



SPRING 2024

NEW ELECTRIC CAR JOINS FLEET

We are delighted to have received funding for a third electric car which was delivered in March. The funding was provided by the Plugged in Communities Fund (Scottish Government) topped up by Community Windpower. The new vehicle is our second Mercedes eVito which has a range of 230 miles. Thanks to Tesco Lockerbie for allowing us to park in their car park. The car will be used for our hospital and individual services.



25TH ANNIVERSARY

2024 is the 25th year of ACTS (formerly known as Annandale Transport Initiative) providing community transport services in Annandale and now including Eskdale. From small beginnings in 1999 with two minibuses used for community group hires, the fleet has expanded to 4 minibuses and 5 community cars providing a range of well used and highly valued services across the whole community. We would like to thank every volunteer driver, Director, member of staff, funder and donor who have contributed to ACTS' continuing success.

HOSPITAL

We are delighted to have had confirmation that the funding for our hospital transport services is continuing for another year. This service provides door-to-door transport to NHS hospital appointments in Dumfries, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Carlisle and other hospitals patients may be referred to. The volunteer driver will also take the passenger home when they are ready. The passenger makes a contribution to the journey and the remainder of the vehicle running cost is subsidised through the Dumfries & Galloway Community Transport Strategy Group.

REVENUE FUNDING

ACTS was delighted to be awarded £13,000 by the Dumfries & Galloway Community Led Local Development Fund to provide community transport in Annandale & Eskdale. A further £10,000 has been received from the Dumfries and Galloway Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults to provide transport overcoming isolation.

Annandale Community Transport Services

Company number 200686 Charity number SC 029660

OWN DRIVER SAVINGS

With increasing admin charges for the provision of a volunteer driver, every group should consider whether they have anyone who could train to drive for them. The cost of £75 would be recouped after 5 hires; the certificate lasts for 4 years. The theory section is completed online and this is followed by a one-to-one driving assessment in the minibus. Drivers must have D1 on their licence. Contact the office for more details.

REPLACEMENT MINIBUS

We are working hard to try to raise funds to replace the 2 older minibuses as they are requiring increased maintenance and Low Emission Zones limit their use. Electric minibuses aren't yet suitable due to the restricted mileage range.

DAY TRIPS

The Travel Club offers friendly days out to places in Scotland and northern England. The trips pick up at various points throughout Annandale and allow 4 hours at the destination. We received some lovely feedback from a new Travel Club member – "I have now been on 3 trips – on all trips the drivers, all different, were helpful & kind, it is through them volunteering that enables me to get out and about again so please from a satisfied and happy customer say a big thank you to all." Why don't you find out more about our outings – you can travel alone or with friends for a safe and enjoyable trip.

GROUP ZONE

DON'T TAKE RISKS – BE A CAUTIOUS DRIVER

We have had an unusually high number of own-driver incidents resulting in damage to the buses, often a scrape along the side when trying to get through a tight gateway. The cost of these types of repairs has averaged £1037 and we anxiously await news of our renewal premium as we anticipate a big increase.

DAMAGE EXCESS

For several years the cost of own-damage excess has been held at £150 but, due to the increase in claims, this has been increased to £250. We recognise that this is a large sum for a small group so we are willing to accept payment by instalments if that would help.

INDIVIDUALS

Using our accessible community cars, ACTS can provide door-to-door transport for individuals, including those needing to travel in a wheelchair. We help people get where they want to go including attending family events, visiting friends, non-hospital health appointments and attending support groups. However, ACTS is not a taxi service and cannot provide transport at short notice as we use volunteer drivers.