

Editor Tony Doyle

DACT CELEBRATES AT THE QUEENS AWARD PRESENTATION



What an amazing 24th year this has been in the life of DACT! In February this year we moved downstairs in the Abbey to our fine new Office and MiDAS Training Room which has given us a much better lay-out and is far more accessible for visitors. In July came the fantastic news that DACT and its brilliant Volunteers had been awarded the 'Queens Award for Voluntary Service' which is the equivalent of an MBE for Volunteer Groups. The Award presentation in September conducted by Mr David E Laing MA RIBA, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire was a memorable occasion enjoyed by a large audience who had gathered including many of our Volunteers. The moving stories from just a few of our volunteers made a big impact on the audience and these were followed up with reports being carried in the Newspaper and on BBC local Radio. The new building extension to our Mobility Shop is due to commence around the time this Newsletter is delivered. It will be 'business as usual' during the time of building and following its completion we will have a wider variety of mobility equipment available for sale and hire. The Pride of Northamptonshire Awards took place in October, and again DACT featured! Firstly, Ron Humpage, one of our Volunteer Car drivers picked up the Volunteer of the Year Award, and then I was nominated as a finalist in the Community Award. We are so grateful for all the magnificent volunteers who year after year continue to be the life-blood of this Organisation and we are extremely proud that this has been given Royal approval in this memorable year. Have a wonderful Christmas everyone. God bless you and yours at this special time...

Rob Kinning – CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Volunteers Christmas

Drop-in Fri 1st Dec

10 am – 4 pm

Come and join us in the
DACT Office
There is a buffet, drinks
and a warm welcome.




CAR PASSENGERS Book your journey as soon as you have the appointment; it can cause problems if you book late. We are very busy, please help us help you.

DACT Days Out – Meet new friends and have fun days out, it's easy and enjoyable Always put your name on the reserve list. We often put on a second bus if we get enough names.

Minibus Bookings
We have a fleet of minibuses
And they book up fast,
get in early.

I was forty eight years old when health issues brought my successful career as a Business Development Consultant in the Motor Industry to an abrupt end. I vowed that I would never become committed to any company ever again. When in recovery I decided to turn my hobby of singing Country Music into a way of life. I was quite successful and launched my own agency, finding work for other artistes as well as myself. This I did for five years before eventually taking on one of the pubs I was associated with. I never wanted a pub but saw it as a new challenge which involved a new learning curve.

I spent the last seven years of my "Working life" at this canal side pub in Derbyshire. During my time as Landlord, I met and married my wife, regained my faith and turned a loss making business into profit, eventually selling up and retiring in February 2017. Like most people I thought retirement was about being able to relax and be something to look forward to.

However, when the time actually arrived, it came as quite a shock to the system. I heard that DACT were always looking for volunteers so I came into the office and was Welcomed with open arms and bribed with a cup of coffee and biscuits. The team seemed a friendly bunch so I immediately signed up for both car and mini bus driving.

WHAT DO I GET OUT OF IT?

A SENSE OF BELONGING. This is something we immediately miss when we retire or lose our jobs through redundancy. It is a kind of bereavement. Working within the DACT team has given me so much more than I ever imagined.

FEEL GOOD FACTOR. People have said how good it is of me to volunteer? Well, I am of the opinion that no one does anything for nothing. The most caring and devoted people who give their time so selflessly to help others will probably agree that the rewards from volunteering are bountiful and that in truth we probably get much more back than we give.

CONTACT WITH A VARIETY OF PEOPLE. As an entertainer, I still play music in Care Homes and Community Centres for which I do get paid enough to cover my expenses. The real rewards however, come when you see a toe tapping or a smile arrive on the otherwise vacant face of a person trying to cope with an ever fading body and mind. People who use DACT services have a variety of health and mobility issues and sometimes all it takes is a little bit of extra consideration and understanding to put them at ease. So many have clients have told me how caring DACT Drivers have been towards them and how grateful they are for the services they depend on. I soon learned that I have high standards to live up to.

A BRIGHTER DAY. A friendly chat on the way to what might be a daunting hospital appointment hopefully brightens a passenger's day as much as it does mine. I understand now just how many people are lonely and isolated. I have already introduced one or two ladies to my wife and friendships have developed. This in turn has helped her to find a way out of depression. It has also helped us as a couple for which I am so grateful. Whenever possible, Jessica books herself onto DACT Day Out which I am booked to drive. This again presents opportunities for friendships to blossom.

APPRECIATION - We all need to feel that we are appreciated and for me there is nothing better than when people tell me that they have enjoyed a bit of a natter on the way to and from hospital or how much they have enjoyed a DACT Minibus Day Out. Just a word of appreciation makes volunteering so worthwhile.

A PURPOSE IN LIFE. This is essential for our own well being and vital for me in my own retirement. Something to motivate me, something to look forward to each day and also perhaps the chance to give a little back as a thank you for my own life, which, because of the care given to me by others has twice been saved.

In my opening paragraph I did state that I never wanted to become committed to work again? I thought that one or two DACT trips a week would be enough for me but I am happy now to commit as much time as possible to what I have discovered is not only a worthwhile but also an **ESSENTIAL** service to many people in the Daventry Area. Anyway this is **NOT WORK** it is a pleasure. **If I don't have a DACT trip booked each day I now feel lost.** *If you enjoy driving and meeting people, I can highly recommend that you join us as a volunteer. You can do as much or as little to suit you. Who knows, one day WE might need YOU to DRIVE US. None of us are getting any younger.*



This is what our Volunteers say about working at DACT Mobility

**DID YOU KNOW
DACT HAVE A
MOBILITY SHOP RUN
BY VOLUNTEERS?**

When I first started work at the DACT Mobility Shop I had no idea what I was getting into. I wanted to get out of the house and interact with people on a daily basis. This volunteer role has turned my life around. Chatting to our members and other volunteers has enabled me to build friendships. I very often drop into the shop on my days off to catch up with friends over a coffee.



Why do you volunteer with DACT Mobility Carolyn?



I think you just have to have a desire to help people. It is important to empathise with our customers and make sure you listen to what their needs are. We want to be able to find the most appropriate equipment for them. All other skills like using the till, booking out hire equipment is taught by the manager Beverley.

What skills or qualities are required for the role Karen?

Would you encourage others to volunteer with DACT Lesley?

If I can do it, anyone can! If you have spare time on your hands, contact DACT and see how much working in the Mobility Shop will grow on you, as it did on me. I have made new friends and enjoy speaking to regular members and helping customers overcome their mobility problems to keep them independent. Volunteering in the Mobility shop is very diverse and rewarding.



DACT Mobility Repairs is there for all of your mobility servicing, repair and recycling needs. It's important to make sure your equipment is in good working order.

Donations of Scooters and Wheelchairs for recycling help DACT finances



DACT Mobility Shop In New Street Daventry has a wide range of mobility equipment new and second hand for sale in the shop, we also hire out wheelchairs and mobility scooters with daily rates starting as little as £4.00 per week.

SAFETY & COMFORT ON THE ROAD or BEING ROAD SMART

I am a DACT Days Out minibus driver and a Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) assessor/trainer. I am also a Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM). Responsibility for DACT passengers, other road users, my family and my own safety and comfort is of paramount importance. Providing there is adequate support from among our 170 volunteer car and minibus drivers the local Northampton branch of the IAM can provide a free half-day introductory course, with a classroom session followed by group demonstration drives. This article is aimed at gauging interest and to determine when in the New Year such an event should be held. With that in mind if you feel inspired to participate, please contact the DACT office with your first, second and third choices of dates from the following list: 11th Feb 17th Feb 25th Feb

In addition there is the opportunity to become an Associate member of the AIM. For a one-off fee of £149 you will receive as many observed drives in your own car as necessary and to then take a test, usually conducted by an ex-police advanced driving instructor, in order to qualify as a full member. For more information visit www.iamroadsmart.com

Remember, many things have changed since we all passed our driving tests and we are never too old to learn! Whilst the fundamentals of driving may not have changed, consider: changes in the law; new rules and updates to the Highway Code and traffic signs; incorporation of technical innovations and improvements in driving techniques. Please consider adding IAM associate membership to your Christmas or birthday present list. **Rod Wyles**

Cliff..As If
The Look, Sounds and Moves
FRI 16th MARCH 8pm
Long Buckby
Community Centre
£10 a ticket
See the UK's
Number One Cliff Act
Have a drink at the licenced Bar
Tickets Daventry 01327 701665
Long Buckby 07766 663725
IN AID OF DACT

YES I will help DACT (Keeping Charity Local)

Please use my gift to help DACT provide community transport in the Daventry district.

My full name	<input type="text"/>	Address	<input type="text"/>
		Post Code	<input type="text"/>

Thank you for your support from all at DACT

Tel	<input type="text"/>
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BANK STANDING ORDER FORM

From the account detailed please deduct

☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £15 ☐ £20 ☐ £50

☐ Other £

Every ☐ Month ☐ Quarter ☐ Year ☐

Commencing day / month / year

Regularly until further notice

Pay to Daventry Area Community Transport account
No 10764175 Sort code 20 73 48 Barclays Bank High
Street Daventry Northants NN11 4BQ. Please ensure
any backdated payments are credited

I cannot give regularly at the moment but
please accept the enclosed gift £
Payable to Daventry Area Community Transport

I am a UK taxpayer and would like to treat all donations
I have made for the four years prior to this year, and all
donations I make in future as Gift Aid donations. I understand
that I must have paid an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital
Gains Tax at least equal to the tax you reclaim on my
donations.

giftaid it

Signature

Date

This replaces any previous standing order to DACT

Name of account holder

Name of bank and address

Post Code

Account number

Sort Code

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY. Paying bank please use the
following reference

In order to maximise your donation we will not send out
a receipt unless you tick this box ☐

DACT The Abbey
Market Square
Daventry Northants
NN11 4XG



Registered Charity, No:- 1170448