



East Grinstead & District Lions Club
(International Association of Lions Clubs)
District 105 SE England

WE SERVE

News Release

Contact PRO

15 November 2003

Swimming for EGBUS and EGDART

I took part tonight in the Lyons Charity Swim to publicise the acute shortage of voluntary drivers for EGBUS and EGDART. These are two community vehicles intended for hire by disabled or elderly people and others. EGBUS is a minibus, EGDART is a dial-a-ride vehicle, and both of them can transport people in their wheelchairs.

The services are completely dependent on voluntary drivers, and now there are not enough drivers to satisfy all the requests for hire. Drivers can drive as often or as little as they wish, and when they wish. Some choose to drive a few times a year whilst others drive more frequently, perhaps once a week on a particular day. On receiving a request for hire the transport staff contact the volunteers until they find one who is free to drive for that journey. All volunteers are trained and assessed before they take passengers out, so there is no need for apprehension about knowing what to do. Hirings vary considerably in distance driven, duration and time of day, but each driver decides what he or she is prepared to take on. Drivers usually have a lot of fun.

If you want to ask about it, without commitment, please contact Chris Bunting at the East Grinstead CVS (Council for Voluntary Service) on 01342 328080.

Anthony Brittain
15 November 2003