

Wealden Wheels

Your Local Community Transport Provider

The Old Granary · Pevington Farm · Egerton Road · Pluckley TN27 0PF

Telephone: 01233 840000

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN / WINTER 2017

Re-branding of Wealden Wheels

Over the past twelve months or so we've introduced new branding for the company.

First, the website was rewritten and brought up-to-date to work better on phones and tablets.

Next, we created a logo, a recognisable design that expresses who we are and what we do. Some people have said 'oh yes, I can see the two WW's for Wealden Wheels' but what they don't immediately see within this is the representation of six people sitting in a minibus! (top right).

New year, a new pricing strategy

It's a fact of life, but not a very nice one that prices tend to go up far more frequently than we would like!

The membership fee to join Wealden Wheels hasn't increased for some considerable time, and fees for trips have remained unchanged for the past three years.

We are pleased to announce that membership rates and hire fees for all members who live within the six parish council areas who very generously support Wealden Wheels are not to be increased! The six parish councils are Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden, and we are very grateful for their continued support of Wealden Wheels.

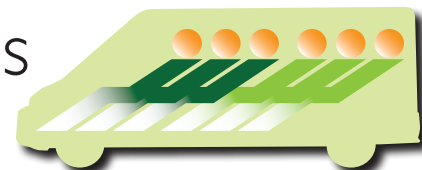
From 1st January 2018, for members beyond the six parishes, we have to make a small increase of 5p per mile on our 'hire with a driver' rate, taking this to £1.85 per mile. Our self-drive hire rate will also increase to £1.20 per mile but still provides a considerable saving if you can provide a driver from within your organisation.

We hope that despite these modest increases, you agree with us that Wealden Wheels continues to provide excellent value for money when meeting your group or family's transport needs.

Next we produced a leaflet which is readily available in each of the buses and increasingly at outlets throughout our immediate communities.

Most recently we've put the logo on

shirts and fleeces for our regular volunteer drivers. Overleaf is a picture of Ron, one of our volunteers, wearing his new attire as part of an ongoing volunteer recruitment campaign.



It's been a great summer

The summer period was a busy time at Wealden Wheels.

Most of our own series of day trips were fully booked and if you went on one (or more) we trust you enjoyed it! If you have any ideas for next year please let Graham know.

Our most popular group trips during the summer were to The Kingfisher Boat in Wateringbury, Sissinghurst Castle & Garden and Beach 48 in Dymchurch for wonderful fish & chip lunches!

Also popular were afternoon cream tea trips to Blackbrooks (Sedlescombe), Millbrook (Staplehurst), Dobbies (Ashford) and Tenterden Garden Centres. We also visited the Fish Farm at Hawkhurst on a number of occasions.

At the time of writing we are becoming busy with bookings throughout November and December. So, if you're planning a Christmas shopping trip, a visit to a



pantomime or a festive lunch, please get in touch soon so we can arrange your transport.

Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre near Gillingham is always a popular choice for our members in the lead up to Christmas. There are over 50 stores such as M&S, Sainsbury's, Argos, Boots and Pandora, with several places to eat, drink and relax.

We need volunteers!

Wealden Wheels is a not-for-profit community transport initiative.

To ensure we are able to deliver our aims, we need more drivers... yes, this could mean you! If you have a little spare time to join our merry band of volunteer drivers, we'd love to hear from you.

Also, due to bereavement, we're seeking a volunteer to help run the office during busy periods, to provide holiday cover and generally help our members on the phone and by email.

Please call the Project Co-ordinator, Graham for a chat so he can give you a flavour of what's involved in either role.

Plus if you're able to display the poster overleaf in a prominent position we would be very grateful.

What people say about us

"I'm pleased to hear that Ron had a great time. He was a brilliant help on the day and had lots of patience with the children."

"From start to finish, I have been thoroughly impressed with the service that I have received from yourselves. I will definitely be using you in the future, and won't hesitate in recommending your services to others."

A copy of our new leaflet is enclosed with an extra copy of this newsletter. We would be grateful if you would please have a think about who you know who could benefit from the service Wealden Wheels provides and pass them on.

Wealden Wheels is your village community, not-for-profit transport initiative, supported by Kent County Council and Parish Councils of Challock, Charing, Chilham, Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden.

wealdenwheels@btconnect.com • wealdenwheels.co.uk

We're Recruiting! Volunteer Drivers

Would you like to be part of an organisation that makes a difference in your community?

Since 2004, **Wealden Wheels**, a Pluckley-based community transport provider has been meeting the needs of local people who do not have easy access to cars, taxis, trains or buses. In many cases we provide a lifeline to services that can and do transform lives.

In order for us to react to an expanding need we must recruit more volunteers. **Wealden Wheels** simply could not operate without our super team of volunteer drivers. If you have spare time and are looking for a fun and rewarding volunteering opportunity we'd love to hear from you.

To join us you will need...

- **to be over 25**
- **to have no more than three points on your licence**
- **to have category D1 to drive our larger buses**
- **to be willing to have a DBS check**
- **a spare day so we can train you to MiDAS standards**

In return you'll meet some lovely people and visit some great places. You'll also feel amazing with a sense of having 'given something back' knowing that you've spread some happiness, and improved the lives of people who share your community.



YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVIDER

Please contact the Project Co-ordinator, Graham Sivyer, by telephone or email to find out more about how you can be involved.

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