



NEWSLETTER

Community Transport South Wiltshire

Amesbury 'Hoppa' Success



Community Transport South Wiltshire (CTSW) has now been operating the very successful Amesbury Hoppa service in the town for over four years acting as a timetabled six day a week community bus service. The drivers have become friends with the regular passengers, gaining a local community award for their service. The Chair of Trustees, Elizabeth Piner, said

'the service has provided a crucial link and shuttle between the older part of the town and the newly expanding Archers Gate and Solstice Park. Many local people with disabilities have found it very helpful, enabling them to continue leading an independent life, parents with young children use the service to go to school and get into town'. The five-year funding package resulting from the Tesco development along with passenger fares has supported the service since its inception. Now a further injection of funding resulting from the Home Bargains warehouse development at Solstice Park has been received to allow the service to continue at least to 2020, after which it is hoped that the service will remain financially viable. A business plan is in place to monitor progress and make any changes required to ensure the service continues. CTSW is looking for support in the form of new drivers and even Trustees to help see the continuation of this and other services for years to come.



Ex. Bobby to Bus Manager

Steve Colwill joined CTSW in March 2015, starting out as a bus driver fulfilling shifts on the popular Amesbury Hoppa and covering for the Connect 2 Wiltshire service in the Bourne & Avon Valley area when required. When former Manager Rob Devine left CTSW it was decided to split his duties, one being a dedicated Bus Manager. Steve's previous experience was ideal for the role, he has driven personnel carriers, exhibition and traffic vehicles, is an advanced driver and qualified to carry out examinations for the institute of advanced motorists.



20 Years Service

At our well attended CTSW Annual General Meeting in July of this year, staff and members were pleased to witness a presentation to a surprised Elizabeth and Howard Piner. Local member Janet Bailey who regularly uses the charity's car scheme, presented flowers and an engraved crystal glass to Elizabeth and Howard, in recognition and appreciation of 20 years service supporting community transport in Salisbury and surrounding district areas. It was fair to say both Elizabeth and Howard were lost for words, but thrilled & appreciative of the acknowledgment.

Other News

New Minibus: Earlier this year along with 300 other community transport operations, CTSW's bid application for a new mini-bus was successful with the Department of Transport. Minibus specifications are still to be finalised with bus contractors, with delivery likely to be 2016.

Section 22: The Traffic Commissioner has renewed our Community Bus Permit under Section 22 of the Transport Act for an additional five years. The Permit allows the continuation of the Amesbury Hoppa service supporting local residents, school children and Solstice Park employees in Amesbury.

Wiltshire County Council need CTSW for BAV Service

Wiltshire Councils 'Connect to Wiltshire' community transport service (also known as **C2W**) have again requested that we continue to run the service. In particular the Pewsey based Woodborough School requires transport for taking school children to and from the surrounding areas of the Bourne & Avon Valley through the new term and until summer next year. The service is organised by CTSW's Bernie Wallace with drivers Ian Mugridge, Louise Reid, George Hopkins and Steve Colwill fulfilling the weekly service.



New Manager at CTSW



CTSW welcomes Graham Audin as the charity's new Business Manager. Graham joins us having previously worked for a charity that supports disabled people. One of his main roles is to raise the profile of the charity, whilst developing new funding opportunities. We also need to increase the number of volunteer car drivers to help support its members that use the charity's popular car scheme. Graham has recently fulfilled and passed Midas training to drive mini-buses and looking forward to promoting CTSW's services.

More Volunteer Drivers



More good news, we have three new volunteer drivers that have offered their time to support our car scheme. They are Laurie Stallard, John Hillier and Peter Finlay, a huge thank you and welcome.

Our need for more drivers continues as we have a long passenger waiting list. We know you have been asked many times, please spread the word for any potential new drivers so that we can help many more passengers.

An additional request to you all, when sending in email notifications to the office, could you please copy (cc.) in either Ni or Sammie depending which one you generally send emails to, this will ensure that emails are actioned in a timely manner. Also as a reminder please can we ask you to return your monthly claim forms to us quickly as possible. If claims are late it does impact on finalising our invoices as we have to reconcile members charges with actual journeys made.

As part of CTSW's new profile and to keep continuity, we are introducing new ID badges to replace your current badges. If you have not changed yours yet, please ring the office or pop in.

Arthur Laffin Volunteer Award Winner - Peter Handford



CTSW car scheme volunteer driver Peter Handford is the winner of the Arthur Laffin Volunteer Award presented at the Community First 2015 Awards evening, which was held recently at the Town Hall in Devizes. Well done and many congratulations to Peter, a huge thank you for your wonderful contribution over many years supporting the community members of CTSW. *Above: Peter is presented with his award by Community First Vice President, Mr William Wyldbore-Smith.*



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Have your say, comments, suggestions

What does community transport mean to you, what is it like to volunteer, other ways we can be more of help, a good story to tell or you would like more information made available to you. Let us know salisbury-ct@btconnect.com