



## **Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Cars**

The scheme got off to a flying start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May with our first customer being taken to Cerne Abbas surgery and continues to be a very successful scheme. During May & June we have provided 22 trips and our volunteer drivers have covered 243 miles.

From our pool of 12 drivers we have fulfilled all requested trips, and have provided help to the Cerne Abbas scheme, providing transport for customers in Glanvilles Wootton.

We currently have 26 customers signed up to the scheme.

HOWEVER, we are always striving to grow and improve, so please take the time to continue to read.....

Have you ever considered how you might get to a Doctor, dentist or a hospital appointment when you can no longer drive?

Do you know someone who is already in this position?

As you are aware, at the present time, bus services are limited (supplied by NORDCAT), and we do not have a local taxi service. Could you afford a taxi?

Rural isolation and rural poverty are becoming an issue county wide.

**In the Piddle Valley, the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood car service provides a practical solution to this problem.**

To the customer it provides a more cost-effective service, provided by local people. We would be very surprised if you don't know the driver who comes to collect you, and if you didn't know them before, new friends can be made.

To the drivers, the feeling of helping other people is priceless. A driver doing their first trip described how the "feel good" factor surprised them, and the conversation they shared about the old days of the Piddle Valley was enlightening.

We work closely with the Cerne Abbas scheme to have a larger pool of drivers available to help.

## **Are you thinking of becoming a Driver?**

If you are signed up to the scheme you will know if someone near you needs help.

Do you think that you will only be available “once in a blue moon”? That once in a blue moon trip could help someone get to a vital appointment.

If you do one trip and then nothing for a little while doesn't make you unreliable – life happens – but the one trip you do, could make a huge difference to the person you have helped.

Do you drop your children at school, and then go in to Dorchester to work? Could you take someone with you and drop them at the dentist or the hospital? Don't worry if you can't bring them back – we can arrange someone else to do that.

Don't be put off by the paperwork – we can help, and we have the support of the Volunteer Centre, who are very quick and efficient at getting your DBS check done for you.

If you are claiming benefits, being a volunteer driver does not affect your claim.

You could be the first person that customer has seen and talked to for several day.

45p/mile paid to the driver for the whole journey.

Any help is better than nothing.

### **But, don't be put off if you can't drive!**

Are you good with numbers? Could you help with the accounts?

Do you like talking to people? Could you help with publicity?

Are you good with IT? Could you help with marketing using Facebook, Twitter or Instagram?

Are you organised? Could you help with the administration?

For further information please don't hesitate to contact one of the PVNC group.

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**[www.piddlevalley.info](http://www.piddlevalley.info)**