

### Message from the Chairman

*"I am sure you've noticed that we have a new Barbara Bus Logo(see above).I thought it would be of interest to explain the background and its significance to the Fund.*

*We decided that we wanted an image that was unique, instantly recognised but also relevant and encapsulated what the Fund was about. A number of excellent suggestions were made, but in the end we chose my wife Sue's idea of using the letters BBF in the shape of a bird. Birds were always important to my aunt Barbara, the founder. Her room at RNOH enabled her to feed and watch the birds and we often used to talk about how birds were a link to the outside world and were free to go wherever they wanted. As the basic principle of the Fund is to enable people, through the use of the vehicles and drivers, to be free to travel wherever they wish to go, just as a bird can, this image seemed very fitting.*

*Once we had agreed on the basic bird shape derived from the BBF letters, we were fortunate to have been introduced by David Thomas to Natalie Perkins from Realise Creative Limited. Natalie took the idea and turned it into the final professional and excellent version you see now.*

*So thanks to Sue for the idea and to Natalie for the hard work she put into giving us not only the completed logo, but also the ability to be able to use in various formats and applications. You will be seeing the logo on our letters, leaflets and more.*

*On behalf of the Trustees and staff I would like to wish you all Seasons Greetings and a happy New Year"*

Richard Holland, Chairman

### Update

Another year has passed and 2011 has seen some changes at the Fund. We have employed an extra assistant in the office, Melanie Isaacs. Melanie usually works on a Friday and also covers holiday/sickness, many of you will have spoken to her already. We have also said 'goodbye' to some of our regular volunteer drivers, Stuart Dexter has moved to Bournemouth, Steve Nunes and Jay Shah are working long hours, so can no longer help us regularly – we wish them all lots of luck. We have recruited a new volunteer, Gary Howard, who is regularly driving our passengers now. Changes in Wales mean there are now 3 vehicles there, shared between two locations, with David Thomas overseeing them all.



Melanie, Irene & Julia

### New Vehicles on order

'Beth' and 'Charlotte' have both been with the Fund since 2004, and are about to be replaced – so hopefully in the early part of 2012 we will have a shiny new VW Caddy (similar to 'Sue') which will replace 'Beth', and then a few months later a very exciting development for the Fund – we have ordered a Volkswagen T5 Transporter which will be able to accommodate two wheelchairs travelling side by side, plus 4 seated passengers. We felt this was something that would add a further dimension to our fleet – it is not as big to drive as the Renault Masters, but does offer similar flexibility. If anyone is interested in buying one of the vehicles we are getting rid of, do please get in touch with us in the office.

### Barbara Bus Quiz – Sunday 4th March 2012

Put this date in your diary – and see full information overleaf. If you need transport on the night please let us know as soon as possible.

### Reminders & Nags

Sorry to bring up the usual pointers, but it is important to make sure that everyone travels safely and considers other people. Please make sure that you know how to secure the wheelchair in whichever vehicle

you are using – and if you have any doubts do contact us in the office. Fuel is always on our minds, especially as it is so costly, and it is very time consuming for us to have to chase up people who do not refill the tank after using a vehicle. Please make a New Years Resolution always to return the vehicles with a full tank – when filling with diesel it is necessary to let it settle in the tank a little for a few moments before trying to fill more – this is the only way to get the tank truly full. It is surprising how much the vehicles use, even if you have only travelled a few miles, so please don't think 'the needle didn't move so I don't need to add fuel' if you do that it means that the next person to use the vehicle is paying for your trip! One last point – if you have a vehicle booked and realise that you will not be able to use it, do please let us know – just a simple phone message will do. The vehicles are very busy and we often have people on a waiting list, who may be able to use a vehicle at short notice.

### Volunteer Drivers

As usual the drivers have done a wonderful job throughout this year – often at short notice, and show patience and good humour with our passengers. We often get compliments on the helpfulness of the drivers and we do try to pass these comments on to them where possible – but would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our drivers for their commitment to the Fund. And if you are reading this and think you might like to help with driving occasionally, or you have a friend or relative with some spare time – do please get in touch – you will be very welcome!

### Fundraising

In this era of financial restraint we have been pleasantly surprised by how generous many of our supporters are. People have raised money for the Fund in all sorts of different ways this year – Steve Clark hosted a Curry Night, the Pearson family held a Ball, Gill Atkinson sold her crafts, Mike Blanden did a 60 mile sponsored cycle ride, Sandra Baker held a raffle at a Dance Show in memory of her mother and the villagers of Bubbenhall raised money to support a young man who is a patient in Stoke Mandeville Hospital and he wished to give some of it to the Fund. Of course we cannot name here everyone who donated to the Fund but we can take this opportunity of thanking all of you who supported the Fund during 2011. If you would like to increase the value of the donations you make to the Fund without any extra cost to you and are a UK taxpayer, you can take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme. You complete a simple form and we do the rest of the work by claiming back the tax you have paid on the money you donate. Please ask for the form next time you make a donation.



Barbara Bus Trustees



Mike Blanden pedalling!



Accepting a cheque from Bubbenhall

## Happy Christmas and All Good Wishes for 2012

Barbara Bus Fund, Louis Fleischmann Building, RNOH, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, HA7 4LP  
020 8416 0733 • [www.barbarabus.com](http://www.barbarabus.com) • Registered Charity No 257507

### Barbara Bus Fund Quiz Night

Sunday 4th March 2012

At Flash Musicals, Methuen Road, Edgware HA8 6EZ  
(fully accessible) 6.30pm for a 7pm Quiz start

Tickets £10 to include a Ploughman's Supper (bring your own drinks)

Make up a team of 6 or ask us to put you in a team.

Limit 100 places so don't delay!

Tombola

Raffle

Tickets on sale from the Barbara Bus office