

Frequently Asked Questions

Who Can Book the Bus? Recognised Community Groups, such as Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs, Church Groups, Organisations for the Disabled; also more informal groups needing transport to places of Worship, Community Activities, Cultural and/or Educational Events.

Can I book the bus and drive it myself? No. We undertake to provide a trained driver. This ensures your safety, protects the condition of the vehicle and is a requirement of our remit.

My family and I want to go to a wedding in Edinburgh. Can you help? Unless one or more of you specifically needs an accessible vehicle to travel in, this is not really in accordance with our remit. Our drivers are volunteers and the Government and various parts of the Community have provided the vehicle to be used mainly for work of benefit to the Community. There may be occasions when we are able to help but, for the most part, we must respectfully direct such enquiries to local commercial operators.

Can I book the bus to help me move a fridge-freezer?

Sorry; it's a passenger-carrying vehicle only.

Are you looking for more volunteers?

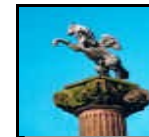
Yes please! Please contact our Secretary.

Chairman & Secretary: David Kerr
Vice-Chairman & Treasurer: David Dick
Bus Manager: Ronnie Gibson
Bookings : Janis Dick
Booking Line: 07842 163775

Community Thornhill & District Transport

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www.visitthornhill.co.uk/community-transport
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Affordable,
Accessible Transport

Thornhill & District Community Transport



Providing accessible transport for the elderly, the isolated and Community Groups in and around the Thornhill District.

(This leaflet is about Thornhill & District Community Transport in general; for booking information, prices etc., see leaflet 'Booking the Minibus')

**Booking & Information Line:
07842 163775**

Visit us at www.visitthornhill.co.uk/community-transport

Our Constitution says...

The Objective of Thornhill & District Community Transport Association is to promote the welfare of the Thornhill & District Community in a manner which is now or hereafter deemed by law to be charitable by –

- Bringing together representatives of statutory bodies and individuals
- Providing adapted transport suitable for the physically and mentally handicapped, the infirm and the aged so that they may be able to enjoy recreational and other pursuits
- Providing transport to community groups where public transport is not appropriate or available

In Other Words...

We are a Registered Charity, set up to provide affordable and accessible (i.e. wheelchair-friendly) transport services to Community Groups and individuals. Our vehicle purchase* was funded originally by, variously, the Scottish Government, Dumfries & Galloway Council, NGOs, such as Help the Aged, and by a number of local businesses, organisations and individuals. We also aim to be sustainable by making a small operating surplus to cover our day-to-day costs and, generally, we do so, though we are grateful for the continued support of local individuals, of Thornhill, Penpont & Closeburn Community Councils, Foundation Scotland and others.

What Do We Do?

For people in a rural area, such as Thornhill and District, who may be rurally isolated or unable to access conventional public transport, Community Transport Schemes, such as ours, provide the answer. We can provide a wheelchair-accessible minibus, and driver, to enable

* a new bus is expected February, 2018, courtesy of a slightly altered group of funders. More information later.

those in the District we serve, to get to and from Social, Educational and Cultural Events, Places of Worship and the like. Our service is aimed primarily at those individuals and groups for whom commercially available transport is not an option, whether by reason of remoteness, cost, frequency, or time of need.

Who Are We?

We are a group of local individuals, both men and women, with an interest in the voluntary provision of local transport. All are volunteers. Some are retired, some in full- or part-time employment. The majority of our drivers are MiDAS trained, and we are aiming to achieve a 100% MiDAS accredited panel of volunteer drivers in the near future. If you would like to volunteer



with us, we would love to hear from you. Our contact details can be found on the reverse of this leaflet.

How Do We Work?

We consist of a Committee of at least six Members, most of whom are Volunteer Drivers. There are also Office Bearers: a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Bus Manager. The Committee meets quarterly; the Office Bearers more frequently, often informally. We have an Annual General Meeting in May/June.

How Many Vehicles, and of What Sort?

At present we are operating a 2018 model Mercedes Sprinter/TBC Conversions 15 seat accessible minibus. This is a fairly recent replacement for a similar Volkswagen Crafter minibus, which we operated for some 11 years previously. The vehicle is equipped with a wheelchair hoist at the rear, and there is a rack system inside, together with seatbelts



and other restraints to allow the safe transportation of those in wheelchairs., a maximum of 3 of whom can be transported at any one time. All the other seats in the vehicle are also fitted with seatbelts and all those using the bus must wear them at all times when the vehicle is in motion.

Some Examples of Our Regular Work?

- We regularly run, in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway Council, a scheduled service, on alternate Fridays, from Thornhill to Dumfries via two rural routes (Gatelawbridge/Park and Penpont/Glenmidgie) (timetable on display in various shops, the Library & Health Centre in Thornhill, on the Thornhill website (see over), Penpont shop & PO, amongst others) Routes 214 and 215; to Castle Douglas (1st Wed of month; Route 217) and, between April & September, to Moffat (3rd Wed of month, Route 216)
- We provide transport for the local branch of Enable to attend Club Meetings in Kirkconnel
- We provide transport for several local churches to enable worshippers to attend services or other events..
- We provide transport for one or two local schools, to enable pupils to participate in Field Trips etc.
- We run occasional excursions, which are advertised in and about Thornhill, to places of interest.

How much does it cost?

You pay for the use of the vehicle: a mileage charge and a time charge (see leaflet 'Booking the Minibus' for current prices and how to go about it.), however many passengers travel. Charges are set to cover our costs (with a small surplus) only.