

**RICKINGHALL AND BOTESDALE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 2017**

Living in this part of East Anglia in retirement is invariably a pleasure which many of us are fortunate enough to enjoy to the full. However, the rural idyll can become a challenge when we are no longer able to drive, or choose not to run a car, and have to depend on the vagaries of the local transport network to get us to appointments, to do the weekly shopping, or to visit friends or family.

There are various commercial services operating rurally but few are as customer-focussed, or as reasonably priced, as the much-used Community Bus Service based in Rickingham. Generally, though not exclusively, operating on weekdays on a not-for-profit basis, the Community Bus Service is run under the auspices of the Rickingham Parish Council and currently provides transport for anyone wishing to take advantage of the service. Now covering around 20 local communities with a friendly, comfortable and safe transport service around Suffolk and Norfolk, the Community Bus Service's specially-adapted vehicle can accommodate up to eight passengers, or seven passengers and one wheelchair. It is available for visits to the doctor or hospital, shopping trips, transport to and from a railway station, for club outings or simply for visiting friends and family. As a contribution towards the operating costs, use of the vehicle is charged at a fixed rate per mile travelled, measured from base, irrespective of the number of passengers.

Anyone wishing to use this service, or to obtain further information on it (or indeed wishing to join our small team of committed, volunteer drivers!), should contact Gordon Lawrence, Co-ordinator of the Community Bus Service, on 01379 897109. An answerphone is always available on this number but do remember that early booking for this popular service is recommended.

G J G Lawrence (Community Transport Coordinator)