



AUTUMN 2024

25 YEARS DELIVERING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



25TH ANNIVERSARY

Here are some of our volunteers and the 9 vehicles in the current fleet

FUNDRAISING FOR REPLACEMENT MINIBUS

We have been busy applying for grants to purchase a replacement minibus for one of the 2014 Lockerbie minibuses. It will be a conversion of a diesel Mercedes Sprinter and fully wheelchair accessible, costing about £85,000. We have been awarded £20,000 by Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company, £3,750 by the Dumfries & Galloway Regionwide Community Fund, £7,500 by The Robertson Trust, £7,500 from Annandale & Eskdale Area Committee and £12,000 from Clyde Wind Farm giving a total of £50,750 so far. It's a huge mountain to climb but we're making steady progress

AGM & 25th ANNIVERSARY GET TOGETHER

We will be having a celebratory 25th anniversary get together in Dryfesdale Church Hall Lockerbie with tea and cake to be followed by the AGM. This will be on Wednesday 20th November at 2pm. Please contact us if you are able to attend for catering purposes.



CARD PAYMENTS

It's now easy to make payments by card over the phone. Just call the office with your card ready and we can process the payment. We don't store any card information for your security.

Annandale Community Transport Services

Company number 200686 Charity number SC 029660

VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful to all our volunteer drivers for delivering our transport services – whether driving for schools, individuals to family events and support groups, or taking people to hospital appointments. The **drivers** have undertaken 1,334 activities over the last year over 5,856 hours. If you, or someone you know, is interested in helping by driving, we provide full training and pay out of pocket expenses. Drivers should be over 25 and have held a full licence for 2 years.

We are also looking for new **board members** to help oversee the running of ACTS. The skills you may be able to offer can include finance, HR, business management, volunteer experience, disability awareness, vehicle knowledge and so on. A full induction is provided and out of pocket expenses are paid.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

We now have 3 electric community cars, thanks to grants from the Community Climate asset fund and Plugged in Communities. They are all wheelchair accessible and comfortable to drive. Whilst our volunteer drivers enjoy driving them there are 2 main challenges – range anxiety and charging. Whilst we are keen to move to zero emission vehicles and improve the environment, we also need the options to work for our services. We have found ways to work around for the cars but at present there are no really suitable electric minibuses.

HOUSTON'S COACHES

We are hugely grateful to Houston's Coaches in Lockerbie for allowing us to keep 2 minibuses and an electric car on their site. This is a convenient base for the vehicles and we are also able to charge our car. Drivers need to remember



to wear hi-viz jackets while on site.

RETIREMENT

I am retiring at the end of December after 23 years in post. There have been huge changes over the years and we have delivered many thousands of passenger journeys, offering complementary services to the public and commercial transport provision. I have always been amazed by the many hours our volunteers give to the service both as drivers and board members. They are fantastic and the local community are fortunate to have others willing to give of their time to help. I will miss all my colleagues for their good humour and huge dedication to the mission that all at ACTS share, which is to provide an excellent, affordable and accessible community transport service. Long may ACTS continue.

Janet Saunders

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