

D&G HANDYVAN (SCIO) **THIRD ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016**

When St Augustine of Hippo, the fourth century church father and philosopher, pondered the nature of time, even he, who had much to say about many things, expressed puzzlement:-

“What, then, is time? If no-one asks me, I know. If I wish to explain it to one that asketh, I know not. My mind is on fire to know this intricate enigma.”

Those words resonate today. Of all the scientific intangibles that shape our lives, time is arguably the most elusive – and the most powerful. Without time and the tools we use to measure it – clocks, calendars, speedometers, chronometers, vibrating atoms and a host of other artefacts that mark it – life, as we live it today, would be severely unregulated to say the least.

With this topic in mind it is time to appraise the performance of D&G HandyVan (SCIO) over the past twelve months.

The good news was that funding for the D&G HandyVan (SCIO) services from Dumfries & Galloway Council Housing Sub-Committee remained at the same level as the previous year. Funding was also secured for Dementia Friendly Design for a period of 3 years. Part of this funding went towards employing a part-time administrative assistant and we made use of D&G Employability Total Access Point (TAP) to employ Collette Brown.

To ensure that D&G HandyVan (SCIO) Board and Staff members understood what “Dementia Friendly Design” actually meant “in the real world”, a visit was made to the Iris Murdoch Centre at Stirling University on 27 April 2015. The knowledge of the University staff was excellent and everyone found the trip of benefit. During the year D&G HandyVan (SCIO) has had 70 dementia referrals which generated 94 tasks.

The Small Repair & Home Support Service also received extra funding in November 2015, following justification of increased referrals throughout the year. There were a total of 1927 referrals which generated 2278 tasks.

The gutter cleaning service is expanding exponentially with 639 projects carried out during the year.

Volunteer recruitment is an ongoing operation but I am pleased to say D&G HandyVan (SCIO) has a good core of 7 placed across the Dumfries & Galloway region.

To keep “ahead of the game” D&G HandyVan (SCIO) took delivery of a new green coloured van in October 2015 and a new defibrillator received in July 2015 is now on the vehicle.

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Training for Board members and staff is an ongoing process with, for example, such an event taking place in August 2015 to train on defibrillator usage.

Marketing never ceases and thanks are due to Brian Patterson for creating a new website with up-to-date information, a new layout and colour. Contact was also made with DynamicIT to create a new database to make the service more streamlined. There has also been widespread distribution of our leaflets with an updated design to incorporate Dementia Friendly Design.

We have had good relations with other office users, namely Annandale Transport Initiative (ATI) and Timebanking.

Nothing stands still as “time and tide” wait for no man but I believe D&G HandyVan (SCIO) is well set up to meet any new challenges in the next 12 months.