

## **ALBRAM Patients' Group, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

### **ALBRAM Car Scheme**

The Scheme was suspended in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic and resumed its activities on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Safety practices are in place to help protect Drivers and patients.

Demand for our services is steadily growing. Over the two months since our service has restarted, Alconbury Drivers have provided a total of 49 journeys and Brampton Drivers 38.

This equates to a monthly average of 24 and 19 respectively.

For comparison, the monthly average over 2019/20 was 37 for Alconbury and 43 for Brampton.

#### Membership

There are currently 28 Drivers within the Scheme: 12 are currently active in Brampton and 10 in Alconbury. We have recently recruited 2 new volunteers in Brampton with a third currently being registered.

Many of our Drivers readily volunteered to help out at the Alconbury Surgery during the vaccination programme. Their assistance and reliability has been very much welcomed and recognised.

#### Farewells

Richard Scott left the Scheme in December 2020, having been a Driver since 2013. Another Alconbury Driver, Gordon Bartholomew, also decided to stop volunteering in June 2021.

On behalf of the Scheme, I would like to record our gratitude for their extensive and willing contribution in helping the community. We wish them well for the future.

#### Remembrances

It is with sadness that we heard of the passing of two of our Drivers in the past year, namely Roger Wall and Harry Cairns. Both drivers gave tremendous support to the Car Scheme and to ALBRAM, and were always very willing volunteers.

Roger was a long-standing member of the Car Scheme from 1999 and additionally, he and his wife Sue, managed the Scheme from 2012 until 2018. Roger had also held the position of ALBRAM Patients' Group Chair.

Harry was a volunteer driver for almost 10 years. Harry was also ALBRAM Patients' Group Treasurer for many years, before retiring in 2020.

They are very much missed. Our thoughts are with Sue and Lesley, respectively, and their families.

### Finance

The last claim made to CCC covered the quarter April 2020 to March 2021 to the value of £57.65 which was paid directly into the APG account.

There are no BACS facilities available with the Scheme's bank account, so Drivers who claim their 'top-up' mileage allowance continue to be paid in cash by the Scheme Administrator. Cash in hand is currently £88.26.

### Transport Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee last met on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. In lieu of a meeting during these restrictive times, it was agreed within the ALBRAM Committee that the Transport Sub-Committee that I would prepare a situation report. This was circulated to Sub-Committee members in June 2021 and an updated version distributed in advance of this Committee meeting.

### Matters Arising

I had raised 3 issues at the January 2020 ALBRAM Patients' Group meeting. They are:

- (a) Drivers report that patients are still finding it difficult (particularly with their walkers) to cross the outer entrance into Brampton Surgery. Can something be done to level the surface?
- (b) There are 2 disabled spaces at Alconbury Surgery. These have on occasion been found to be blocked by a van delivering to the Surgery / Dispensary.
- (c) The approach to the Alconbury Surgery from the car park is via a high kerb. Can a drop kerb be installed in its place? This would help the situation at (b) above.

I am pleased to report that all of these have since been addressed.

Kim Summerfield  
Car Scheme Administrator  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2021