

WEALDEN WHEELS NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2010

Welcome to the spring edition of the Wealden Wheels newsletter, with which we hope to inspire you to plan some trips out with Wealden Wheels!

Well, at last we seem to have seeing some sunshine and have days ahead! How better to shake some trips out with friends and coming weeks? Give us a ring to talk about where you would like to go.



left the snows behind us; we are the promise of spring and warmer off the winter blues than to plan family, to look forward to in the

The snow during December, January and February caused a great deal of disruption all round. We did manage to keep going, though sadly some trips had to be cancelled or rescheduled. We'd like to say thank you to our customers for their patience during this challenging period. Where they did venture out, the buses continued to be safe and reliable and we are grateful to our drivers for being prepared to soldier on despite the weather.

Brownies

Since our last newsletter the minibuses have been busy. Trips include going to Canterbury to take a group to see the Pantomime; down to Eastbourne for the day with a group of blind & partially-sighted friends to celebrate the 3rd anniversary since the formation of their social group; to London for a group of friends to enjoy a birthday treat at Harrods; to Butlins with the Brownies for a jamboree; to Kew National Archives with Smerden Local History Society; to a gymnastics



A The National Archives

competition at the Pegasus Gym in Bearsted where Charing Primary School children were taking part. They have also made several local trips with Challock Primary School children, to visit Kings Wood and other local attractions.



We are delighted that Wealden Wheels is able to provide transport to such a wide range of village groups, including both senior and junior members of our local communities.

Sure Start Children's Centres

Over the last few months we have been working more and more with "Sure Start", the Government-funded programme for early years education, health and family support. "Sure Start" run 5 children's centres around the Ashford area and for whom our minibuses have provided transport to access the activities going on there. We look forward to continuing and building this relationship.



We are also hoping to create some links with local secondary schools, to provide student transport between school sites as A-level courses require. Colleagues in another community transport scheme have such links with local schools and have found these to be mutually beneficial. We feel that this would be a good use of our buses at a time of day when they are not all busy.

Some suggestions for trips out in the next few weeks.....

- ❖ 23^d April to 3^d May - Tulip Festival and Bluebell Walk at Pashley Manor*
- ❖ 4th & 5th May - newly re-opened medieval barn at Westenhanger Castle*
- ❖ 8th & 9th May - Art Deco Fair weekend at Eltham Palace*
- ❖ 17th April - April Dawn Chorus Walk at Sissinghurst Castle*
- ❖ 17th April - Barn Theatre Open Day - Smallhythe Place*
- ❖ 24th April - Beating the Bounds guided walk - White Cliffs, Dover*
- ❖ 5th - 9th May - National Honey Week at Chartwell*
- ❖ 14th May - Ghost Walk at Sissinghurst Castle*
- ❖ 26th May - Grow your own Pumpkin day at Scotney Castle*

Did you know that our minibuses also provide transport to members to attend medical appointments, either at local doctors' surgeries (we have taken patients to both Headcorn and Charing and both surgeries are members of Wealden Wheels) or at hospitals (local and further afield)? If we can help you in this way, please do not hesitate to call.



If you can think of any other ways in which our buses can assist our local communities, we would love to hear from you. The more we can use the vehicles, the more income we can generate to support the costs of the operation. We would also love to hear about any ideas you may have for fundraising. Ours is a not-for-profit organisation, so any income we can generate beyond grant-aid is very important to be able to continue offering the service we provide at present.

As always, we would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to volunteer some time - driving, in the office or even fund-raising. Give us a call if you feel you can help.

*Contact us: Telephone Kevin, John, Janet or Vivienne on 01233 840000
Take a look at our website - www.wealdenwheels.org.uk*

OR EMAIL US AT WEALDENWHEELS@BTCONNECT.COM