



Hello everyone,

## **“GET YOU THERE”**

(Transport to and from Hospital and other medically related appointments)

This month I especially want to thank all our drivers who freely give their time in helping those in our community, who find it impossible to get to a hospital, GP, physio, dental, eye, etc. clinic without help – they cannot drive, they have mobility problems, and their family members and friends cannot always be available. For them we have “Get You There” which is our group of volunteers who are dedicated to taking and accompanying them to their appointments.

There is something special about people who, when I ring them out of the blue hoping that they might be able to take someone to Ipswich Hospital, Stowmarket Health Centre, one of three GP surgeries, Hartismere Hospital, West Suffolk Hospital, Colchester Hospital, and any number of other locations for an important medical appointment, immediately look in their diaries and say “yes, I can do that”. Or, if they can’t, they are so very apologetic that they have to be elsewhere on this occasion, and often add “if you really are stuck get back to me and I will try to rearrange things”. And, when they take someone they are not simply a taxi driver. They accompany them, chat with them, and will wait with them until they are ready to come home no matter how long – and be there to help out when there may be difficulties.

Since we started the service, it has operated remarkably smoothly but there have been times when we have had almost more requests than we can handle. However, every time there has always been someone who says “yes, I’d be pleased to take them” – and only on a couple of occasions have we been unable to help. So, on behalf of all the people the team has helped to make over 400 odd journeys over the past two and a half years, I want to say a huge thank you – you are so very greatly appreciated.

If there is anyone who might like to join the team please let me know. We try not to ask drivers to do more than a couple of trips a month and pay the standard car mileage rate of 45p per mile in expenses.

And thank you for all your donations and support throughout the year. Please remember that we can receive donations via the Co-op (just ask for your dividend to be given to **609313**) and on-line using the button on the home page of our website (below). Also don’t forget, we have wheelchairs for loan if you need one for a few days.

With all my best wishes, Lynden

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