



2017 Christmas Newsletter



A letter from Sue Leighton, Chief Officer sedcat

We have had a busy year again at SEDCAT and we were very pleased to find ourselves celebrating 20 years of providing services; you can read more about our BATMEN event inside.

We have had to announce the sad news of the closure of our Boscombe Shopmobility service at the end of March 2018. With declining usage we have struggled to keep both Shopmobility units open over the past few years with dwindling resources. It has been a difficult decision and one which has not been taken lightly and we are working with the Sovereign Centre to help them plan for our withdrawal in March. We understand that there will be an alternative in place and this will be announced shortly.

However, the good news is that the service at Castlepoint is unaffected and will be opening on Saturdays from March! Meanwhile we are looking at how we can provide equipment to our BAT bus members who shop in Boscombe and need equipment to get around.

Please be reassured that the BAT bus service to Boscombe will continue and we are in fact experimenting with an additional late morning service with the option of a quality, low cost lunch at a Boscombe cafe, details of dates are on the back page. We are testing out a number of different types of trips in an effort to meet all our members' needs, so any feedback on these will be very welcome.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition to the Department for Transport in the light of proposed changes regarding how Community Transport is allowed to operate. It is important that policy makers are aware of the impact that any changes to these valuable services may have on the people that use them and the support that there is for our industry.

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BAT Bus booking line:
01202 399771
Community Cars: 01202 309433

Shopmobility:
Castlepoint 01202 598295
Boscombe 01202 399700



I would like to wish all our members, visitors, volunteers, staff and supporters a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your help in 2017. Sue





Sedcat Christmas Opening Times

Friday 22nd December 2017	Community car booking line closes at 2.00pm and re-opens on Wednesday 27th December
Friday 22nd December 2017	Last shopping trip on BAT bus
Saturday 23rd December 2017	Boscombe Shopmobility closes at 4pm
Merry Christmas! Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th December 2017	Christmas and Boxing Day - All services closed
Wednesday 27th December 2017	Castlepoint Shopmobility re-opens. BAT bus bookings taken for the Thursday shopping trip.
Thursday 28th December 2017	Boscombe Shopmobility re-opens
Friday 29th December 2017	BAT bus bookings taken for Tuesday Shopping Trips on 2nd January 2018
Happy New Year! Monday 1st January 2018	Bank Holiday – Boscombe & Castlepoint Shopmobility closed



Free half-day BAT Bus Outing for Members

To continue to run the BAT BUS, Community Cars, Hospital Hop and Shopmobility, we need to be able to reach more people who might benefit from our services to get out and about and live independent lives.

As our best ambassadors we would like to return your efforts to spread the word about SEDCAT by offering a **free** half-day outing for *each* new BAT BUS member who joins us. It's very simple just recommend a friend or friends by end of June 2018 to qualify!

We welcome Fiona Carter, Service Development Officer



By now many of you will have met Fiona, who has taken on a new role of Service Development. Fiona has a lot of experience in marketing and development and is bringing some fresh ideas to attract new members and help us to improve our offering.

Take a tip from Santa and get on your scooter this Christmas...

Make your Christmas shopping a breeze this year... With a little practice mobility scooters are very easy to use. You are the one who is in control, as you can set your own speed and glide in comfort... so keep those presents a surprise! Scooters can also be hired for BAT BUS Shopping Outings. Membership also includes the Wessex Scheme giving you members rates in Salisbury, Southampton, West Quays, etc. New members receive full training before venturing out. to make sure that you are happy with the controls and feel confident.

SafeWise Bournemouth, are working with Dorset NHS to deliver a Mobility Scooter Awareness Course for £10. Call 01202 591330 or go to



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www.redsailhomecare.co.uk



A very big 'Thank you' to Wessex Hash House

Harriers who supported us by making us their 'Charity of the Year. Ann Couch and Pat Lewis presented Sue with a cheque for £591 on behalf of WHHH which was raised from activities throughout the year. The donation will help towards the cost of running our outings enabling people to get out and about and socialise with other members.





Future of sedcat – what can be done to help...



In order for Sedcat to continue to provide the services that you, our members currently benefit from we desperately need funding and donations of all kinds.



SPOT LIGHT ON SERVICES

Community Cars - This service is becoming more and more popular as it provides a vital lifeline to GPs and other essential appointments and social arrangements and is crucial to maintaining affordable independence. As you know this service is currently run with volunteers and in order to meet the increasing demand we are investigating ways of encouraging more new drivers which we desperately need.

We need more Community

Car Drivers please... New driver

Debbie is finding the role rewarding and encourages others to do so. *"I like helping people to access transport which helps when their mobility problems are getting worse"*



Shopmobility – the charges for this are heavily subsidised and we have a big shortfall to find each year to cover the cost of running the scheme.

BAT Bus – unlike Community Cars this service is run mainly with paid drivers so that we can guarantee (subject to sufficient numbers) that trips will run. Although the fee members pay goes some way to offsetting the cost of this, it does not nearly cover the full costs of the scheme.

The new **Hospital Hop Transport** service funding runs out in April and we are, as with other services, applying for funding from charitable grant giving trusts so that we can, if possible, continue with this.

So you can see why we need to generate more Income. One of the ways of securing the future of SEDCAT is through a legacy. This is a gift left to a charity in a Will. This type of donation means that a donor is not putting themselves in Any precarious financial position *and* can still access savings to pay for whatever needs they may have, BUT, the donor is still able to give something back to SEDCAT.

This could be life changing for others...

"Charitable donations are exempt from tax and inheritance tax which means that 100% of a donation will go to SEDCAT." says SEDCAT Trustee and solicitor Marin Davies

How can a legacy be left?

A donation can be either general or specific, for example towards a new BAT bus or a mobility scooter.

If someone already has a will and then wishes to include a gift to SEDCAT in it, there may not be any need to rewrite it. A qualified professional such as a solicitor can add an amendment (called a codicil) to a Will. As a general rule, if the change is quite small or simple, a codicil can be used, and if the change is more significant or complex a new Will should be made.

We do not need to be told, as it is something very private and personal, but it might be useful if this is at all possible.

If you know anyone who would be interested in leaving us a donation in their Will, a legacy such as this can make a massive difference to someone's life.



Hospital 'Hop' Transport Service



For appointments at Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals

- Wheelchair accessible transport
- Appointments after 12.00pm
- Call 01202 534027 10am—2pm
- £9.00 Return fare - paid to driver
- Bournemouth postcodes BH1 to BH11
- Bookings must be made in advance



This cost may be refundable for some people.

For more information call 0300 330 1343 or www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts

Ask Ron the driver for a receipt on the day!!



Twenty Years of the Community 'BAT' Bus



The BAT Bus has been taking those who are disabled or have problems with mobility, to get out more and make friends for over 20 years. To celebrate this milestone the BAT drivers lived up to their namesake and spent the day as the superhero BATMAN and enjoyed some celebratory cake with some of the regulars. We like to think that our BATMEN are rescuing people from Loneliness and social isolation that poor mobility can lead to.

BAT BUS driver Alan said *"It's great to see clients laughing and having a joke with each other, I like to tease them a bit too! Our regulars take each other's phone numbers and usually chat in between going on outings and keep each other informed about all the comings and goings."*

Jean Cox who has been a member for 15 years said *"I wouldn't know what I would do without the BUS and the lovely BAT drivers – they are real heroes and without them and the bus I'd be lost and I'd never be able to get out. I use the BAT bus to come shopping twice a week and I really enjoy going on the outings as well"*

We were lucky enough to get Jean Cox and Sue Leighton on Radio Solent and Dorset Radio and we have had a number of enquiries from this publicity.

If any non-BAT BUS members would like to trial a BAT Bus outing without committing to membership, we can offer you a trial half-day or shopping



BAT Bus Extra Trips

Friday 1st December – All zones. Fish and Chips at Chez Fred, Westbourne (£6) plus dinner own cost. Sit down 4.45, pick ups from 3pm. A small cod & chips is available for £6.00 in addition to the main menu.

Thursday 7th December - All zones. Bournemouth Christmas Lights & Mince Pies Evening at the Mayfair Hotel. £10 inclusive.

Saturday 16th December - All zones. Christmas Party Lunch High Corner Inn, £26 inclusive, bookings now being taken.

Thursdays 19th January & 20th April - Fish and Chips at Harry Ramsden will sit down at 6.30 as usual.

NEW DATES - NEW DATES - NEW DATES

Lunch at English Rose Cafe Boscombe

Thursday 22nd February – Zone A

Thursday 1st March – Zone B



This is an *additional* trip which offers you the opportunity to have lunch and do a bit of shopping later in the day than the usual shopping trips. This no frills friendly café in Boscombe, offers very good meals and extremely good value for money. You can have a roast dinner from £4.60. Pick-ups will be from around 11-11.30 and the table is booked for 12.30. The BAT bus will depart from Boscombe Shopmobility at 3.30.

Wednesday 11th April - All zones. Swanage Railway & Lunch. Pick-ups will be early in the morning around 9 am onwards (£10) via Sandbanks Ferry. Rail journey (£6.50) own cost

Wednesday 2nd May - All Zones. Arne and Wareham. Pick-ups will also be early in the morning around 9 am onwards.

Afternoon trips in the New Year to Holmsley Station Café and Pamphill Farm Shop will be arriving at 2.30 at the destination and departing by 4pm. Pick-ups from around 1pm

sedcat (South East Dorset Community Accessible Transport) Charity No. 1146311 :

Company No. 7800298

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