

## Introducing Careride Community Car Scheme

On the 25<sup>th</sup> July, a group of seven local volunteers met in the Victory Hall, Somersham to set up a new voluntary car scheme for Somersham and the surrounding villages of Bluntisham, Colne, Pidley, Earith, Old Hurst and Woodhurst. The name of this new service is Careride Community Car Scheme.

Careride's aim is to provide transport for people who cannot drive their own car and who find it difficult to use public transport. Careride will be co-ordinated from a mobile phone, the number of which will be made known around the villages. The scheme co-ordinator will answer calls or pick up messages left on the mobile between the hours of 10am-2pm on week days. When she receives a request for a lift, the co-ordinator will match the request with a driver who is able to do the job. The driver will charge the passenger 25p a mile to cover costs.

So far, five volunteer drivers have come forward from the villages of Earith, Bluntisham and Somersham. More volunteers are still needed if we are to be sure of meeting all requests for transport. **Drivers from Woodhurst, Old Hurst, Colne and Pidley are especially needed.**

Anyone who can offer a couple of hours just occasionally to take someone shopping, to the surgery or optician, or to visit a friend would be very welcome. Drivers can offer as much or as little time as they can afford. It may be that there are young mums who would like to do this just for a short time before they return to work. Don't be put off if you are only available to drive one day a week. This would be very useful for the scheme. Drivers are always much appreciated by people for whom such a scheme can be a lifeline and which enables them to get out of their homes. Drivers are re-imbursed for their mileage expenses by charging 25p to the passenger and also by Cambridge County Council who pays them a further 14p a mile.

If you would like to volunteer or to know more about Careride, please contact Jan Kaneen on 01480 496620, or come to the next meeting which will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept at 10.30am at Church Street Health Centre.