



# B.A.C.T. NEWSLETTER

BUS NEWS AND VIEWS

Autumn / Winter 2009

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*EDITOR - A very warm  
welcome to the  
Autumn/Winter Newsletter*

*"Hello" to all our readers and passengers!*

What has happened since the last spring newsletter? Well, we have replaced one of our older buses, welcomed two new drivers, Fred and John to the team, and have been involved with East Sussex County Council in their appraisal of Community Transport provision for the county. This is still ongoing, but we do not see foresee that our services will change dramatically, but every effort is being made to provide a more unified service throughout East Sussex.

In this edition you will find the results of the Survey from the last one, and also how the fundraising went on the Golf Day and also outings planned over the coming months.

*Editor - Val Greenwood*

Office Manager of Battle Area Community Transport

## BACT Conducted a Survey Amongst the Passengers

The Survey, which was discussed in the previous newsletter, indicated that most were satisfied generally with the services we provide. However, requests for low-floor buses and upgrading of our vehicles was made; also an extension of the office hours to cover all day. On these points, I will clarify the situation:

1. **Low floor buses** are only suitable for town work. They are no good for country lanes and speed humps or level crossings.
2. We are continuing to **upgrade our vehicles** and have recently purchased an additional bus.
3. We can only run the **office hours** as part-time [10am-1pm] and we provide an answer machine for those ringing who are encouraged to leave a message, as it will be picked up the following day.
4. There were a number of requests for **other trips** that we will research and see if they are possible. In consideration of this, we are looking at converting shopping trips [B80/81/82] to VARIABLE services presently [we are awaiting ESCC review first]...

My thanks goes to all who returned the forms, as it was a great help in forward planning. I would encourage phoning the ESCC voicemail to lodge any requests with them during their "countywide consultation" on planning transport provision for the next five years.

There is a phone number overleaf...

Chairman - Colin Harmer

## FLEXIBLE SERVICES

These services are timetabled from fixed locations of around Battle and Ticehurst presently [see timetable for more info], but we are aiming to extend the pick up points making them more flexible in the near future. This means, including such villages as Sedlescombe, Westfield, Ashburnham, and Catsfield for example. [See survey report].

CURRENTLY THEY ARE RUNNING:

**B80 TO TUNBRIDGE WELLS FROM  
Battle & Ticehurst runs monthly on  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday on:**

13 November 11 December

8 January 12 February 12 March

**B82 TO EASTBOURNE from Battle  
runs monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays on:**

19 November 17 December

21 January 18 February 18 March

**B81 TO EASTBOURNE from  
Ticehurst runs monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
Dates running:**

23 November 14 December

25 January 22 February 22 March

**BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!**

**Our New vehicle, Mercedes Sprinter 413CDI 16 seater** with tail lift providing accessibility for wheelchairs to lift up without using the steps into the seats. Rother District Council's Community Grant Scheme have awarded £10,000 towards a replacement bus, similar to the one below.





## **FUNDRAISING** **ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT** *Was a great success!!*

**As a part of our fund-raising activities, BACT held its annual golf tournament on 25 September at the Sedlescombe Golf Club. An auction and raffle were held which contributed to more than £1,880 being raised, which will go towards maintaining and developing our bus services to rural Rother. Overall it was a successful and enjoyable day, with good weather; thirty-three players in nine teams took part and the winning team from Furness Control Ltd took the cup [above featured] who were also the company who are our main sponsors. The second team represented Rutherford Business Park where our offices are located.**

**Our thanks go to all the players, our sponsor of this event **Furness Control Ltd**, and all the other people supporting the event.**

Organiser - Will Reeves

## **NOW IS THE TIME TO** **Help shape public transport...**

**It is still not too late to make your opinion heard... Please contact E.S.C.C. on Tel: 01273 482 910 Mark Evans To make comments about bus services in East Sussex, who are currently putting together plans for the future 5 years.**



**Our Library Exhibition staged earlier this year caught the attention of visitors. It showed BACT's history and the Queens Award Crystal and Certificate. It also promoted our Timetables and Brochures, which are always available in Battle Library AND PORTRAYED OUR THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS.....**

## **WHY NOT VISIT RYE ?**

**We run buses to Rye either on Wednesdays or Thursdays [Market Day]**

**Dates planned are:**

**Thursday 12 November**

**Wednesday 9 December**

**COST: £2 per person - your bus passes cannot be used on these sorry! Please pre-book seats with Val in our main office**



## **FEATURED** **VOLUNTEER** **DRIVER** **Richard** **Stronghill**

**Richard joined BACT in 2003 as a Volunteer Car driver, taking passengers to health appointments.**

He now drives on our timetabled bus service and has become a Director for BACT and also looks after the presentation and information on all the buses. On the regular Wednesday service to Sainsburys, Richard has built up a good relationship with many "regulars" where all look forward to their trips of happy, healthy, bantering.

Of general interest, Richard still works part-time and has become a Granddad for the first time. Other interests include being a National Trust and English Heritage member; walking; computers; photography and earlier this year Richard has become a member of the Battle Bowls Club 'spoon drives'.

He is regarded as a "stalwart" and reliable member of the BACT Driver Team.

***"Many thanks Richard, for all that you do to help as a volunteer, and it is greatly appreciated, by one and all."***

## **XMAS SHOPPING??? WANT IDEAS??**

**or SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT? WELL TRY OUT OUR **BLUEWATER** SHOPPING TRIPS.....**

**TICEHURST, WADHURST, STONEGATE VILLAGES**  
**3 DECEMBER** – Phone Margot on 01580 200281

**BATTLE, MOUNTFIELD, ROBERTSBRIDGE**  
**SEDLSCOMBE AND WESTFIELD VILLAGES**  
**3 DECEMBER** – Phone Val on 01424 772001

**BEXHILL, CATSFIELD, NINFIELD on 26 NOVEMBER**  
phone Margaret on 01424 222033