

Redbourn Care Group

Minibus Weekly Timetable (Excluding Bank Holidays)

Monday	Swimming (Harpenden Pool) 8.00-10.00
Tuesday	Good Companions 14.00 - 16.00, 1st Tuesday of month Macular Society 13.00 - 16.00, 2nd Tuesday of month Stroke Club 10.00 - 12.00 weekly
Wednesday	Redbourn Day Centre 9.15 pickup, 15.00 return Supermarket Shopping 18.00 - 20.00
Thursday	Village Shopping 9.30 - 11.30 Outing (pm fortnightly)
Friday	Supermarket Shopping 9.45 - 12.00

Fortnightly Outing on a Thursday
Occasional Day Outings

The minibus is regularly loaned to local organisations but may only be driven by one of our own drivers.

Easter 2017

The above programme is carried out by drivers and couriers drawn from our splendid team of volunteer groups.

Check with the Care Office in case of any change of times and to book a place.

Community Car Transport Scheme.

Our willing band of 50 plus owners are ready to transport individuals to hospitals, clinics and elsewhere when needed.

Residents who request this service can do so via the

CARE GROUP OFFICE, TEL. 794550

Clients pay just 45p per mile to the driver plus any parking charges applicable (but there is funding for those who genuinely can't pay)

CONTACT NEWSLETTER EASTER 2017

Welcome to the EASTER Edition of CONTACT.

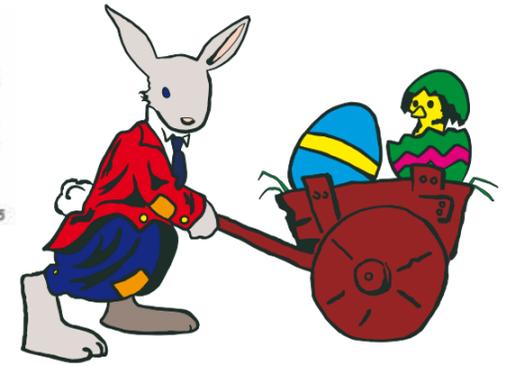
SPRING IS IN THE AIR....

The clocks have gone forward as we look forward to the longer days that Spring bring as they gallop towards the summer solstice. The village is beginning to bloom again and more and more of us are out and about enjoying expected better weather - a welcoming time of year.

So what have we been up to since Christmas. Our car and minibus drivers have been as busy as ever although sadly we have lost two minibus drivers and urgently need replacements particularly as Annie Lowe's Spring and summer special trips get underway. Furthermore when available other community groups within the village continue to call on the bus which we are more than happy to assist with when we can. If you know people in the village who might be able to help as drivers then by all means give them this copy of Contact, or pick up a spare copy from the office for them. Similarly if you know car drivers who could help us please put their names forward.

Beyond our presence at the Christmas market, which raised some funds, Edna Lindfield was kind enough to put on an exhibition of her needlecraft on 11th February in aid of us. A photograph of some of her work is shown herewith. The event was very well attended, despite the poor weather, raising over £900. A very generous gesture by Edna. Her talent was on display for all to see and the results stunning. A huge thank you to her and her family together with other helpers on the day. If you have a special hobby, the results of which you feel could be displayed, and be of real interest to villagers, then do consider following Edna's example.

You will have doubtless heard about the Redbourn Classics Motor Show to be held on The Common on 16th September. Further details are given in Steve Lillywhite's article in this issue. For those of you who have already agreed to help on the day thank you but if not yet the Friends of St Mary's would love you to



put your name down particularly as we will be joint beneficiary.

As I write this article we are still awaiting a response to our application, submitted at the end of November, to the latest Government Minibus Fund programme. A decision was due by the end of January but has been delayed we suspect due to some 358 applications received for this £2 million round. If we are successful wonderful but if not (and we are not over-confident given the number of applications) we will revert to plan A which we have put on hold. Whatever happens though we will have a smart new modern minibus by the end of the year.

As you may already know Sally Bartlett joined as a Trustee and Secretary at the end of last year. She has kindly agreed to contribute to this edition on the next page. We are grateful to Sally for joining the Trustee team.

Our office has been revamped in the interests of efficiency. Claire-Louise is working on our website project which we hope will be up and running later in the year. Furthermore Claire-Louise is looking at the degree of computerisation we can enact in the office to assist the office volunteers with the ever-increasing workload there.

Finally and most importantly our hearty congratulations go to Daphne Selwyn-Fatte who attained the great age of 100 on 14th March. A wonderful achievement - this milestone was marked by a celebration at the Day Centre on her big day.

Peter Robey, Vice-Chairman and Trustee





Greetings from a beginner

What we care about....

“Good Morning, Redbourn Care Office. Sally speaking, how can I help?”

A soft rather husky voice responded “I would like a driver to take me to Luton and Dunstable Hospital next week. Might that be possible?”

I replied positively, taking some details. As I put the phone down a feisty woman with a mop of snow-white hair strode into the office and asked if she could join the shopping trip on a Wednesday evening. Having turned 81 last month she explained that she had just about given up driving her own blue Fiesta. She struck me as one of those people where what you saw was not always what you got and behind this wonderfully wizened face – there was a world of experience and a full on life that could probably tell some very interesting tales. The phone rang again, this time a softly spoken rather hesitant voice “Have you a driver to take me to the dentist tomorrow?” Even though this voice appeared feeble I recognised it as one of our regular, alert and active clients. I explained that her request was at the top of today’s ‘To do’ list and that I hoped to call back shortly with the name of a volunteer.

The list of voluntary car drivers in the red folder appears extensive and rather impressive but after making almost twenty calls, many of which went straight to voicemail, I started to feel concerned. “Oh yes I can do that tomorrow” was like music to my ears when I finally found a free volunteer. No sooner had I put down the receiver, when another call came through from a courier who was unable to accompany the minibus driver that afternoon as her mother had suddenly been taken ill. Back to the folder - where was the list of couriers – who could step in at short notice? When I first started volunteering in the office, someone mentioned that I might like to take a book as there will be quiet moments. Absolutely not the case! I am new to the role but in that short time I can see that the requests for drivers have increased significantly. Most mornings you cannot even find an opportunity to pop to the loo and you rarely leave at 12 noon.

RCG has a good reputation around the village

and so expectations are high. Sometimes this can cause misunderstanding; my personal conclusion is that it is to do with the word “care” in the name. RCG aims to put together those who need help with those who can give help. However the main focus of this is based on transportation whether by minibus for example to the supermarket, swimming, the day centre or by car to a medical appointment. Claire-Louise (the part-time office manager) is working hard with other local organisations to create a stronger network. Since every organisation is different this will certainly enhance the information we can offer to those who need a helping hand.

I came to Redbourn in 1990 with my daughter Megan who was then almost two. She went to Redbourn House Nursery (Ravenstone House as it was then) whilst I worked full time as a librarian. I loved the village from the start, for many reasons not least because of the people and its friendly community. I will always be grateful to Janet who made me so welcome at St Mary’s all those years ago when I knew no one; she even invited me to help with the Sunday school.

Marrying Tony in 1997 changed my life again. The subsequent illness and death of his son was devastating; however we will never forget the fantastic support from the local doctors, nurses and the Memorial Hospital. Tony’s daughter now has three children who are a great joy although they do live in Somerset, so visits and time with them are very precious.

We both enjoy travelling and over the last couple of years we have extended our itinerary to more exotic locations such as China, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. My favourite country used to be Norway but since going on a cruise to the Arctic, I fell in love with Greenland - such magnificent, dramatic, wild and desolate landscapes. Tony thinks it is far too cold and prefers the warmer climes in the Caribbean!

After almost 40 years of work in schools, business, academic and NHS libraries, I have retired. I am now having the time of my life. I have learned though, like so many, that life is a very precious thing and I am thankful for it.

Sally Bartlett - Trustee

Please note: All characters are fictitious; any similarity to actual persons is purely coincidental.



STREET REPRESENTATIVES



EASTER 2017

It was almost a year ago now that I contacted all the Street Representatives by phone to establish a list of email addresses with the intention of making it simpler to contact me to obtain fresh copies of the New Resident Information packs. Whilst it is true that I have received five requests for packs this way, from a listed team of fifty Street Representatives it represents only ten percent. Whilst appreciating that houses do not change hands frequently and for those of you who have not renewed your copies for some time it may be worth updating them with the latest edition which is March 2017 and dispose of the outdated copies, because one day a house or two in your road will change hands and you will be prepared!

Please feel free to contact me on either: lillywhite@lstephenl.orangehome.co.uk or: steve.lillywhite01@gmail.com

By now you may well be aware that September 16th will see the first Redbourn Classics Motor Car show on the Common. Proceeds from the day are to be shared between the

RCG and Friends of St. Mary’s. RCG will be exhibiting and the Care Bus will be on display (perhaps the brand new one) amongst all the classics. If we can iron out the fine detail we will be trying a different slant on a raffle called spot the Care Bus giving participants the chance to guess outside which address in the village it is parked, that address being written down in a sealed envelope to be opened at the end of the day. Hopefully it will be a fine autumn day and another great village fun day too. There will be prizes to be won !



‘Till then enjoy your Spring and Summer and thanks for your continued support.

Steve Lillywhite - Street Representative Coordinator and Trustee

Our Fellow Trustees:-

Barry Welch - Chairman, Dennis Poole - Treasurer, Dennis Bigham - Care Bus Manager, The Rev Will Gibbs - Pastoral Care Assistant, Peta Gunson - Trustee