legitimate partner on the basis of the merit and value we deliver."

<https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/26097042.ftc-rural-transport-funding-boost-must-not-one-off/>

### Wales – Gaps in CT Provision Across Torfaen are Highlighted.

Torfaen Borough Council's Housing and Prevention Manager Simon Rose has commented that a lack of community transport services is resulting in some people missing out on services and activities. Under the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention model, some people aren't always able to access assistance with appropriate transport. Mr Rose told councillors: "There are some gaps in community transport with people struggling to get out to groups as community transport is not accessible for some groups such as those with mobility issues." Now the council is working with community groups through open dialogue. Funding access is an ongoing challenge for community groups for which the support is being offered.

<https://herald.wales/south-wales/torfaen/gaps-in-community-transport-leaving-people-unable-to-access-services-council-says/> and

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/26031980.gaps-community-transport-services-torfaen-identified/>

### Wales – Fire Service Raises Funds for Rhayader CT

A quiz night organised by Rhayader Fire Service has generated £501 in support of the Arches Community Support's dial-a-ride service. Arches Community Support has posted: "A huge thank you to Rhayader Fire Station for your incredible fundraising efforts in support of Dial-A-Ride! Raising an amazing £501 is no small feat, and your hard work, dedication, and community spirit truly make a difference. This generous contribution will go a long way toward providing vital transport services for those who need them most. We're so grateful for your support—what a fantastic achievement!" In May a further fund-raising event has been organised in the shape of a "70s To 80s Party".



<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/26053859.firefighters-quiz-helps-rhayader-community-transport-scheme/>and

<https://www.facebook.com/thearchesrhayader>

Wales – Saundersfoot CT Survey. Residents of Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire have been invited to share their views on local transport and the viability of a new community transport scheme. Saundersfoot Community Council states: "Saundersfoot Community Council (SCC) in

conjunction with PACTO are looking into the provision of community transport in the village. We would especially like to find out if there are needs that are not being met." The survey can be found here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/SaundersfootCTSurvey/>

Wales - Llanidloes Leg Club Supports Dial a Ride with £5,000. Community group Llanidloes Leg Club – Only Legs Aloud (which supports people with leg-related health issues) has honoured a long-standing local Dial-a-Ride volunteer and also donated £5,000 to the service. As the retiring co-ordinator of Dial-a-Ride, Ian Brown received the donation from Sue Duncombe, chair of Only Legs Aloud. Lindy Jones, lead nurse at Only Legs Aloud, said of the Dial-a-Ride: "Without this excellent service within our community, many of our members would not be able to attend Only Legs Aloud on a regular basis and would miss out on the vital treatment, support and friendship that we offer every



week." <https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/26076800.llanidloes-leg-club-supports-dial-ride-5-000/>

Wales – Women in Bus and Coach Launches Regional Group.



A regional group of Women in Bus and Coach has been launched with the aim of strengthening support, representation and opportunities for women across the bus, coach and community transport sector in Wales. Madeleine Goodson (Senior Project Manager at Transport for Wales) has been appointed chair of the group, with

Michelle Clarke (Deputy Director for Wales at the Community Transport Association) as Deputy Chair. Madeleine and Michelle will lead efforts to build a strong, inclusive network that supports women at all stages of their careers. Speaking at the event were Gemma Lelliott, CTA's Director for Wales, and Christina Christie, Community Transport Development Officer at Swansea Council for Voluntary Service.

<https://womeninbusandcoach.org.uk/news/news/women-in-bus-and-coach-launches-welsh-regional-group-appoints-madeleine-goodson-as-chair/>

## Shropshire - Church Stretton CT Operator Struggles with Fuel Costs.

A ring and ride service that is operated by the Mayfair Community Centre in Church Stretton and serves around 300 users is facing difficulties with the current rise in fuel costs. This has seen an increase from £100 per vehicle to £130 since the war in Iran started. The operator is reluctant to pass on the cost to the passengers but feels the current prices may force the service to be scaled back if costs continue to rise. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2ev42wk01ro>



## Shropshire – Helpforce Car Scheme Valued by NHS Patients.



A vital volunteer car scheme has been praised by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) for its work in assisting with patient transport in Shropshire. The service was designed by the Trust with the charity Helpforce, and over a six-month period has delivered over 660 journeys via 17 volunteer drivers. As well as ensuring patients get to and from appointments, the volunteers “also deliver medications, equipment and discharge letters, as well as offering a ‘settling in’ service to ensure patients’ basic needs are met at home. Most recently, the initiative was extended to provide outpatient support. An evaluation, conducted by Helpforce, found that 98% of patients supported by the scheme were collected within 30 minutes post-discharge – significantly improving the safe flow of patients through Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford’s

Princess Royal Hospital. And data indicated that over the six months, the service could have cost the Trust over £86,000 if hospital transport and taxis had been used instead of volunteers.” Helpforce, is now championing the scheme nationally, working with leaders of other NHS trusts who are keen to replicate SaTH’s success.

Director of Volunteering at Helpforce, Maeve Hully said: “With our support, SaTH has recruited and trained an outstanding team of volunteer drivers of all ages and from all walks of life, each highly motivated to ‘give back’ to the NHS and enhance the experiences of patients. For many people, being discharged from hospital can be an anxious time, especially those who don’t have friends or family members available to give them a lift back home. Not only do SaTH’s volunteer drivers ensure that discharged hospital patients get safely returned to their homes, they go ‘above and beyond’ by helping vulnerable individuals to settle in – ensuring they have basic provisions in their kitchen fridges and cupboards.” For more information about volunteering opportunities at SaTH click here. <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/news/volunteer-drivers-go-the-extra-miles-to-bring-comfort-and-care-beyond-hospital-walls/>

### Oxfordshire – Eynsham Community Bus Routes are

Extended. Funding approval has enabled the First and Last Mile



community bus to connect Eynsham through to Standlake, Witney, and North Leigh. The new Saturday service is to have a five-month trial starting on May 2 with volunteer drivers. The 611 and 618 routes are focussed on the younger population and aim to provide links to leisure facilities and activities, including Jessie’s Art Shed in Eynsham. Funding is provided from Oxfordshire

County Council’s Low Carbon Hub.

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/26036715.oxfordshire-county-council-approve-new-bus-service/>

### Worcestershire – Loss of SEND Contract Threatens Services

at Worcester Wheels. A tender renewal bid worth £200,000 has failed for Worcester Wheels, threatening to destabilise the core dial-a-ride services that it provides. Following its competitive process, Worcestershire County Council has awarded the SEND contracts elsewhere. As with many CT operations, the loss of contracts poses a tangible threat to the other Worcester Wheels services which were supported by funds and resources that the contracts provided.

The CT's chair Tim Organ said: "Our clients are very dependent on us...On the side of every single one of our buses it says: 'Not just a lift, but a lifeline'. We've got a number of people that we take shopping every week at the same time every week, and then we take them home. Some have various physical and mental conditions and require assistance to get about, and that's where we step in..."



There's going to be people around Worcester now who aren't going to be able to get out. The negative impact of that could well have an impact on their health. It will mean that fewer people get supported in the community."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrek83320mo>

### Gloucestershire – New Sponsor for Cotswold Community

**Bus.** It has been announced that Savills Cotswolds is to provide sponsorship of The Villager community bus service for 2026. Established in 1982, the entirely volunteer-run bus service operates across 54 villages in the Cotswolds and serves around 450 passengers every week. Regular, timetabled bus routes fill in the gaps that commercial operators do not cover, using smaller 16-seater buses to reach some of the less accessible villages. Head of Savills Residential Sales office in Stow-on-the-Wold, David Henderson said: "It is a privilege to support The Villager, which provides such a vital service within our community, and we are really proud to play a part in helping local people stay connected."

Chair of the The Villager Keith Gowing commented: "I am delighted that Savills has chosen to support The Villager. We started 44 years ago as a direct result of a government report on the causes of depopulation in rural areas, an issue which is still just as relevant today. We have grown from one to six minibuses, and our service is hugely valued



by the residents of some of our region's most remote villages. As a charity and entirely volunteer-run community service, we are hugely grateful for the support from Savills, which will directly support our day-to-day running costs." The Villager bus is also seeking new volunteer drivers.

Contact: <https://www.villagerbus.co.uk/index.php/volunteer-drivers>. <https://www.punchline-gloucester.com/articles/aanews/savills-supports-community-bus-service-in-the-cotswolds>

**Somerset – Radstock-Based CT Needs Volunteers.** Volunteers are required at SWAN Transport, and the charity has cited its recent performance figures to evidence the need for driver recruitment and indicate its impact on the lives of local people. Between January and March 916 journeys were delivered across the county. 21% were health related, 25.5% were community focussed, and 53.5% were for social services clients. Sofia Perkins, transport manager, said: "Behind every journey is a person whose life has been made easier. These numbers aren't just statistics; they represent neighbours supporting neighbours and a community coming together to truly make a difference to people's lives."



A service user added how much volunteers were valued: "If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be able to get anywhere, and it gives me some independence. It gets me to and from venues that I could not access by public transport, and I am finding public transport more difficult to use due to mobility problems. If it wasn't for SWAN, I would be housebound." Residents who would like to use the service, or become a volunteer can find out more by contacting [office@swan-transport.co.uk](mailto:office@swan-transport.co.uk) or on 01761 439548.

<https://www.mnrjournal.co.uk/news/radstock-community-transport-scheme-transforming-lives-898390>

**Scotland – Farr Goes CT Video Profile.** Based in north Sutherland, Farr Goes Community Transport has produced a video to celebrate its first year of operation. "Since launching in November 2024, Farr Goes has been on a mission to bridge the gap in North Sutherland, providing essential transport for some of the most remote communities in the Highlands. In this video, we look back at achievements, the lives we've touched, and the incredible support from our volunteers and partners that made this project possible..."



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTDUbCM5k8A>

Scotland – Glenfarg CT Cited as ‘Model for Scotland’. Scottish Greens candidates for Mid Scotland and Fife, Mags Hall and Mark Ruskell have been election campaigning on transport issues. Noting the failures of commercial bus operations in rural areas they have cited the Glenfarg Community Transport Group’s services as an example of how passenger transport should be run. Mark Russell said: “What we’ve seen here in Glenfarg is proof that when communities take ownership of their bus services, they work. Volunteers and local people stepped up when others stepped out, and now they have a thriving service. That’s the model we want to see across our community, and right across Scotland. The Scottish Greens have already delivered free bus travel for under-22s and abolished peak rail fares – now we want free buses for everyone.”

Mags Hall added: “People in rural communities like Glenfarg know better than anyone what it means to lose a bus service. When the private operators walk away, it’s communities that pick up the pieces – and they shouldn’t have to beg. The Scottish Greens want to fund community transport through bus bonds, bring routes into local ownership, and ultimately make buses free for everyone. That’s how you take on the cost of living crisis and protect the climate at the same time. We want community ownership so we can run them for people and not profit. Our buses have the power to transform communities right across our region, and the country, but we need them to be in local ownership – that’s what works.”



<https://www.deadlinenews.co.uk/2026/05/05/glenfarg-service-shows-better-bus-services-are-possible/>

### Scotland - North Berwick Car Scheme Celebrates

Achievements. The North Berwick Volunteer Car Scheme has expressed its appreciation to residents, businesses and North Berwick Rotary for its ongoing support. The service has delivered over 1,000 lifts last year. In a show of gratitude, the scheme highlighted the efforts of their volunteers and to North Berwick’s local businesses, which have donated raffle prizes and items for “thank you gatherings” for volunteers over several years.

This year, the car scheme was also the beneficiary of Rotary’s annual meal and entertainment event, which raised £2,000.



The service is always seeking new volunteers. Those interested should contact Bex on 07536 388753 or at [nbvcarScheme@gmail.com](mailto:nbvcarScheme@gmail.com).  
<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/25964858.north-berwick-volunteer-car-scheme-provided-1k-lifts-year/>

Devon – Bob the Bus Receives Prestigious Award. Press release: Bob the Bus, the Totnes-based community transport charity, formally received its prestigious King’s Award for Voluntary Service last month. The honour, the highest award given to local voluntary groups across the UK and equivalent to an MBE, recognises outstanding community service and the commitment of volunteers who support residents every day. As part of the national award presentation, His Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant of Devon, David Fursdon, visited Bob the Bus volunteers at Follaton House, Totnes, in April. He was met by volunteers, supporters and sponsors to hear more about their work and formally present the award to the team.

Bob the Bus is run by Totnes and Rural Community Transport (TARCT). Its scheduled services in and around Totnes provide 45,000 passenger journeys each year. It provides essential, accessible transport for people living in Totnes and the surrounding rural parishes. With only 2 part-time paid staff and a dedicated team of drivers and back-office volunteers, the charity has long been praised for helping local people stay connected to services, community activities and essential appointments.



Totnes and Rural Community Transport’s Chair of Trustees, Steve Grove, said: “We are so proud and delighted with this award. This award is a tribute to everyone involved over the charity’s 30-year history: volunteer drivers, trustees, coordinators, passengers and

supporters. Bob the Bus is only possible with the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, especially the drivers, without whom we couldn’t operate. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you want to help us make a huge difference to the local community, please get in touch. The award is also recognition for the hundreds of Community Transport operators throughout the UK, all of them serving their localities in different ways. We receive tremendous support from our passengers and others in the community, many of whom have been involved in fundraising efforts. Three local businesses have also come on board as major sponsors for 2026. At a time of rising

costs, we're working hard with all our local councils as well as our neighbouring Community Transport groups to keep services running."

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, David Fursdon, said: "My team were very impressed with the nomination for Bob the Bus for this important award and I was delighted to see that they have been successful. It is a well-deserved accolade which I hope they will carry forward with them as they continue to provide their excellent contribution to their community." South Hams District Council has supported Bob the Bus through various means, including an allocation of £10,000 Community Resilience Grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund towards a new bus in 2024/2025. Cllr Nadine Dommert, Executive Lead for Community Development at South Hams District Council, said: "We're proud to support Bob the Bus and to help celebrate this significant achievement for the charity and the wider community it serves." The King's Award for Voluntary Service highlights the vital contribution community run transport schemes make across the country. For Bob the Bus, it is both a celebration of what has been achieved and a call to local people to help secure the next chapter of this well-loved community service.

**Nottinghamshire – Volunteers Urgently Required for Eastwood Car Scheme.** An urgent appeal for drivers has been launched by Eastwood Volunteer Bureau and Food Bank (EVB) to assist local vulnerable people from around the north Broxtowe area. Colin, a current volunteer, said: "Volunteering with the transport scheme is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. I simply love helping people – whether that's taking someone shopping, to a hospital appointment, to a day centre, or even just to visit friends. What makes it so special for me is the conversations along the way. You hear all about people's lives, their stories, and experiences. It's fascinating, and I feel very privileged that people are willing to share those moments with me. People often say to me, 'you do an amazing job, you work so hard'. But I always tell them it's not just me - I couldn't possibly do it on my own. We're incredibly fortunate to have a fantastic, supportive and dedicated team behind the scenes who make everything possible. Not everyone has a family or friends to provide them with transport and many just can't afford a taxi for things like appointments, shopping or to go to social groups."



The CT has recently taken people to the Temple Centre at Nuthall, the Colin Dyson Centre for Age Concern lunches, Armstrong Mills for coffee and shopping, Hilltop Butchers in Eastwood, the Sybil Levin Centre in Beeston, Queen's Medical Centre and Giltbrook Shopping Centre for morning shopping with friends. Anyone interested in learning more about the role of volunteer driver can either call 01773 535255 or drop in at the bureau for a chat. Volunteers are required to take a DBS check and the cost will be covered by the bureau. <https://www.chad.co.uk/news/people/more-drivers-urgently-needed-for-eastwood-volunteer-bureaus-community-transport-scheme-7263245> and <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/volunteer-drivers-urgently-needed-to-support-vulnerable-residents>

Cumbria – New Merc for Muncaster. Copeland-based Muncaster Microbus has just launched a new accessible Mercedes Sprinter minibus which was funded by Mid and South Copeland GDF and The Cumberland Investment Fund. David Marsden of the CT said: "We have now been operating for 30 years and this generous funding will ensure that we have a vehicle to keep us going for the next 10. We provide a unique door-to-door service picking up passengers in the area from Bootle up to Calder Bridge and as far east as Boot. For many of our passengers, the Muncaster Microbus is a lifeline. We can collect them from their door, and on our Tuesday and Thursday shopping trips to Whitehaven, drop them off at the location of their choice. The



passenger lift means that passengers who can't use steps or are in a wheelchair can still use the bus. We are entirely run by volunteers and have a fantastic group of volunteer drivers. We also run regular Saturday trips to

Cumbrian towns and sometimes further afield." The minibus is also available for group hire, either with a Microbus driver or on a self-drive basis. Bookings can be made by calling 01229 717229 or visiting the website.

<https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/26015951.muncaster-microbus-new-mercedes-sprinter-vehicle/>

Hampshire – New Eversley Shopper Community Transport Service. Press release: yelabus Association – in conjunction with Eversley Parish Council – and utilising funding from the Department for Transport facilitated by Hampshire County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan are pleased to announce a new regular door to door community transport

service every Tuesday, running from Eversley to The Meadows shopping complex and Camberley Town Centre, utilising one of our two wheelchair lift equipped minibuses being driven by one of our trained volunteer drivers.

In common with many rural areas, Eversley has no local shop nor are there any bus connections to the main shopping areas at The Meadows and Camberley, so yelabus is commencing a new community transport service to link Eversley residents from their front doors to these locations. Residents need to register with yelabus and book the service in advance to enable individual pickup and transport to one of the destinations. For legal reasons we cannot pick up or set down at ordinary bus stops.

For the first month we are operating the service with no charge. The plan is to eventually charge £6 for the return journey. Initial funding for the service start-up has been provided by the Department for Transport via the Bus Service Improvement Plan agreed with Hampshire County Council to better address the needs of the residents of the County. The funding has provided the basis to enable the service to run for the next nine months on a weekly basis and development thereafter will depend on the usage.



yelabus association is a long-standing Community Transport Operator based in Yateley to whose residents we have provided services for the last thirty years and feel the time is right to widen our area of operations. yelabus operate a similar weekly service from Yateley every Friday which has shown improved fortunes since it became a weekly service about a year ago. Eversley Parish Council is aware of the loss of local facilities and the potential for social isolation and is glad to be able to assist with organising this additional facility for residents of the parish. [www.yelabus.org.uk](http://www.yelabus.org.uk)

Hampshire – Four Decades of Bertie the Bus. Residents of the village of Broughton first set up a community bus in the 1980s, and the current vehicle known affectionately as Bertie the Bus is still providing a lifeline service. The Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus runs on most weekdays to towns and cities including Winchester, Andover and Southampton and also offers summer excursions to seaside towns. It is subsidised by Hampshire County Council and the Test Valley Council, and run entirely by volunteers. Driver Adrian Crossley said: “It’s a social thing apart from anything else...Others wouldn’t be able to go to the shops as easily and I think they would become more isolated if they didn’t have the opportunity to do this.”



Passenger Janet and her husband depend on the bus: “I’ve got Parkinson’s disease so I can’t drive and my husband has macular degeneration so he can’t drive either. We’ve been drivers all our lives but now we’re totally wholly dependent on the bus, we’d be absolutely lost without it.”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g9Ingy15xo>

### Lancashire - Community Transport Impact In Burnley.

Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale CVS chooses to communicate its achievements with a quarterly impact infographic (Jan-Mar 2026) on YouTube: “Community transport is vital in reducing social isolation in communities. Our Communicars service supports the people of Burnley to get out and about thanks to volunteer drivers. Our minibus is available to hire for VCFSE groups and organisations for day trips. This short impact reel shows you the numbers of people and groups we’ve supported.”



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNne0WQV80c>

Kent - Faversham Hopper Bus Service Extends to Saturday Service. The Faversham Hopper community bus was launched two years ago after Stagecoach pulled out of the area. Faversham Town Council then launched the community bus serving Oare, Teynham, Newham, Doddington and Lynsted and it currently carries an average of 30 passengers a day. There is now some demand for a Saturday service but this will require four additional volunteer drivers. Community bus officer Claire Farley-Hills said: "At the request of passengers, we are exploring the possibility of expanding the service to include Saturdays. I have surveyed our drivers, and we currently have eight of the 16 willing to cover Saturdays. We need two each day, but that doesn't offer us any flexibility for driver holidays or sickness." Anyone who can help should email [hopper@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:hopper@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01795 503286.



<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/faversham/news/the-vital-rural-community-bus-keeping-villagers-moving-after-339867/>

West Sussex – Volunteer Drivers Sought for Horsham Stroke Club. High Sheriff of West Sussex Gary Shipton has recently visited The Phoenix Stroke Club which after years of fund-



raising has secured a stunning centre located at the Forest School. However, transport is an ongoing challenge to the club. Chair of trustees Don Burstow commented on the cost of community transport to and from the centre for its members. "We are trying to get to a point where we can buy our own mini bus - quite feasible, I think - but that can only work if we can get volunteer drivers." Anyone interested in volunteering as a driver can contact the club: 01403 268130 or email:

[manager@phoenixstrokeclub.org.uk](mailto:manager@phoenixstrokeclub.org.uk).

<https://www.phoenixstrokeclub.org.uk/contact-us>. <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/health/other/this-is-why-superb-horsham-club-which-helps-stroke-survivors-needs-volunteer-drivers-and-how-you-can-help/AA22GhCT?apiversion=v2&domshim=1&noservercache=1&noservertelemetry=1&batchservertelemetry=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1>

West & East Sussex – New CT Partnership with easyfundraising. Community Transport Sussex has announced that it has "officially joined forces with easyfundraising. This incredible partnership means that over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you

shop with them using easyfundraising. That's right – at NO extra cost to you, you can make a huge difference in our community! These donations are crucial for us and will help us continue our mission to support local charities and provide essential services to those in need...easyfundraising to shop online with your favorite brands...Brands will donate to Community Transport Sussex with every purchase. Sign up here to start supporting us today!

<https://lnkd.in/ezPyxBBW>. Every little helps and your support means the world to us. Together, we can make a

difference! Thank you for your continued support!"

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

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

