

Miles of Smiles



Volunteer Viewpoint

This month we have a few words from Graham and a photo of him relaxing in his garden, this must be prior to him volunteering to drive for Miles of Smiles. We would like to feature other volunteers in future issues, so if you're interested please send a photo and a few words about yourself to David or Julliette.

Hi,

I'm Graham Warburton, one of the drivers for Miles of Smiles, just a few words about myself:

I retired at age 60 as I felt I had enough of the 'rat race' - it is the best thing I ever did apart from marrying my wife!!! I was a joiner by

trade and enjoy going in my shed and making different things. I love gardening - the garden has been a beautiful array of colour this year as I grew quite a lot of flowers from seed which has been very satisfying. I also enjoy reading, which I never did before, as I never had time when I was working.

I am really pleased I volunteered for Miles of Smiles, it came about when last year, a friend of ours, found out she had cancer and I was taking them to Christie's on a regular basis. I found this very rewarding, so when I saw the advert in the paper for volunteer drivers, I applied. I have met some very nice people and it is nice to be appreciated.

Facts and Figures

Thank-you to all our volunteers who have supported us to achieve a whopping 93 journeys in November.

Winter Motoring Advice From The AA

Get up at least ten minutes early to give you time to prepare the car.

Don't drive off like a tank-commander, with a tiny hole clear in your windscreen. Clear all windows of snow and ice using a scraper and de-icer.

Use a cigarette lighter to warm a key for a frozen lock. Don't breathe on the lock as it will just freeze.

Besides an ice scraper and de-icer, it's worth carrying a mobile phone with fully charged battery, torch, first-aid kit, tow rope, blankets, warm coat and boots, jump leads, snow shovel, warning triangle, an old sack or rug (to put under the wheels if you do get stuck) and water repellent spray.

Plan routes to favour major roads which are more likely to have been gritted.

Put safety before punctuality when the bad weather closes in. Whilst it's always a good idea to allow extra time in winter for your journey, drivers must accept the inevitability of being late for work if they are caught up in an unexpected delay.



Volunteer Centre
Tameside

Volunteer Centre Tameside, 95-97 Penny Meadow, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6EP.

Tel: 0161 339 2345.

www.tamesidevb.org.uk/transport

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Coordinators Corner

A quick word from me to all our volunteers to say thank you for all the hard work that you have done over the past 6 months, and for all the work that I hope you are going to do/ Miles of Smiles is well and truly on the Tameside map. The frequency of journeys is increasing each week and we are going to more destinations both in Tameside and in the wider community.

I hope to send you all a copy of this newsletter every quarter but that will only be if we have news to impart, so if you have anything to share with other volunteers, it could be driving or destination related information or it could be a joke or a recipe or even some family news that you would like to share please give David, Julliette or Michael a call on the usual number 0161 339 2345.

It is a pleasure to listen to what passengers think about the service you are providing so well done and keep up the good work.

David

"Dear Julliette & David,

Could I take this opportunity to say a very big thank-you for the Miles of Smiles scheme you have. I would like to say...yourselves and drivers have been brilliant, nothing too much trouble and very caring.

Once again, Thanks,
Doreen Bradshaw

Keep up the good work!"



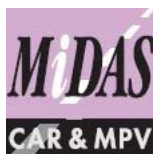
Training for Volunteer Drivers

I have recently attended a training course and passed!!! This enables me to run courses that volunteer drivers will be encouraged to attend and receive a nationally recognised certificate.

A scheme has been available for many years that recognised drivers both volunteers and employed who drive mini buses but the new scheme recognises the work of volunteers who use their own cars or multi purpose vehicles (MPV's).

To qualify, volunteers will attend a fun filled 3 hour training session and take part in a 45 minute observed drive. This certificate is a new initiative and has only just been launched, we are the first organisation in the country offering this to volunteers.

We will be contacting you all in the New Year with a choice of dates.



New Parking System for Tameside Hospital

Volunteers will now be issued with passes to allow exit from TGH car parks, this is instead of having to talk into the exit barrier. The new cards just slot into the pass slot and the barrier raises, however don't forget to take the pass with you and

can all volunteers please look after them as replacements will cost us £5. If you haven't received yours yet give Julliette or David a call.

New Volunteers

We are still looking to recruit more volunteers so if you know anybody who might like to work with us ask Julliette to send out a pack of information or ask them to give me a call. As usual we will be as flexible and supportive as we can. We will make them very welcome.

Spreading the Word

Lots of people in Tameside know about Miles of Smiles but there are lots of people that have never heard of us. Could you promote the service in your own area by getting an A4 laminated poster displayed? If so contact David or Julliette and we will send you some.

Hello

Hello to all our volunteers who are on the road:

Graham Warburton, Brian Mattison, Paul Taylor, Nuala Storey, Mohammed Masud, Peter Buckley, Wilt Budd, Joe Blinco, David Whittaker, Sue Vickers, David Sharples, Ben Stoddard, Joe Horricks and Stephen Slater.

Watch this space for drivers who are still going through the application process.

We'd like to invite all volunteer drivers to our Christmas party at the Volunteer Centre

Wednesday, 20th December
12pm onwards
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