

# 2023 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



*It's been another exciting year with lots of new and exciting developments here at Sedcat. Our expansion into the Poole and Christchurch areas being one of the most significant. We also managed to secure a substantial Grant from the Motability Scheme to purchase more vehicles so we can continue our expansion into other BH postcodes.*

*Our Membership has grown exponentially over the past year and post pandemic people are yearning to socialize with one another again. Our Hospital Hop and Community Car services are once again operating at full capacity. Now more than ever with the looming cost of living crises has making affordable accessible transport been essential in getting people to their vital medical, hospital and self-care appointments.*

**Natascha Mc Allister—Chief Officer**



## Plans for the New Year

**Offering Services to residents living within Post codes BH23**

**Review all our Policies and Procedures with focus on Health & Safety**

**Continue collaborating with other Charity associations and health care providers so we stay connected with the needs in the communities**

**Become disability ambassadors for various disabilities and find partners to collaborate with to create awareness so we can best support our client needs**



## What we have been up to in 2023

### Community Car Service

Our volunteer drivers take people to their essential medical and self care appointments, social clubs and more. This year we provided **2650** passenger journey's.

### BAT Bus Service

Providing door to door accessible minibuses that take people to lunch and shopping outings. This year we provided **3164** passenger journey's.

### Hospital Hop

A daily accessible shuttle service to Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Hospitals. In the year we provided **3038** journey's helping people get to vital medical appointments.

### Shopmobility

We provide electric scooters, power and manual wheelchairs for hire on a daily bases and "longer loan periods". This year we hired our equipment **706** times and for a total of **1056** days.

### Social Trips

Sedcat have collaborated with other charities providing vital transport services so the community can continue to socialize with one another. During the year we provided **82** extra passenger journey's to other charities.



### We celebrated the Kings Coronation



### Our Volunteer Ambassador Community Car Driver

Sedcat have collaborated with Peoples First Forum providing transport to their Big Night Out Event



## Highlights and Achievements

**sedcats** continued to grow our services in the Poole area (BH12 – BH18) and through the generous Grant from the Community Transport Association we were able to also offer lunch outings to the Poole residents. The Grant also assisted the Dft research project into the impacts and benefits of Community Transport in tackling loneliness.

**sedcat** launched its MIDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) Training programme and this year trained 4 of our own drivers as well as 3 external candidates. The Drivers are trained to the national standard for driving minibuses as permitted within the scope of their Driving Licenses, up to a maximum capacity of 16 passengers and includes an element of Accessibility and how to strap in wheelchairs whilst in transit.

We continued to build on **partnership working** and forged collaborative relationships with other Charities to provide transport services, Peoples First Forum, MyTime & BCP Young Carers, Abbeyfield Wessex Care & Dorset Blind association to name but a few.

We were also very fortunate to receive funding from the following donors, and give a special thanks to:

- BCP Council
- Saville Castlepoint Tenants Grant
- Alice Cooper Dean Charitable Trust
- The Albert Hunt Trust
- Community Transport Association
- The Motability Scheme

Through our Grant from The Motability Scheme we could purchase another Hospital Hop Van and honored our trustee Paul Payne whom we lost during the year, for his dedicated service to Sedcat



We wrote an article and highlighted the challenges that people face living with Parkinson's. One of our regular clients find the use of our scooters most helpful in getting around to do some shopping and we regularly take him to his medical and hospital appointments.



The Bournemouth Round Table took part in the Skinflint Rally and raised some funds for our Charity

# How to get involved

**“Join us on the journey to changing people’s lives!!**

## **Make a donation**

We would be unable to continue operating all of our services without the valuable donations we receive. A donation will make a difference no matter how big or small and if you are a tax payer, we can claim back 25p on your donation through the Gift Aid scheme.

## **Promote Us**

Head across to our social media pages and promote us to others or word of mouth is still the best form of promotion.

## **Participate in the BH Coastal Lottery**

For £1 a week, you can help **sedcat** and have a chance of winning up to £25 000. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week. All you need to do is visit our page at <https://www.bhcoastallottery.co.uk/support/sedcat> and follow the instructions to buy a ticket.

## **Leave a Legacy in your will.**

If you are considering leaving a legacy to charity, we can provide you with the details of how you can support **sedcat**. You will need to speak to your solicitor to put it in your will or donations can be arranged through a funeral home.

## **Become a volunteer**

At sedcat, we understand how important it is to provide opportunities for anyone living in the community who wish to contribute to society by helping those less privileged. We greatly value our dedicated band of volunteers who work tirelessly to help us in our mission to bring accessible and affordable transport to residents in the local area who struggle with their transport needs.

***With that we would like to give a special thanks to all our volunteers, staff and trustees who give of their precious time to help sedcat serve our purpose and make a difference in the Community.***

Charity No: 1146311 Company No: 07800298

Phone: 01202 534 027

Address:

Castlepoint Shopmobility

Castle Lane West

Bournemouth

BH8 9XA

[www.sedcat.org.uk](http://www.sedcat.org.uk)



## **Christmas opening times**

We will be closed over the festive season from lunch time the 22nd December and reopen again on Tuesday the 2nd January 2024. However Shopmobility will still be open on Saturday the 23rd December.

Our first shopping run will be on Tuesday the 9th January 2024 for Zone B and Thursday for Zone A.

Lunch outings will resume again on the Wednesday the 10th January 2024.



***Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a very special New Year. May you stay safe and well.***

