



Newsletter No.68

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

Community Transport Awards 2026. CTA's award ceremony was held in Manchester in June and this year's winners were as follows:

- Partnership of the Year: **PACTO** and **Royal Voluntary Service**, Pembrokeshire (full story here: <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/pembrokeshire-partnership-helping-vulnerable-patients-return-home-safely-recognised-at-national-awards>);
- Commitment to Sustainability: **Waverley Hoppa Community Transport** (full story here: <https://www.altonherald.com/news/letters/letters-to-the-editor-farnham-community-transport-service-deserves-support-918120>);



- CT Ally of the Year: **Professor Charles Musselwhite**;
- CT Organisation of the Year 1–5 Vehicles: **Holsworthy Community Transport** (full story here: <https://www.bude-today.co.uk/news/holsworthy-rural-community-transport-wins-national-award-for-service-excellence-924475>);
- CT Organisation of the Year 6+ Vehicles: **Glenfarg Community Transport Group**;

- Volunteer of the Year: **Joan Stace, Manorbier and District Community Transport Association, PACTO** (full story here: <https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/pembrokeshire-volunteer-honoured-with-national-award-for-30-years-of-community-work-918600>);
- MiDAS Driver of the Year: **Darren Shore, The Sprint Community Transport;**
- MiDAS Driver Assessor of the Year: **Gayle Roberts, RAKAT;**
- MiDAS Organisation of the Year: **Dial a Ride Denbighshire** (Special Commendation: **Birmingham City Council**); and
- Steve Moore Lifetime Achievement Award: **David Monaghan BEM, Fermanagh Community Transport.**
<https://ctauk.org/news/celebrating-winners-ct26-awards>.

Devon – Okehampton CT Volunteers Win Holiday. Two volunteers from the **Okehampton District Community Transport Group** (ODCTG) have recently been rewarded with a complimentary holiday in recognition of their work. The **Room to Reward** scheme offers volunteers short breaks, donated by hotels and holiday providers, in recognition of their services. **Derek** and **Graham** from ODCTG were so favoured. Manager of ODCTG **Paula Anscamb** commented: "Volunteering is a selfless act of committing time to assist those in our communities. ODCTG is proud of all its volunteers and the kindnesses they give on a daily basis. Although a reward is not expected, the Room for Reward scheme is a chance for us to show our volunteers how grateful we are that they are there for our clients when needed. Derek and Graham represent the best of volunteering, and we hope that they enjoy their opportunity to have a break with Room to Reward." One passenger said: "Graham put me at ease and made the journey enjoyable despite me being anxious about my appointment." For more information, visit <https://odctg.co.uk/> To volunteer, visit



<https://odctg.co.uk/volunteer/>
<https://www.tavistock-today.co.uk/news/okehampton-volunteers-awarded-complimentary-holiday-in-recognition-of-community-work-915647>

Devon - Community Drivers Volunteer Campaign Launched. A

new countywide recruitment campaign has been launched across Devon to attract volunteer drivers for the CT sector. Branded **Devon Community**



Drivers, the pilot initiative is being managed by **Devon Communities Together** and **Devon Access to Services**. Project manager at Devon Communities Together, **Ben Feasey** said: "Volunteer drivers make an enormous difference to people's lives every day. For many residents, particularly in rural communities, these journeys provide a vital link to healthcare, social activities and community life. We're looking to attract a new generation of volunteers by demonstrating just how flexible and rewarding this role can be." The aim of the pilot is to strengthen long-term volunteer recruitment and ensure the sustainability of community transport networks.

<https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/26202101.devon-community-drivers-volunteer-campaign-launched/>. Also here: <https://www.ivybridge-today.co.uk/news/devon-community-drivers-recruit-new-volunteer-drivers-for-transport-scheme-917752>

East Sussex – 30 Years of Service from Lewes CT. Community

Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA) has posted: "For 30 years, CTLA has been proud to support and connect local communities through accessible, reliable community transport. What started as a small, local service has grown into an important lifeline for so many people across the area, helping passengers stay independent, connected, and on the move. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey over the years — our passengers, volunteers, drivers, staff, and supporters. Your continued support has helped make CTLA what it is today. Here's to 30 years of community, connection, and keeping people moving... and to many more still to come...Keep an eye out for what's coming up for CTLA!"



<https://www.ctla.org.uk/news/celebrating-30-years-of-ctla/>

East & West Sussex – CT Sussex Eco-training Initiative.

Community Transport Sussex has posted: "As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, our drivers are undertaking eco-driving training to enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact. By adopting techniques such as smoother acceleration, maintaining steady speeds, and reducing unnecessary idling, our teams are helping to improve fuel efficiency and lower emissions across our services. These small behavioural changes collectively contribute to more sustainable, efficient, and environmentally responsible community transport. We would like to thank our drivers for their continued commitment to learning and delivering the highest standard of service." <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ct-sussex/posts/?feedView=all>



CTA Updates

- **UK – Get Ready for CT Week October 2026** <https://ctauk.org/ctweek26-how-get-involved>
- **UK - D1 licensing reform: what community transport operators told us** <https://ctauk.org/news/d1-licensing-reform-what-community-transport-operators-told-us>
- **Northern Ireland - Transport Opens Doors: Angela's Journey** <https://ctauk.org/news/transport-opens-doors-angelas-journey>



- **England - Fuel Crisis Impact Survey Responses** <https://ctauk.org/news/community-transport-england-facing-fuel-crisis>

- **England – Better Connected: What the New National Transport Strategy says about Community Transport in England** <https://ctauk.org/news/better-connected-what-new-national-transport-strategy-says-about-community-transport-england>
- **England - What the new Local Transport Plan Guidance Means for Community Transport in England** <https://ctauk.org/news/what-new-local-transport-plan-guidance-means-community-transport-england>
- **Driving Independence in Rural Shropshire: A Community Transport Success Story** <https://ctauk.org/news/driving-independence-rural-shropshire-community-transport-success-story>
- **Connect and Learn: Working Effectively with Local Authorities** <https://ctauk.org/news/connect-and-learn-working-effectively-local-authorities>

Cambridgeshire – Planning Gain Funds Could Support CT Services.

The transport committee at **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority** is being urged to back a package of developer-funded bus improvements that could safeguard and expand vital services such as protect socially necessary routes, community transport schemes and fund future network improvements. **Cambridge Dial-a-Ride** and **FACT** have been cited as potential beneficiaries of the fund because of their ability to provide flexible and demand-responsive services which can be particularly valuable in rural areas where traditional fixed-route bus services are often difficult to sustain.



<https://www.cambsnews.co.uk/cpca-s106-funding-save-cambridgeshire-bus-services-citi5-northstowe/>

Scotland – Inverclyde CT Services are Funded by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

A total of 19 CT providers have been allocated funding from **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport** (SPT) as part of its annual settlement for CT provision in the Greater Glasgow area. The total allocation for 2026/27 is over £1.3m. Three of the recipients are based in



Inverclyde: **Ardgowan Hospice Passenger Transport Service** (£31,800), **Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport Group** (£22,740) and **Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Services** (£25,000). Inverclyde councillor **David Wilson** said: "SPT has contributed over £80,000 this year to community transport in Inverclyde. It is invaluable that volunteers can take patients to their appointments, especially to the Beatson which would otherwise prove very difficult. Inverclyde has dedicated community transport operators working hard every day to make sure that older people, disabled people and those facing the most difficult of circumstances can still get where they need to go. The work Ardgowan

Hospice, Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport Group and Inverclyde VCSS do is quietly remarkable, and this funding is a recognition of just how essential that work is." <https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/26185018.ardgowan-hospices-transport-service-given-boost/>

Other recipients of the SPT funding are reported here:

- West Dunbartonshire (<https://www.dumbartonreporter.co.uk/news/26221265.west-dunbartonshire-awarded-30-000-funding-spt/> and <https://www.deadlinenews.co.uk/2026/06/25/locals-raise-concerns-over-transport-funding-in-west-dunbartonshire/>)
- Renfrewshire <https://www.renfrewshire24.co.uk/2026/06/23/renfrewshire-community-transport-groups-share-22000-funding-award/>;
- South Lanarkshire (<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/funding-boost-south-lanarkshire-community-37352739>)
- North Lanarkshire (<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/strathclyde-partnership-transport-approves-26k-135000134.html>);
- Ayrshire (<https://www.ayradvertiser.com/news/26225227.south-ayrshire-community-transport-receives-funding-boost/>)

Dorset – Celebration Event for Sherborne’s Big Red Bus. In the local news recently has been **Sherborne Voluntary Ambulance** (aka **The Big Red Bus**) which has celebrated the

engagement of a new manager, a delivery of a new bus and a fresh recognition for its service. The event took place at Sherborne Boys School on May 26, in tribute to the CT’s achievements and to honour the long-standing contributions of volunteers **John** and **Pauline Miller**. John has completed 24 years as volunteer then



manager and his wife has also made a significant contribution to the development of the service. New manager is **Steve Guise** and the event showcased a new community-funded bus. Contact Steve Guise on 07947 620 378 or steve.sherbornesva@gmail.com.

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/26184974.sherborne-voluntary-ambulance-celebrate-community-funded-bus/>

Dorset – Community Transport Transformation Planned by Council. As part of an overall transformation of rural and community

transport, **Dorset Council** has produced an outline business case for future development. The Council has identified that Dorset has “a transport system that is increasingly under pressure and not well suited to the future needs of a rural county. Bus services have declined in recent years and remain limited in frequency and coverage, particularly in rural areas. Community transport plays a vital role but is fragmented, reliant on short term grant funding, and not configured to operate at scale. At the same time, demand for specialist transport, particularly for SEND and Adult Social Care, is rising and is often met through high-cost, individually-commissioned journeys. Taken together,

the current system is fragmented, inefficient and increasingly difficult to sustain.”

The Council’s **Place and Resources Overview Committee** has now considered recommendations to “develop a more integrated transport system. This would bring together public bus services, community transport, flexible provision and specialist transport into a single coordinated network. In practice, integration means coordinated timetables, shared vehicles, common booking systems and multi-purpose journeys where possible. The aim is to improve access, make better use of existing vehicles and resources and reduce reliance on high-cost bespoke transport where appropriate...Community transport and flexible services could operate as local ‘spokes’ collecting passengers from villages and connecting them to central ‘hub’ bus stops, where they can transfer onto main bus routes or rail services...”



<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/early-plans-set-out-to-strengthen-public-and-community-transport-across-dorset>

Cumberland – CT Options Helping Keep Cumberland

Connected. Cumberland Council news release: Cumberland Council is highlighting the wide range of transport options available across the area, helping residents stay connected whether travelling by bus or through community transport schemes. Significant investment in the **Cumberland Go** bus network has made public transport more accessible and affordable than ever... However, in some rural areas where traditional bus services cannot meet every need, community transport provides a vital alternative. For users like **Pat** from Keswick, these services are essential. “For me, I can’t walk the distance, and with no public transport available, this service makes it possible to get where I need to go,” she explains. “This service is a lifeline for me and my husband. It’s reliable, affordable, and without it, we simply wouldn’t be able to stay in our home of 26 years.”

Voluntary Social Car Schemes, delivered by volunteer drivers, enable people to travel where no other transport options exist, with 17 schemes currently operating across Cumberland. Additional services such as **Rural Wheels** offer flexible, pre-booked journeys linking people to nearby towns or onward transport



connections, while community minibus and group travel schemes provide further accessible options.

Together, these services complement the wider public transport network, ensuring no one is left behind, particularly in more rural communities. Cumberland Councillor **Denise Rollo**, Executive Member for Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places, said: "We have made real progress in improving public transport across Cumberland, with more routes, better connections and affordable fares through the Cumberland Go network. At the same time, we recognise that no single solution works for every community. That is why community transport schemes play such an important role, providing flexible, local support where traditional services cannot always reach. Volunteers, community groups and local operators all play a part in keeping our communities connected and helping residents stay independent."

The council is continuing to work with partners to strengthen both public and community transport, including exploring opportunities with taxi and private hire operators to further improve access in rural areas. Flexible opportunities remain available for those interested in getting involved, whether as volunteer drivers or in supporting roles within local schemes.

Find out more by visiting: www.cumberland.gov.uk/voluntarycarscheme
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2026/improved-transport-options-helping-keep-cumberland-connected>

Wales – Pembrokeshire CT Strategy Launch. At an event on 3rd July, **Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations** (PACTO) launched its much-anticipated new five-year strategy: *One Network. One System. One Vision.* The PACTO board of Trustees said: "This strategy



marks a significant milestone for Community Transport in Pembrokeshire. It sets out a shared vision for the future and reflects the dedication, collaboration and commitment of the organisations, volunteers, partners and communities who make Community Transport an essential part of life across our county."

<https://www.pacto.org.uk/uncategorised/pembrokeshire-community-transport-strategy-launch-conference-pacto-presentation-2/> Following the launch event, project manager Wyndham Williams posted that: "I've finally had a chance to take a breath and reflect on what was one of the proudest days of my career. After nearly three years leading the PACTO Transformation Project, funded by the Motability Foundation. Last Thursday's Strategy launch event was a significant milestone for the Pembrokeshire Community Transport Sector. Over 70+ partners and stakeholders attended. What began as an ambitious idea is now a shared vision for Pembrokeshire."

(<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wyndhamwilliams/>)

PACTO has also recently been shortlisted in two categories at the prestigious **Leadership in Passenger Transport Awards** (LiPTA). "PACTO has been named a Finalist in:

- Team Management Award — **Wyndham Williams**, Transformation Project Manager, by recognising the hard work and dedication of the Transformation Team in the delivery of the project.
- Innovation & New Thinking Award — **Ady Poole**, General Manager, by recognising its innovative Transport Connector service and approach to developing accessible, forward-thinking transport solutions for passengers.

The awards celebrate excellence across the UK's passenger transport sector, spanning bus, coach, rail, and community transport, and are designed to recognise outstanding leadership and professional achievement at all levels."

<https://www.pacto.org.uk/press-releases/pacto-nominated-for-prestigious-awards/>

Essex – Three New CT Minibuses Funded by Tendring

Council. Tendring District Council news release: A trio of new community minibuses now supporting residents thanks to a successful grant scheme.

Tendring Community Transport, Harwich Connexions and Clacton-based youth support charity **UTurn4Support** each secured funding from Tendring District Council to purchase a new vehicle, all of which are now in use across Clacton, Holland and Jaywick Sands. **Pauline Mann**, CEO of Tendring Community Transport, said: "We're so grateful for the funding, which has enabled us to purchase a brand new, fully accessible minibus for people who rely on our service. This has replaced one of our oldest vehicles and will be much more reliable." Harwich Connexions Manager **Debbie Hill** said: "Our passengers love the new minibus – it is already very popular with those who use it. It is used on our Tendring Shuttle route, which helps people who may be isolated with shopping trips, medical appointments and much more."

UTurn4Support's new vehicle has been in use since November and is used to help the young people the group works with access their sessions in Old Road, Clacton, breaking down a major barrier to participation.

Youth Worker **Max Hughes** said: "It has made a massive difference, allowing us to get the young people to school or college and to go further afield with our reward scheme trips. The minibus has hugely expanded what we are able to do. We're so happy."

The three vehicles cost more than £180,000 combined, with the funding provided through the **Community Regeneration Partnership**, part



of a wider £20million investment programme from the **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**, delivered locally by the council.

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/news/hat-trick-of-new-minibuses-have-hit-the-road-thanks-to-ps180k-tdc-grant-funding> also

<https://www.clactonandfrintongazette.co.uk/news/26220537.three-new-community-minibuses-hit-road-tendring/>

Worcestershire – Wyre Forest CT Volunteer Earns High Sheriff's Award. Wyre Forest Community Transport posted: The **High Sheriff of Worcestershire** took a ride with us to learn about all we do and reward a long-standing volunteer. **Maynard Burton** presented driver and former trustee **Jonathan Haley** with a High Sheriff's Award in recognition of almost 30 years dedicated and valuable service to the community. The certificate was presented during a reception at our Green Street base, where he met volunteers, staff, trustees and passenger **Betty Nicholas**, aged 89, who has relied on the service for 20 years. Earlier, Mr Burton accompanied volunteer driver and trustee **Peter Simner** and his passenger assistant, wife **Liz**, on their regular minibus route picking up passengers for their day of activities at Bewdley Cricket Club, run by **Reach**, a charity catering for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Mr Burton, a retired solicitor from Stourport, said: "One of my priorities is to champion the county's unsung heroes and I am delighted to have the opportunity to visit Wyre Forest Community Transport, which provides vital transport services

for several hundred elderly and disabled people across the district. It has been an honour to meet some of the charity's dedicated team of volunteers, who give their time to help their passengers enjoy fulfilled and independent lives by ensuring they can keep medical appointments, access community



activities, enjoy outings, trips to the shops and such like. I was particularly struck on the journey today with how friendly the volunteers and passengers are to each other. It's far more than just a transport service, it's a social service. The volunteers do a great job and Jonathan's dedication, across three decades, epitomises great volunteering. It is an absolute pleasure to present him with this certificate."

Anyone interested in finding out more about the services offered, how to support the charity, or how to volunteer either as a minibuss or car driver should visit ctwyre.org.uk or call 01562 755084.

<https://www.ctwyre.org.uk/news/high-sheriff-heaps-praise-on-our-friendly-and-much-needed-social-service>. Also

<https://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/26198722.wyre-forest-community-transport-driver-earns-high-sheriff-award/>

Greater London – Women in Bus and Coach Profiles

Westway CT Volunteer. A volunteer at **Westway Community Transport** has been featured in **Women in Bus and Coach**'s series of 'spotlight' features. **Elizabeth Greeley** has been volunteering at Westway CT for over 25 years and commented: "I needed transport to go on holiday in 1996 and I found out about this transport company which is part charity. One of the drivers took us to Wales and I thought maybe I could do something to help so I began on various committees and then I asked the Director if I could do some voluntary work and I worked in the accounts department for about 4 hours a week. I have been doing it since 2000... When I joined there was only about 4 office staff and the building was small and we weren't catering for a variety of needs. Over the years the building has expanded. We have many more buses and cater for more needs. The committee work has expanded. I am now on the Management Committee representing disabled people. I sometimes get involved in discussions about employees and finances...I hope that all community transport organizations will go on expanding and give more opportunities to women as we are now meant to live in an equal society."

<https://womeninbusandcoach.org.uk/news/spotlight-on-allyship/spotlight-on-elizabeth-greeley-volunteer/>



#VolunteersWeek

SPOTLIGHT ON

ELIZABETH GREELEY
Volunteer
Westway Community Transport

WOMEN
IN BUS AND COACH

Bedfordshire – New Vehicle Launched at Earley Community

Bus. The Mayor of **Earley Town Council** attended the launch of a new minibus at **Earley Community Bus**, which has been serving residents of Earley, Greater Wokingham, Bracknell and Reading for over 30 years. The new vehicle is diesel fuelled and has better driving technology, offering greater travel comfort, including air conditioning, and meets the Euro 6 emissions standard, making it ULEZ compliant.

Mayor Cllr **Alistair Neal** said: "This is a fantastic upgrade to the Earley Community Bus, and I'm very pleased to have been able to help launch it. It will benefit lots of people in the area and beyond."



Vice chair of Earley Community Bus **David Pelling** said: "Any money we make goes straight into our bus fund, to prepare for the next replacement vehicle...It feels much more like a car than the previous bus, with its small steering wheel and light handling, and it's much shorter, which makes it easier to park... We enable people to make trips they might not otherwise have been able to afford. One care home told us that if it wasn't for this service, they just wouldn't be able to get their residents out and about. A few more drivers would help spread the load. It's the perfect volunteering opportunity for someone who can't give a regular time slot..."

For information, to book a trip, or to enquire about volunteering, call: 0118 975 7320, or email: earleybus@hotmail.co.uk. <https://wokingham.today/all-aboard-the-earley-community-bus/> plus video here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1956098605035700>

Lancashire – West Lancs Dial-a-Ride Faces Closure. After several years of uncertainty regarding its future, **West Lancashire Dial-a-Ride** has ceased operations. The Burscough-based CT service has been in operation since 1982, and closed last month due to funding problems. Its key funders are **Lancashire County Council** and **West Lancashire Borough Council** and the two authorities are investigating alternative Dial-a-Ride provision.

The County funding makes up the bulk of financial support and is provided as part of an overall payment to Lancashire Community Transport Consortium. A county council spokesperson commented: "We understand how important the Dial-a-Ride service is for the people who rely on it to stay connected to appointments, services and their local community. Lancashire County Council's funding for the service has been maintained and has not been reduced. The challenges currently facing the service relate to how it is operated and wider

cost pressures. We are working closely with the operator and other partners to explore sustainable options and help ensure residents continue to have access to the support they need."

West Lancashire Borough Council said "this news is deeply concerning, given the valuable service the organisation provides to residents across the borough. West Lancashire Dial-a-Ride has been a valued community partner, helping to ensure that vulnerable and isolated residents can access essential services and remain connected to their communities. In recent years, the council has provided significant financial support to help sustain this important community transport service.

Over the past two years alone, the organisation received £48,000 in funding through the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** programme. The council recognises the vital role that community transport services play for local families, particularly for older residents and those with mobility challenges. We are committed to working closely with the trustees, local partners and with colleagues across Lancashire to explore alternative provision and minimise the impact of this closure on residents."

<https://www.lep.co.uk/travel/vital-west-lancashire-dial-a-ride-service-for-vulnerable-residents-announces-closure-8775720>



Guernsey – New Agreement for CT Provision. States of Guernsey media release: **Health & Social Care (HSC)** and **Health Connections** have agreed a new service level agreement to deliver an enhanced Voluntary Community Transport Service for Guernsey. The agreement will begin in July 2026 and run for an initial three-and-a-half year term, ending in December 2029. This marks an important step forward in the development of community transport in Guernsey. It reflects a shared commitment to supporting islanders' health, independence and social connection, particularly for those who would otherwise struggle to get where they need to be.

The agreement formalises the partnership between the two organisations and gives long-term stability to an essential service many islanders rely on. It will help support joint work on the future of community transport, including the development of a wider strategy for the island. This work will involve partners from across the charitable sector and the States. Volunteer drivers will continue to deliver the service, which will prioritise people who have no other way of getting to medical



appointments or social prescribing activities. It will also support wider wellbeing by helping people attend activities that reduce loneliness and social isolation. Under the agreement, HSC will provide £88,000 per year to contribute to the cost of Health Connections' transport coordinators and to ensure volunteer drivers can reclaim mileage expenses. This funding will help maintain a reliable service that meets the needs of islanders.

Bella Farrell, CEO of Health Connections, said: "We are delighted to be formally entering into this new agreement with HSC, having provided community transport services since 2010. Throughout that time, HSC has supported the service by funding the mileage claims of our volunteer drivers. Community transport is a lifeline for many people, and this partnership gives us the stability to keep improving the service. Our dedicated team of volunteer drivers and coordinators work incredibly hard to support islanders who would otherwise struggle to get to important appointments or social activities. In the first six months of 2026 we have delivered over 3,000 journeys. This SLA would enable us to maintain and grow the service that connects people to the support and care in the community they need."

https://www.gov.gg/Community_transport_partnership

Lincolnshire – Rutland CT Shares Survey Findings. The CT service that is operated by **Voluntary Action Rutland** (VAR) has recently undertaken a survey of its users which has provided positive qualitative feedback:

- more than 9 out of 10 respondents said they would recommend the service to others;
- the majority were 'happy' or 'very happy' with the support they received;
- around 60 per cent of respondents used the service to attend GP, hospital or specialist appointments;
- clients also consistently praised "friendly, patient and reliable" drivers and office staff, with more than 90 per cent surveyed rating volunteers as 'helpful' or 'very helpful'. One client described the service as "invaluable".
- over three-quarters were 'happy' or 'very happy' with the booking system, but suggestions made included improving access outside office hours.

CEO of Voluntary Action Rutland **Tom Walters** said: "Importantly, the survey confirms that community transport provides far more than journeys alone. For many users, it supports independence, confidence and social connection, helping people remain active members of their community. We remain committed to listening to service users and using their feedback to ensure our services continue to meet



local needs now and in the future." For transport services, call 01572 724705 or email transport@varutland.org.uk

<https://www.lincsonline.co.uk/rutland/news/charity-s-growing-transport-service-gets-thumbs-up-from-pass-9471578/>

Northern Ireland – Newry & Mourne CT Driver Profile. Newry & Mourne Community Transport



NEWRY & MOURNE
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

MEET THE TEAM

Meet
JIM

DRIVER

AT NEWRY & MOURNE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

ON THE ROAD WITH JIM

Jim is one of our full-time drivers and is always willing to help someone in need.
He's been a driver with us for 2 years!

"The best part of the job is knowing you're helping people who really rely on the service."

has posted: "Meet Jim: One of Our Drivers...Jim has been driving with us for 2 years and is always willing to lend a helping hand to those who need it. Whether he's helping passengers get to appointments, shopping trips or social outings, Jim plays an important role in keeping people across Newry and Mourne connected.

For Jim, the best part of the job is knowing he's helping people who really rely on the service. "The best part of the job is knowing you're helping people who really rely on the service."

A huge thank you to Jim for his kindness, reliability and the important role he plays in supporting our passengers.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550880774591>

Northern Ireland – DART Summer Photo Competition. A photo competition has been launched by **Down Armagh Rural Transport Partnership** as an innovative and imaginative way of marketing the positive aspects of their service. DART posted: At DART Partnership, every journey tells a story. Whether it's helping someone get to an important appointment, taking a group on a day trip, or simply making it possible for someone to enjoy a morning shopping trip with friends, our drivers make a real difference every day. This summer, we're inviting our community to help us tell those stories through the lens of a camera...

Throughout July and August, we're encouraging our DART drivers to capture photos of our buses out and about across the communities we serve. From picturesque countryside views and bustling town centres to memorable moments and stunning local landmarks, we want to see where the journey takes you...This year, we're delighted to open the competition to our service users too! Some of the best moments happen during the journeys we share together, and we'd love to see DART through your eyes. Whether you're travelling to the shops, attending an appointment, enjoying one of our day trips or simply out and about, if a DART bus is in the photo, we'd love to see it.

Many of our drivers already send us fantastic photographs throughout the year, and we can't thank them enough. These images help bring DART to life. They showcase the incredible work our drivers do every day and allow the wider community to see the positive impact community transport has across the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Your photographs help us:

- Showcase the difference community transport makes.
- Encourage new passenger registrations.
- Promote group bookings and day trips.
- Raise awareness of DART's services.
- Celebrate the communities we serve.



Many of the photos we receive feature on our social media channels, while others appear in newsletters, email campaigns, printed leaflets and promotional materials throughout the year. In fact, several driver photographs were recently used in our latest community group campaign, and some will also feature in our new summer leaflet, which is being distributed across the borough. Every photo you send is genuinely appreciated and may help tell the DART story in the future.

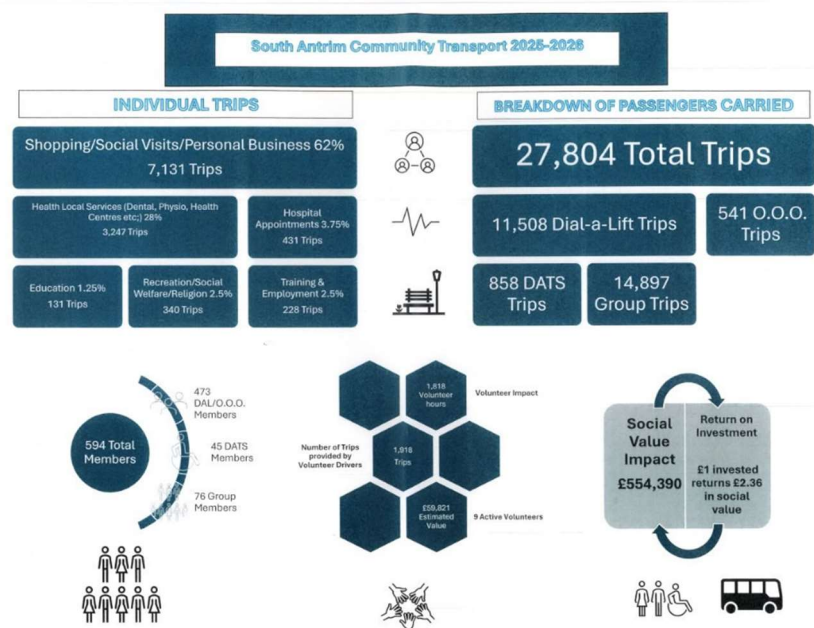
<https://www.dartpartnership.co.uk/post/enter-today-capture-the-journey-dart-summer-photo-competition-2026>

Northern Ireland – South Antrim CT Social Value Findings. A recent social valuation of the services provided by **South Antrim Community Transport** has been undertaken and the findings have been published. The CT posted:

Transporting our community, one journey at a time!

During the 2025–2026 year, our team helped passengers reach their destinations through a combination of bus services and volunteer drivers using their own vehicles.

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteer drivers, staff, and



supporters who make these vital journeys possible. Your commitment helps keep people connected to healthcare, shopping, social activities, and essential services. Together, we're making a real difference in our community every day.

https://www.facebook.com/sactballyclare?locale=en_GB

Somerset - Watchet and Williton Car Scheme in Urgent Need of Drivers.

The **Wheels** car scheme which serves Watchet, Williton, Washford and Old Cleeve 'desperately needs' more drivers and co-ordinators to join its volunteer team. Anybody who lives in the Watchet / Williton areas and has a car and some time to spare should contact Wheels on 07891 821861 or <http://yourwheels.org.uk/>. <https://www.wsfp.co.uk/news/watchet-and-williton-area-car-scheme-in-desperate-need-of-more-drivers-916418>

WHEELS



Community run!

Available most of the year

Inexpensive



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