



Welcome to our winter newsletter and thank you for your support.

We have had another busy year with two more care homes requesting our services. This means in the warmer months we are booked to ride nine times per week Monday to Friday and on each session we typically do two trips. We are now working regularly with seven care homes and two day care centres in Congleton.



We welcome the increase in demand but this does put a strain on our volunteers so we are trying actively to recruit more volunteers. This year we are pleased to welcome three new pilots, one outrider and one administrator. All are fully trained before being let loose on the general public. Our volunteers are vital in running our successful rickshaw service and to show our appreciation we hold regular “get together” events where our volunteers can discuss what works well and what could we could do better.

We are fortunate to have the services of a team of experienced engineers led by one

of our trustees, Alec Scaresbrook, who keep the rickshaw running safely and reliably. Most of our volunteer drivers (or pilots as they are known) usually ask what happens in the event of a breakdown. Well, such an event became a reality this year when we



suffered a front wheel puncture. We carry a crib sheet on the rickshaw to which the pilot can refer in the event of a breakdown. Fortunately, we used the services of Poole’s Towing and Recovery who kindly returned the rickshaw to our garage, free of charge, where we could carry out the repairs. We are also keen to participate in local events and we were pleased to join the team at Priesty Fields for this year’s Pride march.





We welcomed Russell Watson and his daughter on the rickshaw for Priesty Fields' open day and we also attended the Green Fayre where we were happy to talk with our new MP, Sarah Russell, who was keen to hear about Beartown Rickshaw and what we do for our residents.



Our fundraising efforts

have proved very useful this year and we are extremely grateful to Rotary and the Astbury WAGS who took part in a swimathon and raised £738 for us and to the Co-op, who chose us to be part of their community fund donating, £1,524. These, along with our

other donations, for which we are very grateful, means that we have sufficient funds for the new year.



We also worked with Congleton Sustainable Travel in getting some barriers removed and we are very grateful to Cheshire East's ANSA who

removed two concrete bollards that were serving no useful purpose in Congleton Park. Our pilots did not like those bollards and some of them managed to scratch the rickshaw going through! Fortunately we have some touch-up paint so we will be gleaming in the new year.



If you know of anyone who lives on their own and would benefit from a ride around the park or Astbury Mere then please get in touch with us, either email info@btrickshaw.uk or call/text us on 07927 969196.

From everyone at Beartown Rickshaw we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are always looking for volunteers so if you would like to help, or know someone who may, please get in touch.