

BRIDGES COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Newsletter

October 2017



Welcome to our second Car Scheme Newsletter. We very much hope you enjoyed reading the first one and will read on now to find out what we've been doing over the Summer and what we're planning on doing up until Christmas ...

Passengers able to get out on a regular basis thanks to our drivers

As a result of our continued success and the wonderful commitment of our drivers, some of our passengers have been able to get out to various social activities on a regular monthly, fortnightly or weekly basis. Something they weren't easily able to do before the Car Scheme came along! We have now got drivers who are willing to commit to taking passengers to the monthly Bridges Lunch Club; the fortnightly Trevor Bowen Court Art and Crafts Group and weekly journeys to various other social activities in and around Monmouth.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in doing a regular journey. Please give us a call.



Our funds were recently boosted by £200, thanks to the *Monmouthshire Beacon* (this year's Car Scheme sponsors). In addition, we've been able to get two much-needed laptops for the office. In June, some of the boys from *Monmouth School for Boys* kindly raised funds which enabled us to buy a new one and Ian Martin of *Martin Computers*, kindly donated a refurbished laptop for our use.

New Drivers ...

We would like to welcome David Reed who has just started driving for us. He's looking forward to meeting our passengers.

In September, we placed an article in the *Monmouthshire Beacon* and we're pleased to say that we've had a few enquiries about volunteer driving. Hopefully, we will have some new drivers on board very soon.

Christmas Get-together



Surely, we're not talking about Christmas already? Yes! We would like to celebrate our achievements during the year with our drivers. So, we will be having an Afternoon Tea at Bridges on:

**Friday, 1st December
from 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm**

You're all welcome. It would be great to get together. Please put this date in your diaries and an invitation and further details will follow.

**01234
56789**

Here are just a few more numbers that may be of interest to you ...

- 1** paid part-time Co-ordinator
- 2** volunteer Co-ordinators
- 19** drivers
- 84** registered passengers
- 414** journeys between January and September 2017

Feedback and ideas are always much appreciated. Please don't hesitate to contact us on 07557 008 743 or email us on carscheme@bridgescentre.org.uk



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Swivel cushions



We have recently been able to buy seven swivel cushions to go on the front passenger seat of a car. If you would like to borrow

one for any of your passengers, they are held at Bridges Reception. Please collect one when you need it but please let Reception have it back when you've finished.

On the lookout for new volunteers ...

We're always on the lookout for new drivers. Please tell your friends how much you enjoy driving and helping local people. Perhaps they would like to join us as well?

We're also keen to get some extra help with the administration work in the Car Scheme office.

If you know of anyone who might be happy to drive or do a few hours a week in the office, please ask them to contact Marianne Piper, Volunteer Co-ordinator (Monmouth, Usk and Raglan) on (01600) 887568 or 07980 941 946 or email marianne.piper@bridgescentre.org.uk

Training

The Alzheimer's Society is delivering a **Dementia Friends Training** course on Wednesday, 8th November, 10.00 am at the Bridges Centre. All volunteers are welcome to attend. The session lasts no longer than an hour. Please let Heather Vincent, Project Manager, Community Connections, know, if you are interested. Heather can be contacted on:

(01600) 888481 or 07765 282 228

New Expenses Claim Form and Gift Aid

We hope that the new Expenses Claim Form (which should be used from 1st September) will make claiming your expenses a little bit easier. Don't forget, you should be using it every month (even if you don't want to claim any money back). If you would like to Gift Aid any unclaimed expenses to the Bridges Centre, then please complete and return the Gift Aid Declaration Form to Gill. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any help completing the new form.



We would like to say a big thank you to Pat Jones who helped us in the office over the

Summer. Pat is still volunteering within Bridges but has moved on to help with the Lunch Club and the Afternoon Teas.

Also, thank you to the *Monmouthshire Beacon* for their continued support in highlighting, in their recent articles, the Car Scheme needs.

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