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Management Committee Members 2025 - 2026

Chair/Bus Manager	Mr Ian Midgley
Vice Chair	Mr Les Carr
Secretary	Mrs June Carr
Treasurer	Mrs Carol A Fletcher
MAT Trainer	Mr Sean Barnett
Office Manager	Miss Sheila Canney
Affiliates Representative	Mrs Yvonne Hitchings

Trustees

Alan Lowson
Ian Midgley
Carrol Roe
Sheila Canney
Carol Fletcher
June Carr
Les Carr
Samanthe Elder
Doreen Sadler

Volunteers

Ann Barnes
Pauline Davidson

Message from the Chair

Welcome to all of you here this evening. We have generally seen positive things happening with the Charity in the past year. The number of our affiliated groups has increased slightly from 25 to 29, and the three shopping clubs continue to be popular and serve the local community.The number of volunteer drivers remains at 16. We have 1 shopping club volunteer escort and 6 office volunteers. We also now have a training officer Mr Sean Barnett who is available to train new volunteer drivers. His efforts have allowed us to continue to offer a choice of volunteer drivers to affiliated groups who haven't nominated their own driver. We are always ready to welcome more people to join us in any of these capacities as some of our volunteers are fulfilling more than one role.

The main highlight of the year was the arrival of our new minibus which has been well received and is running nicely. Thanks to all of you who supported us in this venture. This modern bus now allows us to transport children in safety inappropriate child safety seats and these must be provided by the group that hires the bus.

We have also secured funding via the Government's BUS SERVICE OPERATORS GRANT and again I thank June and the office volunteers for their efforts to make this happen. We receive funding depending on how many miles we cover transporting older people so please don't be offended if the drivers ask for your age as we need to keep accurate statistics.

The next Item on the agenda is presented by our treasurer followed by the election of officials for the coming year. It is vitally important that we fill these positions and we welcome new faces. Training and support will be given and I appeal once more for volunteers. I also remind groups who struggle to find a driver that our drivers are all volunteers and some are still in full time employment. Any affiliated group can nominate a driver to be trained by us free of charge. This could be a friend,relative or a neighbour, not necessarily a member of their group. It is disappointing to cancel a trip because a driver is not available. Please ask if you would like more information on volunteering with Shildon Community Bus.

I sincerely thank all of our trustees and volunteers who have put in time and effort to keep Shildon Community Bus on the road and all the affiliated groups, without which we would have no reason to exist.

Treasurers Report
31st March 2026

We are in quite a healthy financial position having gained a grant from Durham County Council of £69090 towards the purchase of our new bus plus £1926.78 from Nigel's walk, donations from the community and £7000.00 for the sale of OV63 which meant we didn't have to touch our Reserve Account when purchasing the bus.

We have also been able to claim Bus Service Operators grant from the Department of Transport and RSCTI from Durham County Council which has helped us to absorb the rise in petrol costs due to the Gulf War up to the present time. We may have to increase our charges at some time in the future depending how long the conflict continues but will absorb the cost for as long as possible.

I have provided everyone with an end of year financial statement which I feel we should be pleased with.

There are adequate funds to continue our work providing the residents of Shildon and surrounding areas with two buses to cover all their needs whether it be shopping or pleasure trips out.

Lets hope we can look forward to another successful year ahead.

Report for the year 2025 - 2026

Over the year we have had 29 groups who have affiliated with us plus 6 groups which come under the umbrella of groups already affiliated.
Our buses have covered 10,875 miles serving the Shildon community and surrounding areas.
Our affiliated groups have taken the buses on a total of 227 trips.
The total passenger trips for the year were 3954 of which 1176 were disabled passengers.
Shoppers passenger trips totaled 1876 of which 114 were disabled passengers
I think our volunteer drivers, our Bus Manager and our Mat Trainer have done an excellent job over the year getting everyone to their destinations safely and on time.
In July we had a get together in The Railway Institute for all our volunteers and guests where everyone had a very pleasant evening with enjoyable company.
We took delivery of our new bus in August and although all the volunteers have not been trained to drive it yet we are slowly getting there.
The office was closed for two weeks over the Christmas period to give everyone time to spend with their families and enjoy the festive season.
January, February and March have been very quiet months for the buses which is usual for this time of year.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following individuals and organisations that have generously supported our work throughout the year.

All our volunteer drivers
All our volunteer staff
Our Trustees
All our Affiliated Groups
All our Affiliated Members
Our Bus Escorts
Durham County Council
Nigel Price
All our Supporters on PayPal
The residents of Shildon for their support