



# NEWS - WINTER 2019/20

SWAN Transport is a volunteer car scheme providing transport for those in B&NES who are older, frail or disabled on a low income. If you would like a journey or to drive for us, please call: 01761 439548.

**Joining Fee...** Starting from **1st December 2019**, Swan now has a one-off joining fee of £7 for any new passengers who join our transport scheme, which will help cover administration costs in processing new passengers onto our system. Whenever we receive new enquiries we will explain the joining process and send out a letter with a tear off piece which needs to be sent back to us with the cheque. We will call you straight away as soon as we receive the cheque to put you onto our system and start taking any bookings you require from this point. Please note, there is a slightly different system for any new passengers using our service for the first time via the Dial-a-Ride, who will also need to pay the one-off joining fee.

**Christmas Meal...** Swan held their Christmas Meal in December to say Thank You to our fabulous team of drivers. We had 21 drivers and 5 office staff attend it on the day making 26 of us in total! We all had a very enjoyable afternoon as you can see from the pictures below!



**Fundraising Quiz for Swan at Old Down Inn...** Just to give you advance notice that the Old Down Inn are kindly running a monthly quiz over a 3 month period to help raise funds for Swan's Transport scheme. There could be drivers and staff going along who may be able to help transport anyone wanting to attend, please call the Swan office to enquire. Cost for entering the quiz is £3 per person, plus they request you bring along a raffle prize. Quiz starts at 7.30pm. The quiz will take place on: **Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> April, Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> May and Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Introducing Swan Driver – Linda Gardner ...



Hi, my name is Linda Gardner and I have been a voluntary driver for about 3 years. I live in Midsomer Norton with my husband Steve and we have two lovely daughters Lucy and Claire who have now moved to High Littleton and Bristol. I like to knit and read and Steve and I go sequence dancing at least once a week which keeps us fit.

Two of our friends Christine and Trevor were already Swan drivers when I retired after 25 years as a school secretary at a small village school. They obviously enjoyed it and I decided it was something I could do as I love driving and reading (very useful when you are waiting).

It is great to be able to help people and make getting to appointments easier. I love chatting to them, hearing about their history or their family and also putting the world to rights sometimes! Linda

### Would you like to join our Swan Team?



**Our aim at present is to have 40+ drivers,** so please call Sarah / Ann in the office if you would like to find out more: 01761 439548, or alternatively email us at: [swan.transport@btconnect.com](mailto:swan.transport@btconnect.com)

**Dementia Friendly Swan ...** Swan staff and a large number of our drivers recently attended a Dementia Awareness session arranged for Swan Transport on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Our Trainer was Nathan Hartley, Project Manager for Dementia Friendly Peasedown and he ran an informative and interactive session telling us about different types of dementia and the effects it has on those who suffer with it, as well as their relatives and carers. We also found out how people's perceptions can be altered as part of this illness and things that we can do to help overcome any difficulties that come up. This was very useful information for our drivers who sometimes transport those affected by dementia and it was also helpful for our staff taking phone calls, as our main passenger base tends to be those who are older making it more likely that they may be either a sufferer or a carer for someone with this illness.

A positive bit of information we discovered about help for those with dementia, is that there are now many **sing-a-long groups** aimed at those who suffer with this disease. Singing is one of the important skills usually retained by sufferers and it gives them lots of enjoyment, improving their quality of life. Some of these groups are: Singing for the Brain, Music for Life, Lost Chord, Golden Oldies and Live Music Now. You can find out more about them from [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) or call: 0800 678 1602.



If you are interested in finding out more about any **Dementia Friends** sessions near you, just go to: [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk).



**Cuppa & Chat on: Weds 19<sup>th</sup> February, Weds 18<sup>th</sup> March...**

**SWAN TRANSPORT: 01761 439548 / [swan.transport@btconnect.com](mailto:swan.transport@btconnect.com)**

**SWAN Transport is a member of**



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