

Season's Greetings

Barbara
Bus Fund

Christmas Newsletter 2013

Message from the Chairman

As we are coming towards the end of another busy year for the Barbara Bus Fund, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a few words.

Most importantly a big thank you to all our volunteer drivers and supporters for the continued assistance you provide, enabling us to ensure our vehicles are used by as many people as possible. As the service we offer becomes bigger and more popular, we do not want to lose the personal feel it has and of course wish to help as many people as possible. To this end I am making an appeal to all Barbara Bus Fund users, which you will find over the page.

Very Sad News

We were very shocked to hear of the sudden death of our Treasurer, Margaret Rudolph whilst she was on holiday in May this year. Our deepest condolences go to her family. In the midst of their grief they decided as a tribute to Margaret to undertake a fundraiser, the proceeds to be shared between the Barbara Bus Fund and the Stroke Association. The Family Challenge was to cycle the equivalent distance from London to Alaska (where Margaret died) before her birthday which would have been 23rd August. The whole family were involved – her husband Barry, son and daughter in law Chris and Justine, daughter and son in law Louise and James and grandchildren William, Mia, Adam and George. They took every opportunity to get their bikes out and completed 4481 miles in the allotted time, raising a total of

£2,403 for the Barbara Bus Fund.

Treasurer Needed

Sadly we have not yet found anyone to replace Margaret as our Treasurer, so if you know of anyone who has suitable financial skills and a little time to spare, do please get in touch for full details. It is a vital role within the Fund.

Our New Additions

Two new vehicles this year – a VW Caddy 'Les'- a popular extra vehicle at Stanmore; and the latest delivery is Vauxhall Vivaro for Stoke Mandeville to replace the 7 year old Citroen Dispatch – this will offer them the scope to take two wheelchairs out at the same time, with five seated passengers, and we hope it will be popular with all concerned.

Thanks from grateful customers

Lori Ancutei, Activities Co-ordinator from Hill House Care Home paid the following tribute to the Fund:

"We have been using the Fund for over 6 years and have always been extremely pleased with the service you provide. We are very grateful to the office staff; we much appreciate your hard work as we can always rely on you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping us to give the best service to our residents."



We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Management team, the staff and the residents at Hill House."

Barbara Bus in the Community

Local MP visits

Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow East, visited our office in the Spring to find out about the service we offer. He then accompanied John Jones, one of our established volunteer drivers, on a trip to take Sippy Azizollah to visit friends, so that he could see for himself how our service works to help people in the local community.



Harrow Borough Police Christmas Carol Concert

We were approached to help with transport for the above event on 5th December, and made two vehicles available to take care home residents to the concert, which was organised by the new Chief Superintendent for Harrow, Simon Ovens

Donations to the Fund

We are always grateful to receive donations, and indeed could not provide the service we do without them. So to make it easier for people to give to the Fund we have now set up a page on the donation website, Just Giving. This means that you can now donate to the Fund using your credit or debit card in a simple operation. Go to www.justgiving.com/bbf and follow the simple instructions. You can of course still bring cash or cheques into the office for us if you prefer.

Appeal from the Chairman

Whilst there are no issues with the majority of those who use the vehicles, the appeal I make is to those selected users who might not be aware of what is becoming an increasing problem for the Fund. This is in terms of practical and financial impacts to the Fund, as well as other users due to certain considerations not being made.

Specifically, can I please request that:

- Vehicles are returned at the agreed time, and if it is really not possible the office is contacted in a timely manner
- Any damage made to vehicles is reported to the office
- Any items missing from the vehicles are reported to the office
- Vehicles are treated with care and used in the same way as if they were your own
- Checks are made to confirm the fuel type required for the vehicle in use – before filling up
- Vehicles are refuelled before returning
- It is remembered that donations are crucial to enable the Fund to continue and are always welcome
- Volunteer drivers are thanked for the invaluable service that they provide

Thank you for support and understanding with this, which will ensure that we continue to be able to provide the invaluable and unique service that we provide to so many people.

Richard Holland
Chairman – Barbara Bus Fund

All good wishes for 2014