

## Why Volunteer?

We take you on a journey with our volunteers to show you how valuable and worthwhile the experience is personally...



## Driver Tom's Story:



"The Keswick branch of the Cumbria Voluntary Social Car Scheme has numerous regular customers who find the service incredibly valuable, so we are spoilt for choice in identifying any single individual to tell you about.

Perhaps the easiest for me to highlight is the case of a neighbour of mine called Patricia White.

Patricia has problems both with her sight and her hearing, and in order to negotiate normal daily activities she really needs the help of a friend and I feel that she finds this in me as a voluntary car driver.

Patricia lives in Keswick and has regular routine appointments at Carlisle Hospital to improve her sight and to attend these appointments using either NHS Patient Transport, public transport or a taxi service is extremely difficult.

With the voluntary car service, she is met at the door to her apartment and escorted to the car and on arrival at the hospital she is again escorted to her seat in the waiting room of the eye clinic. The value of that service is immense.

As a retired person I have no problem with spending an hour in the Costa Coffee shop reading a newspaper and browsing the web and the phone call to let me know that her appointment is finished always comes before I expect it!

The same level of assistance is provided on the return journey and if it has been a somewhat demanding consultation with injections into her eye which further reduces her eyesight.

The level of Patricia's appreciation is most rewarding, and I believe she now looks upon these excursions as a treat and not a trial.

All in all, it is a very rewarding experience for us both. (Oh - and I get paid £0.45 a mile as well!!")

## Your story starts here:

Please get in touch – volunteering surrounds you with other friendly volunteers and grateful neighbours. Beginning with a chat, we could see your days feeling fulfilled.

The Keswick scheme, like so many others in Cumbria are looking to recruit more volunteers to help manage the growing need to get people out and about who have no alternative transport options. It's a great way to give a little back, as we all know one day, we all may need this too. Expenses are reimbursed.

## Contact Katy

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