



The ever-popular Kingfisher river boat trips

Many members will have enjoyed a delightful trip on the Kingfisher boat on the River Medway from Watlingtonbury.

It's one of the most popular trips we provide the transport for. The boat itself is fully accessible and is complete with toilet facilities, a galley kitchen and a fantastic volunteer crew. Find out more at <http://www.kingfishermedwaytrust.org.uk/theboat.html>



15 years of service

As the fifteenth year of our operation providing safe and reliable community transport draws to a close, the Wealden Wheels team would like to thank you for your continued support.

During 2019 we undertook 647 trips covering around 30,000 miles!

Recruiting now!

Our continued success is totally dependent on the time donated by our volunteer drivers, and we'd love to welcome some more to help our groups get out and about.

Please consider joining us - there is no minimum time commitment, and no pressure to do more than you want to. You need to be over 25 and have no more than 3 penalty points on your driving licence. To drive our twin axle Transit minibus you'll need to have Category D1 (101) on your driving licence as a minimum requirement.

Our lighter minibuses are covered by an ordinary car licence with category 'B'. We provide full training by way of MiDAS - the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme - a one-day course and we ask that all volunteers are DBS checked. On the reverse of this newsletter is an advert for volunteer drivers we've used recently. We'd like to request to our members who have access to a noticeboard, shop window or another prominent position, to please display the poster and help spread the word! If you know someone who may be interested in driving for us, please ask them to call the office for a chat.



Fish & Chips in Dymchurch

Again this year, the most popular destination for group outings was Beach 48 Fish & Chip Restaurant at Dymchurch.

In 2020 their incredibly good value lunch offer continues - Cod & Chips, Mushy Peas, Tea or Coffee and a Dessert for just £7.00! Go on, give them a call to book on 01303 874848 then let us know your needs.

New Year - New Prices

As many of you will know, Wealden Wheels is a not-for-profit limited company and in recent years we have seen a dramatic reduction in grant funding.

We continue to work hard towards achieving self-sufficiency but the rising costs of maintenance, fuel and insurance has led the Board at a recent meeting to increase the mileage rate on minibus hire by 10p. The daily hire charge for Marvin remains the same but the mileage rate will rise 5p from 20p to 25p. All annual membership rates remain unchanged.

Wealden Wheels is your village community, not-for-profit transport initiative, supported by Kent County Council and Parish Councils of Chilham, Charing, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden.

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We're Recruiting! Volunteer Drivers

Would you like to be part of an organisation that makes a difference in your community?

Since 2004, **Wealden Wheels**, a Pluckley-based community transport provider has been meeting the needs of local people who do not have easy access to cars, taxis, trains or buses. In many cases we provide a lifeline to services that can and do transform lives.

In order for us to react to an expanding need we must recruit more volunteers. **Wealden Wheels** simply could not operate without our super team of volunteer drivers. If you have spare time and are looking for a fun and rewarding volunteering opportunity we'd love to hear from you.

To join us you will need...

- to be over 25
- to have no more than three points on your licence
- to have category D1 to drive our larger buses
- to be willing to have a DBS check
- a spare day so we can train you to MiDAS standards

In return you'll meet some lovely people and visit some great places. You'll also feel amazing with a sense of having 'given something back' knowing that you've spread some happiness, and improved the lives of people who share your community.



YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVIDER

Please contact the Project Co-ordinator, Graham Siver, by telephone or email to find out more about how you can be involved.

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