



# **RDCT** Royston & District Community Transport

Tel: 01763 245228 e-mail [info@roytrans.co.uk](mailto:info@roytrans.co.uk)

## **2020 – What a Year!**

As we have gone through many changes during the year –not all due to Coronavirus – we thought you, our valued customers, may like to know what has been happening!



### **Staff Changes**

In February our long-serving Scheme Manager, David Wherrell retired. Our thanks to David, for his many years' service to the charity.

Pru Burton our scheme Co-ordinator became the Office Manager. The Board, under our new Chairman Dr John Hedges, have become more actively involved in the running of the scheme.



We have employed a new Transport Co-ordinator, Maryon Hathaway, who I am sure you have all become familiar with. Maryon and Sharon will continue to be on the end of the phone to help you.

As we entered Lockdown, we implemented new safety measures to protect our customers and drivers. This includes wearing masks, sitting in the back seat and sanitising after each journey. Thank you to all our customers for adhering to these extra precautions.

### **Finance**

We have experienced a loss in income due to the pandemic, so our fundraising team have been hard at work to replace our lost funds with some success, including a grant from The National Lottery. This will ensure our future to the end of the financial year on the 31 March.

However, we do not know if our regular yearly funding for 2021-22 will materialise in March, so, currently our future is in doubt.

### **Ways You Can Help**

- Collecting tins are on the Royston Marks & Spencer's checkouts, please keep a look out.
- We are delighted that we have been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund. We are one of three local causes which Co-op members can select to support between now and October 2021. If you are a customer, please consider getting Co-op membership, This will cost £1 but will earn rewards for you and your chosen charity.

*If you have Internet access you can become a member at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>*

- Please consider becoming a member of The 300 Club – as well as helping us you could win a cash prize!
- Recommend us to your company or local fundraising group.

**We always welcome individual donations**

## Keeping People Informed

This year with so many changes in travel restrictions, we decided to ask editors of local village and church magazines, newsletters and web pages to include a monthly update.

One interesting outcome from the fund raising was a request from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire to do a brief interview with a driver and a passenger who used our service during lockdown. Passenger Colin from Melbourn, agreed to be interviewed - before we knew it would be at 7:40 in the morning! We had good feedback from people who heard the broadcast – thank you Colin.

Lorraine, a Meldreth passenger explains just what Community Transport means to her in a video posted on our Facebook page. You can see the video via this link [Royston & District Community Transport – A passenger talks about the service – YouTube](#)

Look out for our inclusion in the Winter edition of the South Cambs Magazine.



## Our Wonderful Volunteers and Supporters!

During the first Lockdown, we lost over 80% of our drivers as they were in the over 70 age group. We immediately launched an appeal for new younger drivers and had a fantastic response. Over the year, we have signed up 28 new drivers, some could only volunteer for a few months, but many stayed and have already become regular and busy drivers. Some older drivers returned to driving over the summer which has enabled us to keep our service operating.

Johnson Matthey supported us by donating some face masks for our drivers before face masks become more widely available.

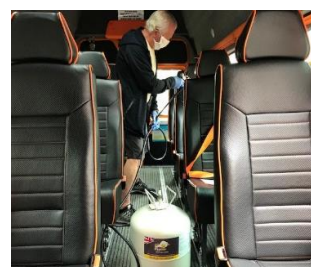
We supported the local PPE/scrub-making group by delivering their creations to Addenbrookes and Papworth hospitals!

A few weeks into lockdown a group of our volunteers rang all our customers to check on their well-being and were able to pass on some requests for assistance to local village co-ordinators.



Our minibuses were cleaned and set up for socially distanced travel and were also available to take wheelchair users to their appointments.

We appreciate all the wonderful comments received throughout the year from you our customers.



**Without our volunteers, we would not be able to offer our service.**

**We are very grateful to them.**

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in a better 2021!*

