



## Christmas Newsletter 2016



### Message from the Co-ordinator

Dear Friends of the Barbara Bus Fund,

Here we are again after a whirlwind 2016! It has been another fantastic year and we are, as always, delighted to have enabled so many passengers to make use of the Barbara Bus Fund vehicles. We carried out 1082 volunteer drives and there were 2936 self-drive journeys for the 12 months from November 2015 – October 2016. We have 756

registered passengers and 1095 registered drivers which include the Stanmore and Stoke Mandeville operations. We are extremely grateful to the NHS staff at Stoke Mandeville Hospital who generously assist us with the management of the Stoke Mandeville vehicle BARBARA. Our Wales and Wakefield operations are also in high demand: Gwynedd, Wales managed by David serves the local community with users coming from far and wide to make use of the vehicles, and Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield, managed by Peter, serves inpatients at the hospital.

### **January**

January started with the sale of Old GEORGE having faithfully served the Barbara Bus Fund for 10 good years. ROSE undertook some major bodywork repair which brings her nicely back up to fleet standard.

**Thank you to all those careful drivers who treat our vehicles with the respect they deserve. Unfortunately we have seen a rise in vehicle damage and damage not being reported. ROSE has visited the bodyshop three times, GEORGE twice and CHARLOTTE once this year. This does not include the minor dents, scrapes and tyre damage which have also not been reported to the office. It is for your own safety that we ask you to check the vehicles before you take them, before every use and when you return them to BBF, please leave vehicles as you would wish to find them. Just a reminder that smoking is not permitted in the vehicles at any time.**



We held our annual volunteer driver meal which was healthily attended and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thank you very much indeed to you all for the continuous support you give to the Fund.



### **February**

RNOH open day – we had a small stand at the first RNOH/ASPIRE open day which was well attended, partly to do with Professor Noel Fitzpatrick aka The SuperVet giving a very interesting talk and being generous with photograph opportunities and hugs!



### **June**

Sadly we received the news of the death of one of our regular and long-term users Ms Sippy Azizollah. Sippy was an artist and avid fundraiser getting involved in many activities with the Fund over the years.

### **July**

We held our first Driver Afternoon Tea in the TDF meeting room to thank our volunteer drivers for their support. It was well attended and a fantastic chance for our volunteers to get to know one another, the office staff and trustees. This is the first of its kind and we look forward to the next one.



### **September**

We saw the sale of old PAM, RICHARD and FRANKIE who have been replaced with gleaming new Ford Tourneo Connect Titanium models boasting the panoramic roof, reversing sensors and a very comfortable passenger ride.



**Read about the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital redevelopment**

<https://www.rnoh.nhs.uk/about-us/stanmore-redevelopment>

## October

Our chairman Richard Holland MBE is presented with his award by the Queen at Windsor Castle. Richard has selflessly served the Barbara Bus Fund for over 20 years. A marvellous acknowledgement for Richard and very proud moment for his family and us all at the Barbara Bus Fund.



GEORGE took an inaugural and exciting trip to Denmark with some of the ASPIRE Wheelchair Football Team.

We attended the Queen Elizabeth Foundation Mobility Event in Carshalton, Surrey.



We held our second Driver Afternoon Tea at the Harvester Bushey and although the service was not quite Kensington Palace, 12 people attended and had a very happy time.

**If you have some free time, would like to assist in supporting those less mobile and want join our happy and generous team of volunteer drivers, please contact the Stanmore office for more information T: 020 8416 0733 [office@barbarabus.com](mailto:office@barbarabus.com)**

## December

The office will be closed from Friday 23 December and will reopen on Tuesday 3 January. There will be no volunteer driven service during this time. There will be an emergency number which can be found on the office answerphone and can be used in case of emergency. For all bookings please leave a message on the office answerphone.

**Reminder:** bookings for the Christmas period open on 1 September 2017. Bookings cannot be guaranteed but we will do our very best to make sure as many of you as possible are able to have use of a vehicle.

As well as the book by Penny White **Barbara "Girl of Courage"**, we also have Barbara Bus Fund pens, trolley tokens and lightweight shopping bags available from the Stanmore office for which we ask a small donation.

**Please take the time to look at our newly launched website [www.barbarabus.com](http://www.barbarabus.com). We have a gallery page where we would be very pleased to display your photographs and stories, please do send them to us with agreement that we can use them.**

Donations can be made via our Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/bbf> or by cash or cheque at the office.

### Greeting from the Chairman – Richard Holland MBE

This year has shown yet again what an important and valuable service the BBF provides to so many people in the various locations in which we operate. We've also continued with our aim to ensure that vehicles are always in a good condition and replaced when they get older, with ones that make the experience for drivers and users as enjoyable as possible – as seen with the replacement vehicles purchased this year. This does though all come at an ever increasing cost and we are reliant on donations to ensure that we can continue to provide and expand upon what we offer. This is something that I ask our users (especially regular ones) to please remember and support wherever you can. My thanks to all who enable us to continue to offer the service with your support in so many different ways.



*Wishing you all a peaceful and happy  
Christmas and the very best for 2017*

**Barbara Bus Fund** | Louis Fleischmann Building | Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital |

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