

Spring 2007

Miles of Smiles



Volunteer Viewpoint

This month we have a few words from Mohammed Masud. 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.

I came to live in Tameside about 40 years ago, working as a bus conductor and driver. About 4 years ago I had to give up my job on medical grounds so I started doing voluntary work. I help at an Asian Elder's luncheon group by giving people lifts to and from the group.

I also volunteer with Tameside Blind Association and as a member in

many different local forums including RIQ (really important questions), the crime and disorder reduction forum and the interfaith forum. I am currently chair of Tameside voice.

I enjoy meeting people from different backgrounds. I like driving for this scheme as it gives me inner peace, knowing that I have helped people to attend appointments. I have met many nice people and have visited places I had not visited before. It has also improved my driving.

Mohammed Masud

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www.tamesidevb.org.uk/transport

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Facts and Figures To March 31st 2007

Number of journeys: 177
Number of passengers: 148
Destinations: 34

Spring Motoring Advice From The AA

If you're one of those people who clean the car only once a year, "whether it needs it or not", then now's the best time to do it. After months of winter neglect a thorough clean now will help to maintain the car's value and reduce the risk of long-term corrosion damage.

Interior

It's quite possible that the inside of your car's not dried out properly all through the winter as wet shoes and clothes keep bringing moisture in but there's not been the heat or ventilation to dry it out.

Wet patches under the carpets are a sure sign of rain water penetration. The cause should be investigated thoroughly as, in time, this could lead to serious corrosion. The point of water entry can be difficult to locate and will normally need expert attention.

Exterior

Winter grime on the paint work should be removed with warm water and a suitable car shampoo. Start on the roof and work your way down and around the car, allowing stubborn dirt at the bottom to soak. Pay particular attention to door undersides and sills and make sure that all the shampoo is fully rinsed off before drying the car.

Polish offers some paint work protection and on older vehicles will help to restore any loss of gloss. Use a good quality polish and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Underside

The underside of the car takes the worst of the winter weather. Mud soaks-up salt laden spray and, if left, will cause corrosion over time.

And Finally

Before the start of any long journey and ideally every week check the engine oil level, radiator level, windscreen washer level and tyre pressures, including the spare. The vehicle handbook should show you clearly how to do all of these.



Volunteer Centre
Tameside

In The News

Thank you to Graham Warburton for being photographed for an article promoting Miles of Smiles that appeared in the Tameside Reporter during March.

Compliments

We often get thanks over the phone for the hard work that you all do and we also receive cards, the following words are from a card sent by Alice Ford to you all:

“Just a few words to say thank you for your kindness to me this past few months it has been most appreciated”

Sad Times

It is inevitable that in this kind of work that sometimes our passengers die, in the short time that we have been working we have lost several passengers and this could sometimes be difficult if volunteers have formed relationships with them. Should volunteers wish to discuss their feelings at any time, please feel free to contact for a listening ear.

David

Situations Vacant

Volunteer Drivers required for all areas of Tameside! Have you got friends or neighbours who might like to join our team? If so ask them to give us a call, the usual friendly approach and no pressure sales talk is given!



Volunteer Centre
Tameside

Expenses & Dead Mileage

A little explanation about how we charge passengers and how expenses are claimed. Passengers are charged 40p per mile from their home address to the destination and back. If they are left at the appointment and collected later it is classed as a new journey and the cost of the 1st journey is reapplied. Charges are worked out by map point and rounded up to the nearest mile. A minimum charge of £1 applies.

Dead mileage (the mileage incurred from a volunteer's home to the passenger's home) is calculated in the same way at the office and this is currently paid by our funders (PCT). Julliette issues cheques monthly to cover this amount and posts them direct to volunteers. We always try to use volunteers in their own locality to keep this amount as low as possible.

Volunteers who live outside Tameside are only eligible for dead mileage from the Tameside boundary to the passengers home, they are all of course advised of this when they apply to volunteer.

There may be slight discrepancies and we hope that volunteers understand this and we hope that they are not out of pocket in any way due to their volunteering.

Our passengers are all informed of the cost of the journey prior to collection.

Training

Thanks to the 8 volunteers who attended the MIDAS driver training course. The feedback was very encouraging, the next stage is to undertake the observed drive and this will take place over the next 2 months.

The next training day will be here at the Volunteer Centre on May 29th starting at 12pm and ending no later than 4pm, more details to follow.

Tameside Blind Association

Tameside Blind Association says a big thank you to all our volunteers who have assisted their members to attend appointments.

They have now offered to present a session to our volunteers about “how best to work with and support people with visual impairment.”

This would be about a 90 minute interactive training session. Let either David or Julliette know if you would be interested in this training event.

Speaker Service

We are now visiting groups in Tameside to tell them about the service so if anybody has connections with any group that might be interested to hear more about our service please get them to call the office 0161 339 2345 and ask for Julliette.

Hellos & Goodbyes

Welcome to the team to: Ron Birchall (Hyde), Kishor (Stan) Mistry (Ashton), John Hollingworth (Failsworth), Barrie Norman (Denton)

Peter Buckley (Mossley) has had to leave us due to persistent car problems. Peter hopes to carry on his volunteer driving with an organisation that has its own vehicles. We wish him well and he may return to us if his situation changes in the future.

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