



RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2003

WELCOME! To the Summer edition of the DRTP Newsletter. This issue is a **Community Transport Week Special!**

These Newsletters are produced to keep you informed about rural and Community Transport Issues. If you would like to contribute to future editions, please let us know. The deadline for the next edition will be **Friday 5th September 2003**.

In **this edition** you will find:

- Information on the DRTP
- Update on funding
- Community Transport Week 2003
- Online resources
- Project News
- Contact Details

What is the Devon Rural Transport Partnership?

The Devon Rural Transport Partnership (DRTP) was set up in 1999 to improve transport for rural communities. Made up of over 30 community, voluntary and statutory agencies, the Partnership works strategically to raise the profile of rural transport issues and also at the community level to help identify transport needs and to look at the best way to address them.

The strategic work of the Partnership includes supporting Local Transport Partnerships and Community Transport groups in Devon. The Partnership seeks to ensure that resources are used well and that services are integrated and sustainable where possible. Another important role is to raise awareness of rural transport issues through promoting rural transport. This includes special events, such as those highlighted in this Newsletter which took place during Community Transport Week 2003.

Community work carried out by the Partnership also focuses on finding appropriate solutions to the transport needs identified. In addition, the Partnership is able to share information on projects in Devon and across the UK. Groups are kept informed of current rural transport issues, legislation and best practice advice. The Partnership also advises groups about funding issues, appropriate funders for projects and how to write funding applications.

If you are part of a voluntary or community group that would like some advice about transport issues, please get in touch. We will be happy to come and do a presentation for your group or come for an informal chat about how we may be able

to help. For further information, please use the contact details at the end of this Newsletter.

Countryside Agency Funding

The Countryside Agency's embargo on the Vital Villages Programme has now been lifted. The Rural Transport Partnership fund for this financial year has already been allocated for Devon, which means that no new projects will be funded. However, there is still limited funding available through the Parish Transport Grant. You should advise the DRTP or the Countryside Agency if you are planning a project. This will enable all potential projects to be accounted for given the limited budget. Please note that priorities will also apply. You can contact the Countryside Agency on 01392 477150

Delegated Fund

Now that the Countryside Agency embargo has been lifted, the Delegated Fund should be available soon. The Delegated Fund is for small transport projects, generally up to £1,000. The objectives are: to assess needs and resources in rural transport provision, to improve services through addressing the needs identified, encouraging community involvement in local transport provision and assisting the marketing of rural and community transport projects. If you think this may be suitable for a transport project in your area, please contact us for further details.

Community Transport Week 2003

Community Transport Week was organised by Devon County Council and the Devon Rural Transport Partnership with generous support from Wessex LDV and Help the Aged. The week was also supported by Community Transport Groups across the county, with events being arranged locally. Here's what happened in Community Transport Week 2003.

Community Transport Week Launch

Community Transport Week was launched on Sunday 22nd June, in conjunction with the Dawlish Disabled Rally at The Lawn in Dawlish. The event was opened by the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Drake, and the Mayor of Dawlish, Councillor Bill Forrow. The afternoon's entertainment included magic from David Maynard of Roddick Entertainment, music from the Exmouth Town Concert Band, displays from a local Tae Kwon Do group and dancing from the Bonny Green Morris Men. Despite the rain, most people managed to find shelter and enjoyed the entertainment from under the trees, with welcome refreshments provided by the Dawlish Rangers.

Photographic Competition

To celebrate Community Transport in Devon a Photographic Competition was launched to coincide with Community Transport Week and to find three photographs that would become the image of Community Transport across Devon for 2003, capturing the spirit of Community Transport and the difference it can make to peoples' lives. An Award Ceremony for the winning photographers was held at County Hall on Monday 23rd June. The Vice-Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Lee, presented the prizes.



1st prize was awarded to Judy Wilson for her photograph of the Totnes Town Bus. The picture was chosen because of its excellent composition and shows the 5000th passenger to use the bus receiving a free bus pass. It was felt this photo showed how one service can be a benefit to so many people. 2nd prize went to Jill Elson whose photograph of passengers on the Budleigh Community Bus captured the spirit of

Community Transport and how much the service means to those who use it. 3rd prize winner was Mr Knapman from Torrridge Transport Group whose photo was chosen as it shows the importance of Community Car Schemes for those who are disabled, frail and elderly. Such schemes provide a life line, allowing members to carry out everyday activities such as shopping trips, visits to doctor's surgeries and social outings.

The winning photos were used as part of a display during Community Transport Week and will form part of a travelling exhibition to be displayed across the county. It is hoped that this will help to raise the profile of Community Transport in Devon. If you would like to arrange for the display to be exhibited in your area, please contact us.

Community Transport Conference

A conference was held at Newton Abbot Racecourse on Wednesday 25th June for Community Transport providers and volunteers, Town and Parish Councils and Local Authority Officers from across the South West.

Speakers during the morning session included John Fewings from Devon County Council, speaking on the Local Transport Plan and Dr Guy Patterson from Help the Aged who spoke about their funding strategy and the importance of concessionary fares for older people.

Keith Potter from the Community Transport Association put forward some suggestions for solutions to rural transport as an alternative to using a bus. Finishing off the morning session, Karen Hill from Devon County Council (filling in for a speaker from the Social Exclusion Unit who was unable to attend) spoke about the recent publication 'Making the Connections - Transport and Social Exclusion' and the need for Local Authorities to undertake Accessibility Planning. The afternoon was focused on three training sessions, which were Funding Streams, Publicity & Promotions and Customer Care.

Volunteer Awards Ceremony

Once again there was a very high standard of nominations for the Volunteer Awards Ceremony, which is held annually to thank Community Transport volunteers in Devon for their dedication to the schemes they work with enabling them to continue so successfully. Twelve volunteers were selected to receive an award at a Civic Reception held at County Hall on Friday 27th June.



The Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Drake attended the ceremony and presented the awards, thanking the volunteers for their hard work and commitment and encouraging them to continue their good work in the future. Entertainment was provided by Paul Roberts who played the violin at the ceremony.



This years 'Volunteer of the Year Award', given to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to Community Transport, went to Helen Robertson of Totnes and Dartmouth Ring & Ride.

Helen, despite being a Wheelchair user and being partially sighted, has been involved with the scheme for 10 years and in the last year alone has raised £1,000 through organising coffee mornings and a Christmas Fayre.

Volunteers Awarded in 2003

John Adcock

East Teignbridge Community Transport Association

Charlie Clist

Culm Voluntary Car Scheme

Neil Easdon

Crediton & District Community Transport

Shirley Edmonds

West Dart Community Bus

Ted Gains

South Molton Volunteer Bureau

Brian Hancock

Culm Voluntary Car Scheme

Michael Kerr

Vision OM

Alan Lill

Honiton Voluntary Car Scheme

Ann Reader

Chawleigh Community Car Service

Helen Robertson

Totnes & Dartmouth Ring & Ride

Julie Rowe

Crediton Community Transport

Judy Wilson

Totnes Community Bus

Driver Awareness Day

A driver awareness day was held on Saturday 28th June at the Devon Driver's Centre, Westpoint. The training, designed specifically for community transport drivers, included a practical session, a theory based session and moving and handling training.

John Yendall who attended the course said: *"The practical session was both interesting and very informative. Learning from the instructor, and each other, it has*

given me the opportunity to refine my driving technique and I have decided that I shall be taking the Institute of Advanced Motorists course over the coming months. The afternoon driver awareness theory session further enforced what I had learned in the morning. Overall the course was well organised and thoroughly enjoyable. Well done."

If you would like to do a similar course or if you have drivers you would like to attend a course, please let us know so that we can assess the level of interest.

Events Held by Local Groups

Crediton & District Community Transport Association held a coffee morning and will be holding a cheese, wine and ice-cream tasting evening on 11th July.

Friends of TRIP organised a summer fair to raise the profile of TRIP and do some fundraising. £361 was raised.

North Devon Community Transport Association put on refreshments for a gathering of staff and volunteers both past and present.

Okehampton & District Ring & Ride arranged an exhibition at Okehampton library.



Exeter Community Transport Association held a Shopmobility Challenge, encouraging store managers to experience shopping from a Shopmobility scooter. The new Exeter Leisuremobility scheme was launched on the Quay in Exeter.



Scooters and wheelchairs will be available for use on the Quay three days a week and will also be made available for other events. For more information, please telephone Exeter Community Transport Association on 01392 494001

Online Resources

The Media Trust is set up with the simple aim of helping charities to communicate. Take a look at their website for some ideas surrounding publicity. From the 'our services' section go to the online guides for advice pages ranging from PR and Communicating with the media through to marketing, communications and the design of materials. <http://www.mediatrust.org/>

South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau This website is primarily aimed at community groups in South Yorkshire, but does have some useful resources. The funding news section gives up to date information on funders and the site also has a large selection of 'information sheets' from financial planning, fundraising and events through to writing business plans and making good applications.

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/~oip/syfab/>

ebay charity pages If you are a registered charity you could raise additional income through selling items at online auction. Take a look at the link below to find out more or to register your charity <http://pages.ebay.co.uk/charity/>

Project News

Due to the Countryside Agency funding embargo, there has been very little progress in the way of new projects taking place through Partnership funding. Some projects with funding committed before the embargo was introduced have taken place and a full update on these will be given in the next Newsletter, at which point we hope to be able to update on new projects receiving funding as well.

However, there are other funders out there and the **Teignbridge Rural Outreach Project** is pleased to announce that they have received funding for 3 years from the Community Fund totalling £141,590. This grant is to maintain and improve their existing outreaches at Moretonhampstead, Ashburton, Buckland and Buckfastleigh and to set up new Outreaches in areas of need and deprivation. The main priority is to enable rural communities to access advice on a par with any other group, using as many media as possible. New Outreach centres were opened in Teignmouth in March and in Exminster in April. A new Project Co-ordinator, Faith Harris-Golesworthy has been appointed to take the project forward over the next 3 years. This is a good example of services being taken to the people when people are unable to reach services.

Contact Us

Devon Rural Transport Partnership
C/o Transport Co-ordination Services
Devon County Council
Matford Offices
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QW
[E-mail: DRTP@devon.gov.uk](mailto:DRTP@devon.gov.uk)

Website:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transport/public_transport/community_transport/partnership-2.htm

Lynn Thornton

Devon Rural Transport Partnership Officer
Tel: 01392 383222
[E-mail: lynn.thornton@devon.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.thornton@devon.gov.uk)

Amanda Denham

Deputy Devon Rural Transport Partnership Officer
Tel: 01392 382697
[E-mail: amanda.denham@devon.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.denham@devon.gov.uk)

For general enquiries regarding rural and community transport contact:

Karen Rose

Devon County Council
Rural and Community Transport
At the same address
Tel: 01392 382123
[E-mail: karen.l.rose@devon.gov.uk](mailto:karen.l.rose@devon.gov.uk)