

SPELTHORNE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Newsletter No. 08



Autumn/Winter 2019

Price Increase from 1st November

The SVD continue to be in a fairly comfortable financial position, but have seen their funds dwindle steadily over the past 6 years.

We have now reached the stage where, to counter this, the committee have reluctantly decided to increase the £3.50 fixed charge to £4, from 1st November, 2019.

This will be the first increase in the fixed charge rate since September, 2016. So, it is hoped that this increase will still be seen as very good value for money. All other charges based on mileage rates, ie, to hospitals will remain unchanged at 45p per mile.

SVD – Latest News

AGM: Our Annual General Meeting was held on 26th June at the Council Offices in Staines. Among the attendees was the Mayor of Spelthorne, Cllr Mary Madams. All the members of the SVD committee were re-elected, bar Gill Peters, who resigned from the Secretary position. A new Secretary, Lynne Bulmer, was elected, and her husband, Michael, was also elected onto the committee.

SVD Personnel: We currently have a pool of 22 drivers and 5 Duty Officers who man the phone. Overall, our pool of drivers has increased by 10% over the past year. But, we are always on the lookout for more volunteers, drivers and/or Duty Officers!

No. of Drives: There were 1,056 drives undertaken by SVD in the year leading up to 30th April, 2019, up from 974 the previous year. The majority of those recent drives were to destinations within the borough, but we also ventured to hospitals outside of Spelthorne. The number of miles we covered also increased. In 2017/18, we covered 11,705 miles, whereas the figure in 2018/19 was 13,020 miles.

Driver's Log Sheets Submission

We are at that point of the year when our Treasurer, Michael Wright, will be asking all drivers to submit their completed Driver's Log sheets (up to 31st October). Therefore, could all drivers ensure their Log sheets are sent to Michael as soon as possible in November.



SVD Committee:

Chairperson: Anne Grigg
Secretary: Lynne Bulmer, Treasurer: Michael Wright
Members: Michael Bulmer, Judy Hall, Evelyn Lawrence, Stuart Surridge
Surrey Community Action Advisor: Vicki Turton

SVD Profile

Usually this section is devoted to one of our volunteer drivers, but in this edition, mention is given to our new Secretary instead.

Name: Lynne Bulmer

Husband: Married to Michael, one of the drivers

Children: 2 sons, one living in Japan

Grandchildren: 1, living in Japan

Favourite Food: Any!

Favourite Sports: Rugby Union (to watch!), Harlequins season ticket holder, like to play the occasional game of table tennis

Hobbies: Volunteering (befriender for Sight for Surrey and Age UK), Reading, Zumba, Pilates, Gardening, Knitting, Politics, seeing friends, and the occasional glass of wine, as you can see in the picture!! Just as well I'm not a driver!

Favourite Holiday Destination: Have a house in Normandy, France, love Italy, British Columbia, Canada (and Japan of course where we are able to visit at least once a year)



SVD Annual Party

As in previous years, we will be looking to hold another Annual Party in January (details to be advised).

Drivers don't often get the chance to meet up with each other. They may, on the odd occasion, bump (sorry, not a very good choice of word!) into each other in a waiting room at a clinic somewhere. But, this event provides a welcome chance for drivers to socialise with other drivers within our organisation, so is regarded as an important function.



And Finally, an Inspirational Quote

There are few things in life that bring as much joy as the joy that comes from assisting another improve his or her life.....Richard G. Scott

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