

Volunteer in the Community

At one of the meetings at Ayton Lodge, Jeff Hillyer, a trustee for Cleveland Clevearc Alzheimer's asked for volunteer relief drivers for the Alzheimer's Day Care Centre at Guisborough.

I volunteered and after a few test-drives this became a permanent one-day a week job. starting at 8 am by go along with a carer called Ang, and picking up the day patients (up to13 of them) and taking them to the care centre.

At 3 pm I go back and take them home.

They reside in East Cleveland from Normanby, Eston, Redcar, Marske, New Marske, Saltburn, Skelton and Guisborough.

The mileage for the two journeys is just over sixty miles. But it takes more than 2 hours morning and 2 hours afternoon

The patients have various degrees of the illness and the care centres encourages them into activities and also give them a good lunch

This also gives their loved ones a little respite.from a very demanding role as carers

During the drive and when Ang is escorting them to and from the bus I try to engage them in conversation.

They respond particularly well to this and show me the greatest appreciation.

I do enjoy it and look forward to Tuesdays (my driving day !!!!!)

David Burke
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