

New Direction

West Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
**Rural
Transport
Partnership**

Newsletter of the West Cornwall & Isles of
Scilly Rural Transport Partnership

Issue 2 Summer 2007

The Car That Likes to Say 'YES'!

West Cornwall Community Wheels has recently been able to secure funding to purchase a wheelchair accessible car. Passengers in wheelchairs are now able to book a volunteer driver to take them to their appointments at the local surgery or hospital. The vehicle is also available to hire at an affordable price.

From mid July, Community Wheels will be introducing its new **Treliske Traveller** service using the vehicle. The service will be open to people of all abilities. Every Monday afternoon we will be organising a trip from Penwith to Treliske hospital which will be ideal for visiting or appointments. By encouraging passengers to travel together, the costs will be shared and, in this way, Community Wheels hopes to provide good value for money to its customers.

For more details, contact 01736 757364.

FREE Impartial professional ICT advice from within the voluntary and community sector

Evolve is a new project that aims to provide rural voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) with free ICT support and advice to help them make more effective use of their ICT systems, skills and resources. It meets face-to-face with organisations, listening to their needs along with the ICT challenges they face. It offers impartial professional advice and support on how best to meet these challenges, pulling on a host of knowledge and resources built up from over 10 years of working in the sector.

Evolve is focused within the South West, covering the areas of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset. It is funded by Capacity Builders specifically to help resolve the ICT challenges that face rural VCOs

Contact

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Sun Sets on Penwith's Blue Buses

The bright blue buses of Sunset Coaches have become a familiar sight to many in Penwith's rural communities, as the local firm has expanded its network in recent years. However, the firm has recently been bought by Western Greyhound, another Cornish company whose main network is in central, north and east Cornwall. Western Greyhound has offered employment to all Sunset's drivers and will maintain the same bus timetables at least until the start of the winter timetable at the end of October. Sunset's proprietor, Ian Topping, has invariably demonstrated a strong commitment to passenger service and a willingness to listen the community's views and suggestions. We wish him well for the future.

Transport Needs in South Kerrier Uncovered

The Rural Transport Partnership has been working with the South Kerrier Alliance to identify transport needs in their area, with a view to developing new transport services in the future. At the last meeting, the Alliance's Community Well-Being group considered a report 'Transport Needs in South Kerrier' which maps out key services and transport provision, analyses census and other data, and looks at recent local consultation results. This evidence is then used to build a picture of gaps in the public transport network and to identify areas of poor access.

You can download a copy of the report from our website: www.westcornwallrtp.co.uk

The Alliance and the Rural Transport Partnership will continue working together in the coming months to identify and implement transport improvements.

Funding Still Available

Funding is still available from DEFRA's Rural Social and Community Programme to help develop the capacity of the community transport sector and to increase the involvement of local communities in transport issues.

The following items are eligible:

Developing the Community Transport Sector:

- ❖ Training for staff, volunteers and committee members
- ❖ Purchase of appropriate IT equipment and software where this will enhance their capacity
- ❖ Buying in of consultancy/advice on a range of issues, including the development of social enterprise models of delivery.

Community Involvement:

- ❖ survey and consultation work
- ❖ set-up costs for local groups and forums and associated staff costs
- ❖ parish transport guides and other publications.

This funding has been arranged through the Cornwall Local Area Agreement. For further information, please contact the office.

Quiz

In the last issue, we asked which prize-winning novel opened with the sentence:

'Subsidising public transport had long been associated in the minds of both Government and the majority of its public with the denial of individual liberty.'

The answer was Ian McEwan's excellent 'A Child in Time' published in 1986, and the sentence was doubtless inspired by the previous year's Transport Act. This Act deregulated the bus industry outside London, and its consequences are still with us today. Congratulations to Matt Trevaskis of Eco-Drive electric cars, who was the first name 'pulled from the hat' and receives the First Great Western coasters.

The prize on offer this time is the attractively produced 'Great Scenic Railways of Devon and Cornwall', which is packed full of information and photographs of the area's rail services. Following complaints about the high-brow nature of the last quiz question, we have moved slightly down-market this time! Towards the end of which 1984 novel does the following passage come from:

'Oliver, drenched from his long walk from the station, wished he had not come. First the shock of finding Penzance harbour, where water had always lapped in greeting by the train, filled in to form a car park. Now, arriving late, crushed in the crowd at the back of the church, having to endure the spectacle of Polly grown fat and stodgy, flanked by children who must be at least thirty.'

Answers please to Lindsey by 27th July.

Introducing the Community Enterprise Service

Cornwall Rural Community Council has recently appointed Bob Northey as Community Enterprise Officer to support and champion local communities throughout Cornwall in the planning, development and introduction of new community enterprises.

Community enterprises are primarily driven by social purpose(s); they strive to be financially self sustaining by engaging in the trade of goods or services; any financial surplus is reinvested in the enterprise or for community benefit; and they are community owned and involve members in the governance of the organisation.

Examples can include: childcare facilities, furniture and waste recycling centres, credit unions, vegetable box schemes, community transport schemes, community owned shops or post offices, training schemes, multi-use community centres and youth cafes.

The CRCC's Community Enterprise Service aims to:

- ❖ Provide information, raise awareness and offer advice on developing and establishing community enterprises
- ❖ Map out existing and prospective community enterprises across Cornwall
- ❖ Identify the particular needs of local communities wishing to develop community enterprise in terms of advice, training and specialist support
- ❖ Showcase good practice in developing community enterprises
- ❖ Help community enterprises to access technical and professional help through the Cornwall Prohelp programme
- ❖ Offer signposting and referral to other specialist support agencies

If you would like to find out more about community enterprise and the support available, please contact: **Bob Northey, Community Enterprise Officer**

Email: bob.northey@cornwallrcc.co.uk

Main office Tel: 01872 273952

Mobile: 07968 605330

Volunteer Drivers Guide

A new Volunteer Driver's Handbook from Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) sets out to ensure the safety of the drivers and their passengers, and highlights the driver's duties and legal responsibilities. Voluntary organisations can request complimentary printed copies by email: dvernon@rospa.com, or download in pdf format, 269kb, from:

www.rospa.com/roadsafety/info/volunteer_drivers.pdf.

New Community Transport Information

New community transport guides have been published for each of the Cornish districts. The guides provide up-to-date contact information for local organisations offering a range of transport options, including voluntary car schemes, community buses, minibus hire, shopmobility, dial a ride and wheels to work.

Summary Timetables for the Summer

Three local area timetable booklets have been published, which summarise bus, rail and ferry services operating over the summer. They are aimed at visitors and local residents alike. The three guides cover:

- ❖ Penwith
- ❖ Helston and the Lizard
- ❖ Truro, Falmouth and the Roseland

To receive copies of any of the above guides, please contact Lindsey.

And It's Goodbye from Me!

Tim writes: After five and a half years as project officer for the West Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Rural Transport Partnership, my last day will be 29th June. I've very much enjoyed my time with the Partnership, and it has been rewarding - and often fun too - working with so many different people to improve transport in the area.

Thanks to a lot of hard work from many different people involved with the Partnership, many new transport initiatives have been developed, including wheels to work, dial-a-ride and shopmobility. Information about transport has improved, especially in doctors' surgeries and for recreational trips. There is a better understanding of rural communities' transport needs and how they can be met. Local bus operators have often responded where they can to cater for their passengers' needs. And in lots of small and not-so-small ways, often unnoticed by the wider public, local people have been able to get where they need to go more easily and more conveniently.

There is still, as ever, much to do and not enough money to do it! May I wish everyone involved with the Partnership, including my successor, well for the future. I will still be living in sunny St Ives and hope to bump into you all sometime soon!

Contact Us

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Deadline for Issue 3: 15th August 2007.

If you do not want to receive copies of this newsletter in the future please contact Lindsey Mayes on 01872 224428 or lmayes@carrick.gov.uk