

## Transport 17 News article prepared for local newspapers, March 2019

By the time you are reading this article our Spring Coffee Morning with its Mad March As New Stall, Chocolate Bonanza Lucky Dip and Spring Treats Raffle will have been and gone. Hopefully it will have been as successful as the Christmas Fayre.

Since the last article our oldest bus the MX05 failed its MOT test and we were left with a bill of £1800 to get it back on the road which has hit us hard. We are pleased to say it has now passed its test but it reinforces just how important our fundraising events are and how much we appreciate all your support. Recently the aim of our fundraising has been on helping to keep Transport 17 on the road and an unexpected cost such as this makes the need for this focus so important. We have been aiming to replace the MX05 bus by 2020 and the expense of these repairs has highlighted how imperative this is. We have funds of £25,000 already so the pressure is now on to raise the remaining £25,000. Consequently we face quite a challenge for the year to come which is already rattling away. Transport 17 needs you all now more than ever.

It is almost a year since the last new bus launch celebration and with our push to replace MX05 perhaps this is an appropriate opportunity to tell you a little bit more about the role of the Transport 17 buses and Transport 17 as an organisation. Jenny Nuttall and Wendy Trotter's article 'Transport 17 Through the Ages' in the November/December edition provided a lot of background information about us which we can expand on here.

Generally every week, Monday to Friday 3 buses set off from the office on Baslow Road. With a volunteer driver and passenger assistant they transport older people who cannot use other transport and some of whom have mobility problems to get out to clubs, giving them an opportunity to socialise in the local community and improve their quality of life. The buses are fitted with tail lifts and wheelchair safety clamps to help with this. All the drivers have to undergo a Midas Test every 3 years to ensure their capability to drive the bus, to keep the passengers safe and to correctly handle aids which enable the passengers to get out and about. The passenger assistants help to get the passengers from their homes onto the bus and then into the venue they attend. Quite often the schedule for a bus covers more than one club so once one group have been delivered it then starts again with another group of passengers and of course the process works in reverse to return them all back home. As each journey involves the same people each week then both drivers and passenger assistants get to know their passengers (and vice versa), understand their needs and establish quite a relationship with them.

Below is the programme of clubs and where the passengers come from for the week.

Monday	Sheffield Live at Home Scheme Meersbrook Park Lunch Club	Bents Green and Nether Edge areas S8 from Meersbrook up to Norton
Tuesday	Dore & Topley Lunch Club Dore Open Door Lowedges Lunch Club	DORE, TOTLEY and Millhouses DORE BRADWAY, Greenhill, Lowedges
Wednesday	Dore Lunch Club St. William's Lunch Club  St. Mark's Lunch Club	DORE and Millhouses Bents Green, Ecclesall, Millhouses and Nether Edge Broomhill and Crosspool
Thursday	St. John's Lunch Club  Gresley Road Lunch Club	DORE, TOTLEY, BRADWAY and Millhouses Norton and Lowedges
Friday	Topley Rise Lunch Club  St. Oswald's Lunch Club	TOTLEY, BRADWAY, DORE and Millhouses Nether Edge, Millhouses, Beauchief, Greenhill and Norton

DORE, TOTLEY and BRADWAY constitute our core area.

The office on Baslow Road is the hub for the organisation. There's someone there each morning. This includes John Savournin our admin officer who has been with us for over 20 years. Passengers contact the office if they are unable to attend their club; lists are prepared so the driver knows who they are collecting; invoices are prepared for the clubs; replacement drivers or passenger assistants are found if the regular ones are unavailable for whatever reason and of course there is all the other administration required to operate a charitable organisation within the legal requirements. The office also acts as a meeting place and base for the volunteers and there is always a buzz of conversation at the start of the day. Some volunteers have their lunch here before they make the return journey for the passengers.

Through Mike Finn, our Transport Manager for 30 years, we liaise with other community transport organisations in the city and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to share expertise and ensure we are operating in line with requirements. There is also a national charitable organisation, The Community Transport Association, that represents and supports organisations like Transport 17 providing a range of information on current issues.

Although Mike is the Transport Manager there is also the Management Committee who work with Mike. They have a central role in running the organisation and are legally and ethically responsible for all of its activities. The committee are all volunteers who bring a wide range of experience to the role. They are passionate about the organisation and want to ensure that Transport 17 continues its important role in the community for many years to come. Currently we are looking for volunteers to help us in our work. You may feel you have some spare time, you are interested in what we do, that you could use your expertise and experience to help the team to continue the valuable work Transport 17 does and you would like to put something back into the community. Then if so please consider coming and joining us. If you are at all tempted to get involved, please contact Jenny via [transport17@btconnect.com](mailto:transport17@btconnect.com) or 0114 2362962.

Finally, back in the 1980s, Help the Aged (now Age UK) match funded the purchase of our first bus. We are now pleased to report that we will have had an initial meeting with Jo Glaves, Steve Chu and Councillor Colin Ross from People Keeping Well in Dore and Totley, the local organisation coordinated through Age UK, to discuss our possible involvement thinking about how what we do can facilitate the activities of People Keeping Well. We hope that we can contribute to and be involved in this valuable community initiative. The wheels do indeed continue to go round.

Sandra Longley  
(on behalf of the Management Committee)