

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2008-2009



*Banburyshire Community Transport Association Limited*  
**Unit 17, Beaumont Business Centre**  
**Beaumont Close, Banbury**  
**Oxon. OX16 1TN**

**Phone/Fax: (01295) 273086**

**[www.banburyshire-cta.co.uk](http://www.banburyshire-cta.co.uk)**

**DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES**

(Members of the Management Committee)

Captain CHARLES NIXON-ECKERSALL, RN  
*Chairman*

Cllr ALASTAIR MILNE HOME  
*And also Representing Banbury Town Council*

Mr RORY McLEOD

Mr WILLIAM COLQUHOUN

Cllr PAUL O'SULLIVAN  
*Representing Cherwell District Council*

**SECRETARY AND GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr BRIAN PRICE, FCA

**FINANCIAL CONTROLLER**

Mrs JANE PACE, BSc Cert Acc FIAB

**ADVISERS**

**AUDITORS** – WHITLEY STIMPSON

**BANKERS** - LLOYDS/TSB and COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY

**LEGAL ADVISERS** – APLINS, Banbury and HENMANS, Oxford

**Registered Office:**

Unit 17, Beaumont Business Centre, Beaumont Close, Banbury, Oxon OX16 1TN

Registered in England & Wales No. 4212660  
& Registered Charity No. 1086879  
VAT Registration No. 623 9110 62

# BANBURYSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION LIMITED

*Chairman: Captain, Charles Nixon-Eckersall, RN*

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## Annual Report 2008

This report, my eleventh as Chairman, covers the activities of the company since our last Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008. During the year the directors decided to change the date to which the financial accounts would be made up from 31<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> December. We are therefore reporting on the financial accounts for the nine months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

Our activities during the year were Dial-a-Ride, Bicester Town Shopmobility and Group Transport and I report on each activity separately below.

### **DIAL-A-RIDE**

Our Dial-A-Ride service within the Banbury area, which started some 15 years ago, was initially for one day a week, funded by Oxfordshire County Council. We now provide twenty-six daily services a week covering Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington funded by Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. The Dial-a-Ride services are for mobility-impaired persons whose impairments make the use of conventional public transport difficult. They register themselves with Banburyshire Community Transport Association Ltd and therefore become members of the Dial-a-Ride community.

Registered members pre-book a service on the day before they need to use it. The service picks the member up at his or her home and returns them to it at a pre-booked time. 78 single passenger journeys were carried in the month of January 1994, now the average per month is some 3,800.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 the Dial-a-Ride service was free to holders of Cherwell District Council bus passes. However, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, with the withdrawal by the government of the use of old age pensioners' concession cards for Dial-a-Ride services countrywide, because those services are pre-booked, a new fare structure has had to be introduced. Fares are now charged at the rates of £1-25 per single journey within the towns of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, or, from £1-50 to £2-00 per single journey from outside those towns. National Travel Tokens are also accepted.

From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009 BCTA took over the Banbury-based services provided by Age Concern. We now operate these services with the volunteer drivers who previously drove for Age Concern. From the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 BCTA took over the running and operation of the two minibuses previously owned by Age Concern.

The passenger figures for this service can be found below:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	3,457	3,725	3,295	3,745	3,885	4,348	3,718
February	3,748	3,805	4,111	4,130	3,957	3,831	3,817
March	4,008	4,152	4,082	4,365	4,603	4,808	3,478
April	3,810	3,985	4,562	4,444	3,691	4,141	4,081
May	4,386	4,210	4,282	4,348	4,375	5,036	3,723
June	3,551	4,069	4,940	4,842	4,576	4,533	3,785
July	4,334	4,675	5,134	4,362	4,140	4,122	4,207
August	3,715	3,937	4,381	4,231	4,591	4,092	3,409
September	4,003	4,226	4,822	4,644	4,765	3,703	4,042
October	4,506	4,888	4,584	4,261	4,723	4,339	4,200
November	3,937	4,112	5,031	4,664	5,112	4,297	3,744
December	3,358	3,771	3,703	3,617	3,765	2,948	3,119
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>46,813</b>	<b>49,555</b>	<b>52,927</b>	<b>51,653</b>	<b>52,183</b>	<b>50,198</b>	<b>45,323</b>

### **BICESTER TOWN SHOPMOBILITY**

This service, paid for by Cherwell District Council and Bicester Town Council and managed by BCTA on their behalf, continues to prove popular in providing the less mobile people of Bicester and its surrounding area with increased mobility when shopping in the town. Currently, we have approximately 50 regular users, with 2,387 loans made in the nine months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. The service is open six days a week between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm. On the five days in the week on which the Dial-A-Ride service operates in the Bicester area we transport several members from their homes to the Shopmobility centre.

The equipment consists of 9 electric scooters, 5 manual wheelchairs, and one electric wheelchair. Mrs Elizabeth Addley, the manager, is assisted by three part-time assistants, without whose full commitment the scheme would not be successful. We also assist with the running of the British Red Cross Medical Loan Scheme. Two members of the staff are qualified to issue the Medical Loan equipment. Mrs Addley retires on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 after many years service to BCTA in a variety of capacities. We thank her for her commitment to the company and wish her a happy retirement.

### **GROUP TRANSPORT**

Under this activity BCTA provides a low cost minibus hire service for a wide variety of organisations within the Cherwell District. The demand for this service from many different groups and organisations has remained good, but there has been a shift from hirers who wish to drive our buses themselves, to hirers who wish to be driven by BCTA's drivers. The figures of usage over the last ten years and a sample list of the users of the service on a regular basis, are set out below:

<u>Years Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March</u>	<u>No. of Bookings</u>	<u>No. of Users</u>	<u>KMs</u>
2000/01	205	94	17,211
2001/02	163	67	24,214
2002/03	145	56	23,914
2003/04	146	60	24,312
2004/05	188	83	29,344
2005/06	188	72	30,378
2006/07	185	56	45,286
2007/08	212	74	67,690
2008*	181	72	49,652

\* 9 Months to 31<sup>st</sup> December

Regular organisations that use our group transport service:

Hometree House	Brooklands Nursing Home
Air Training Corps	The Three Tuns Social Club
Labour Sports	St Paul's Church
Banbury Cross Players	The Holly Tree Club
St Johns Social Club	Numerous other Community Groups
Banbury District Carers	

Such trips offer time for fellowship, for meeting new people and getting to know others better.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **GRANTS RECEIVED DURING THE NINE MONTHS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

#### **Dial a Ride Service**

Cherwell District Council paid £115,405 as an operating grant for the Dial-A-Ride services, of which £7,500 has been allocated to bus replacement. Oxfordshire County Council paid £17,653.

#### **Management**

Cherwell District Council paid £12,001 towards the management costs of the company.

#### **Bicester Town Shopmobility**

Cherwell District Council paid £19,648 for this service, of which, we understand, Bicester Town Council provided £3,750.

We are grateful to all the local authorities concerned for their continued support.

## **INCOME**

Income generated from passengers by means of fares amounted to £57,918 for the nine months compared with £66,823 for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

## **DEFICIT**

A deficit of £20,071 has been made for the nine months under report, which compares with a surplus of £17,045 for the previous year. The deficit is mainly accounted for by the withdrawal of an electronic smart card reading system designed for and purchased by the company, made necessary by the withdrawal by the government from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 of the right to use Cherwell District Council's smart cards for Dial-a-Ride services.

## **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

Capital expenditure during the nine months was £48,256. One second-hand vehicle was acquired for 23,495, in a rolling programme of upgrading of the company's bus fleet. The fleet currently consists of twelve buses, four Mercedes Benz 15 seaters, two Mercedes Benz 10 seaters, two 16 seater UVM Mercedes, one Renault Master 16 seater, one 12 seater LDV Maxus, one 15 seater UVG LDV and a 16 seater Ford IVECO. In addition £24,000 was spent on the electronic smart card reading system, which has had to be withdrawn and written off.

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS/STAFF**

Management Committee members for the year covered in this report were:-

### **Directors and Trustees**

Captain Charles Nixon-Eckersall – Chairman  
Cllr Alastair Milne Home – also representing Banbury Town Council  
Cllr Paul O'Sullivan – representing Cherwell District Council  
Mr Rory McLeod  
Mr William Colquhoun

### **General Manager and Secretary**

Mr Brian Price, FCA

### **Financial Controller**

Mrs Jane Pace, BSc Cert Acc FIAB

The Directors and Trustees posts are all honorary. The General Manager post is part-time and is financed by grant from Cherwell District Council. The Financial Controller is paid on a self-employed, time-incurred basis. In addition, the company has three full-time members of staff, ten paid bus drivers, and a full-time manager of the Bicester Shopmobility office, supported by three part-time staff. The company is also supported by five volunteer Age Concern drivers.

## **THE FUTURE**

Of major concern in the months ahead will be the reaction of our long-standing members to the imposition of fares for services they had enjoyed free. The nature of this support for BCTA's very personal transport services will directly determine the scope of the company's future operations.

**VOTE OF THANKS**

This report would be incomplete without warm thanks to my colleagues on the Management Committee and to the staff and drivers and those who support BCTA in so many ways. We are also most grateful to Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council for their continuing commitment to the provision of our community transport services and to the residents of the Cherwell District Council area who use them.

*Charles Nixon-Eckersall*  
*Chairman*

*30<sup>th</sup> July 2009*