

Summer 2017



Peter Robey, Trustee & Vice-chair

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Welcome to the summer edition of Contact. Well, haven't we had some good weather and let's hope we have more to come. The village looks colourful if not a little parched in places. **Redbourn in Bloom** have as always made the areas they tend look magnificent.

As usual the office and you our members have been busy. We now have 275 clients which is a steady INCREASE requiring more volunteers. Our year to date basis stats show to 30th June we provided 513 car journeys and 194 regular minibus journeys plus the outings that Annie Lowe kindly organises in the Spring, Summer and Autumn.

The Trustees have been hard at work reviewing all our policies in light of new and changing legislation. We are also working with **The Redbourn Classics Motor Show** committee for the event on 16th September. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to assist. Please read Steve's article inside for a detailed update on this exciting venture which we all hope will become an annual event.

As some of you may know, West Herts Charity Trust have agreed to provide us with a **brand-new Citroen minibus** which is now on order. We will make a roughly 25% contribution to the total cost which will mean in effect a major boost to our coffers. We have also received a generous donation towards the 25% which assists our financial position yet further.

We plan to have a stand again at The Redbourn Christmas Market on Sunday 3rd December. We have also decided to provide **identification lanyards** for all our drivers and couriers.

Volunteers

As you know we are always looking for more **car and minibus drivers**. The summer months are particularly difficult with a number of our drivers unavailable. Our clients request drivers for medical appointments and somehow we have just managed to fulfil each but special thanks are sincerely expressed to several members who go beyond the call of duty. We don't want to be in a position to refuse a client so we are having a recruitment drive at the moment and would urge you to contact friends and family in the village and ask them to join us in this valuable role.

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Family entertainment

- Saturday 16 September
- Up to 200 Classic Cars on the Common
- Free public admission
- 12 noon until 6pm
- Vintage cream teas
- Prizes for best vehicle & best outfit
- Proceeds to charity



Mobility News



When I assumed responsibility for the mobility equipment owned by the Care Group, my first task was to reorganise the record keeping for loaning equipment to our clients. I created new loan forms which apart from recording essential information also advised the clients of their responsibilities in borrowing the equipment.

In my research on the WWW regarding what information to include on these new loan forms, I came across a charity website in America that required its clients to complete a three page registration form before they could borrow an electric scooter. Some very personal information was required, e.g. their current weight, some medical details and a simple eyesight test. I considered this and other information required to be too intrusive and given that I hate filling in long forms myself I decided to keep the form to one side of A4 paper.



I must at this point thank our office manager Claire-Louise and the office staff for the admin. tasks they carry out in relation to the loaning of the mobility equipment.

We currently have 6 electric scooters and 3 wheelchairs on permanent loan. Other scooters and wheelchairs are available for clients to borrow for long or short periods. We also have an almost new powered wheelchair (see picture above) available for loan. Please contact the Care Office if you know of anyone who may find this equipment useful. Hire of our mobility equipment incurs no charge although donations are gratefully accepted.

We always have a need for electric scooters and light-weight wheelchairs as they are often in demand although at present we have a surfeit of Zimmer frames.

Annual servicing of the electric mobility scooters is carried out by Meadow Mobility at no cost to the clients.

All clients who borrow electric mobility scooters from the Care Group are given a user manual and are advised on the correct use of these machines. However, one or two of them have been observed around the village getting into scrapes and performing slightly illegal manoeuvres with their scooters.



One client has achieved Legend status by driving their scooter down North Common causing the No.46 bus to follow slowly in its wake!

I must thank all the people who have generously donated mobility equipment to the Redbourn Care Group. Their kindness has enabled more of our less mobile clients to borrow equipment that will enable them to broaden their horizons and explore their village once more.

Bernard Penny

Mobility Equipment Co-ordinator

Street Representatives

There is very little to report on this occasion so I have been asked to elicit assistance from Street Representatives to possibly volunteer to help with the **Classic Car Show/Village Fete** on the 16th September. This event is shaping up to be a big day in the village with all the proceeds being shared between The Care Group and The Friends of St. Mary's.

We urgently require a few more volunteers as donation bucket collectors at the four entry points into the event. There will be up to 200 Classic vehicles of various types on display along with stalls from many village community groups plus, of course, a refreshment marquee run by the Scouts. As 50% beneficiaries the committee are appealing to all RCG volunteers, or indeed a family member, to step up and take a no longer than a two hour session between noon and 6pm collecting donations.

Volunteering application forms are available from the Care Group Office or give me a call on 01582 792881 and I will gladly deliver one to you.

The Care Group has an enviable record built up over the past 37 years helping both young and older residents of the village and we have a duty to do our best to ensure a strong financial future for the Charity, please help if you can.

**Steve Lillywhite, Trustee &
Street Representative Coordinator**

Redbourn Classics Motor Show

Saturday 16th
September 2017
Noon – 6pm
Redbourn Common
AL3 7BU

Village Fete
Family Entertainment
BBQ, Food Stalls, Bar
Charity Stalls, Raffle
Vintage Cream Teas

Dress in Vintage Style
Prize for Best Vehicle
Prize for Best Outfit

Free Admission
Donations welcomed
all proceeds to charity
- Friends of St Mary's
- Redbourn Care Group

Sponsored by:

- Redbourn Auto Solutions
- The Hollybush Redbourn
- ST. ALBANS CAR AND VAN HIRE
- Statham's Towing | Transport | Truckcare
- Redbourn Parish Council

Entertainment All Afternoon
Redbourn Jazz Band, Folk Club, Tilly's Dance Factory, Games,
Mr Collie Wobbles, Bell Ringing Tower, Children's Go-Karting
Email all enquiries to: redbournclassics@gmail.com

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There are new families coming into the village and our **Street Representatives** can be most helpful in explaining the role of the Care Group. You can refer new neighbours to the office team who will be delighted to welcome them.

The Cricketers have kindly advertised for volunteers via their database of 1000 customers. We have placed an advert in the St Albans Review and the MiMaagazine. Also we are distributing recruitment posters around the village. **You can discern from these efforts how essential more drivers are, particularly minibus drivers, so whatever you can do as members to spread the word will be appreciated.**

We are sure you are aware that beyond the Trustees, office manager, office team, drivers and couriers there are other members behind the scenes who provide valuable support in many areas and in this edition Bernie Penny has kindly agreed to contribute. Invaluable work for the benefit of those who need mobility assistance.

We hope you will enjoy this edition of Contact as well as the remainder of the summer. Do come and join us on 16th September, bring your friends and family wherever they live.

"I recently met a pilot who has a fair amount of time off between flying shifts and was willing to help during those regular periods. "

Redbourn Care Group

Redbourn Village Hall
63 High Street
Redbourn
AL3 7LW

Phone:
01582 794550

Email: redbourncaregroup@btinternet.com

Registered Charity No. 297955



Regular Minibus Journeys

Monday	Swimming (Harpenden Pool am) Monday Club (Methodist Church pm)
Tuesday	Good Companions (1st Tuesday of month) Macular Society (2nd Tuesday of month)
Wednesday	Redbourn Day Centre (St Mary's) Supermarket shopping (evening)
Thursday	Village shopping and 'Pop In' (am) Outing (fortnightly pm)
Friday	Supermarket shopping (am)

This programme is worked out by volunteer drivers and couriers. Check with the **Care Office** to book a place.

Car transport: volunteers transport clients to medical appointments. Payment towards costs: (45p per mile) plus parking charges is requested (but there is funding for those who genuinely can't pay).

Outings organiser: Annie Lowe 01582 794615

Future dates: September 7th, 12th, 21st
October 5th, 19th and November 2nd, 16th
December 12th 2017

Fellow Trustees: Barry Welch, Chairman; Dennis Poole, Treasurer; Dennis Bigham, Care Bus Manager; Sally Bartlett, Secretary; Rev Will Gibbs, Pastoral Care Assistant; Peta Gunson, Safeguarding Lead.

Local Heroes Needed!

- *Minibus drivers*
- *Car drivers*
- *Couriers*
- *Office staff*

Do you fancy being a driver on our mini bus or driving Redbourn residents to appointments in your own car?

Minibus drivers and couriers are needed for outings, supermarket shopping trips, to local clubs and organisations.

No minimum weekly commitment required, every journey agreed according to your availability.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information please do not hesitate to contact our office manager on 01582 794550 or email redbourncaregroup@btconnect.com