



REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1082982

Dear F.V.V.M.C

May I take this opportunity to thank you all at the Forest Vintage Vehicle and Machinery Club, for your generous Donation of £250 to us the Bream Voluntary Car Service. Your Donation will allow us to add to our very busy Service here in West Dean. As you may be aware some parts of the Forest of Dean contain the County's most isolated Settlements with little or no Public Transport to enable the Sick and Elderly easy access to the Larger Treatment Centres that have now been introduced.

Services like ours are becoming a vital Life Line, to these Communities of West Dean. At present our Drivers are averaging 40 Journeys per week, this can only increase as the Elderly population grows as predicted. Everybody at our service are Volunteers and will work to make the lives of the Sick and Elderly a little less stressful in the Forest of Dean.

So, for all, Users, Drivers, Trustees, we thank you for your Support.

I have attached a summary of our Service

Regards

C J Staker

Chairman Bream Voluntary Car Service

The Bream Voluntary Car Service.

Registered Charity No: 1082982

About our organisation:

The Bream Voluntary Car Service has been operating since 1994 and became a registered charity in 2000; number 1082982.

Our organisation serves rural and often isolated communities in West Dean - working in the villages: Bream, Clementsend, Sling, Ellwood, Brockhollands, Parkend, Whitecroft, Pillowell, Yorkley, Viney Hill, Blakeney, Berry Hill, Christchurch, Coleford and Lydney, also St Briavels; and travelling as far as Sedbury, we also cross Borders to take in Tintern.

We offer subsidised transport to the most vulnerable so that they can access all medical related needs.

Those whom use our service are: the elderly and infirm; single mothers with children that need medical attention (often young teenage mothers who are under driving age), the poor and rurally isolated.

The service focuses on medical journeys, as this is a recognised problem in the area for such users. With constant cuts in the medical services, more clinics are being removed from local hospitals and health centres to be centralised in Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bristol and also Newport, and Cardiff. It is impossible for those persons who use our service to access their appointments because of local public transport being inadequate (e.g. to travel to Gloucester, the passenger would have to take a local bus to our nearest local town Coleford or Lydney, then transfer to a Gloucester bus). Such persons would therefore find that they are excluded from vital services i.e.: Hospital appointments, Doctor's appointments (please note that the Forest of Dean is exceptionally hilly and some of the elderly passengers cannot access their local Health Centres even if they live close to them, no public transport can aid this dilemma), Opticians, Chiropody, Dentists,

Our volunteers escort those passengers who need help because they are elderly, disabled, on their own, or confused; locating departments and waiting with them. This enables passenger's peace of mind at what can be very stressful times (because of the rural nature of the area, many elderly persons do not often travel out of the area, thus entering hospitals in towns can make them very apprehensive).

Our volunteers work regularly with Alzheimer's patients, and are willing to deal with the specific need of these users. Continuity is necessary and so our Volunteers work with the user and carer to maintain good relationships with them.

The service has an open timetable, thus accommodating the needs of as many passengers as possible. Our volunteers work out of hours, in holiday periods and weekends if they are willing.

Our service has minimal overheads and has become specifically sympathetic to the rural area which it is located. We therefore offer a good value service, that has proved itself to be a vital additional transport provider in the communities we serve.

C J Staker

Colin Staker Chairman