



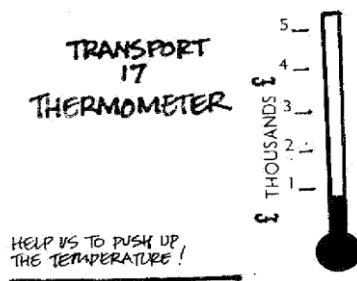
## Transport 17 'through the ages'

As we continue to raise funds so that we can replace one of our buses in 2020, we've been looking back at Transport 17 'through the ages' and we thought we'd share some snippets with you...

In September 1983, The Independent included an article about a group called 'Transport 17' which had recently been

### **TRANSPORT 17** THE WHEELS START TURNING

formed – instigated by Alan Jockell who was the vicar of Totlely All Saints Church - with the aim of providing a minibus for elderly people in S17, hence its name. It reported that older and infirm people were struggling to get to day and luncheon clubs that had been set up and it was hoped that there would be support in the local community to run a transport service for them. The first Chairman of Transport 17, Bert Jackson, called for financial support to get the minibus on the road as well as help with practical issues such as organising rotas to drive and help on the buses.



Following a successful fundraising campaign, supported by the Independent, which saw table top sales, coffee mornings and generous donations from local charitable trusts, enough money was raised to match the £5000 awarded from Help the Aged and the first Transport 17 minibus was on the road in June 1984. It was a real community effort!

Of course, the fundraising efforts couldn't, and didn't, stop there and they've been going ever since! The Independent continued to support Transport 17 and has carried regular updates and news on the buses over the last 35 years. From these articles and talking to local folk who've been involved over the years, we can



see how much Transport 17 has done to make a difference to peoples' lives and how much effort has gone into keeping the buses on the roads. There have been many trips made to local attractions such as Chatsworth and Longshaw as well as days out further afield to places such as Bridlington. For a few years there were even residential trips arranged to Llandudno, meaning a seaside holiday for those who would not otherwise have had one.

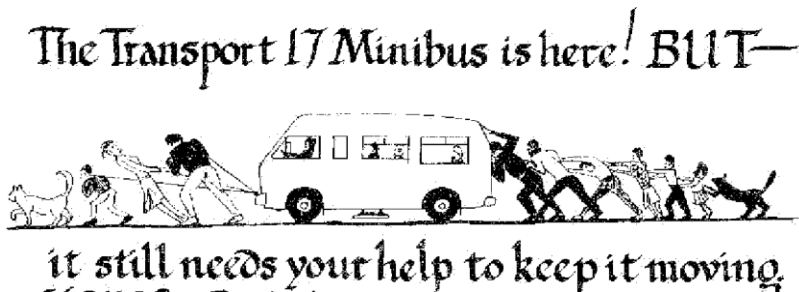
In 1987, a second minibus was put into service and in 1994, Transport 17 was able to start running a third bus. It just shows what demand there has been, and continues to be, for an accessible transport service for the older, less mobile members of our community. These buses need to be replaced regularly and the next bus will be the twelfth one on the road. It will also cost £50,000 – that's five times the cost of the first one!

In 1990, funding from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (which continues today) meant that Michael Finn joined Transport 17 as its paid Project Manager and the office base moved from the vestry room of the United Reform Church on Totley Brook Road to its current address on Baslow Road. Michael was joined in 1999 by John Savournin who keeps all the paperwork in order.

An impressive array of fundraising events has been organised by Transport 17 volunteers over the years, from jumble sales, coffee mornings, book sales, Bridge drives, bring and buy sales and pie and pea suppers to teas in gardens and light entertainment evenings. In addition, the community has generously supported Transport 17 by donating proceeds from sports days, open gardens and cake and plant sales to name but a few.

It has not all been plain sailing, however. A dip into the archives reveals: an article in 1992 reporting on a 'cash crisis' due to the pressure of rising running costs on older vehicles and a worry that there would need to be a reduction in the number of journeys that could be operated. In 2008 there was an incident of 'road rage' which left a volunteer driver needing stitches and in 2012 all the buses' fuel was stolen when they were broken into.

But, these challenges have all been met head on and haven't stopped the buses from running. In 2018, Transport 17 is now making over 200 passenger trips a week to 13 different lunch clubs not just in S17 but in the



surrounding areas of S11, S8, S10 and S7. There are currently 7 drivers and 14 passenger assistants who help between one and three days a week, volunteering their time to help those who wouldn't otherwise be able to get out and about. The volunteers on the Transport 17 Management and Fundraising Committees continue to work hard to keep it moving with the times and to make sure that the wheels keep turning.

So, above all, a brief look back over the years shows that we should all be proud of the success story that is Transport 17. Now, let's keep it going!

We're thrilled that Transport 17 has been chosen as a Co-op 'local cause' for 2018/19. This means that keeping Transport 17 on the road will continue to be a real community effort and you can support us just by doing your shopping! More information on how you can support us as a 'local cause' is given elsewhere in this publication.

Jenny Nuttall and Wendy Trotter

Transport 17 Management Committee