

BORDERS WHEELS NEWSLETTER

OUR STORY

History

Borders Wheels is the unification of 4 Community Transport Organisations in the Borders. Teviot Wheels, Gala Wheels and Tweed Wheels came together first and were joined by Berwickshire Wheels in 2024. This allows Borders Wheels to be a truly Borders wide organisation, supported by staff and volunteer drivers. Borders Wheels has a fleet of accessible vehicles for use by individuals, groups and communities across the Scottish Borders. Staff and volunteers also support our two charity shops, one in Innerleithen and the other in Jedburgh.

Mission Statement

Borders Wheels exists to offer all individuals, groups and communities access and affordable travel.

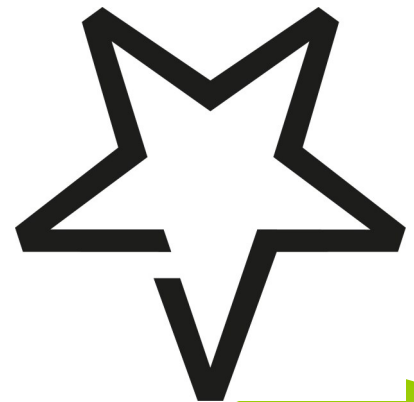
Aims

To reduce the level of isolation caused by a lack of accessible and affordable travel. We are committed to continue to work with all interested groups and communities to deliver a safe, affordable and friendly service to benefit all.



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

At Borders Wheels we want to celebrate our Volunteer Drivers and Shop Assistants. We wouldn't have achieved what we have without you. You have ensured that we continue to support the communities across the Borders. We have 33 Shop Volunteers who give their time to our Thrift Shops and 42 Volunteer Drivers who cover the whole of the Borders. From January to April 2024 you have driven 30,394 miles, transported 4,354 passengers and given 2097 volunteer hours. From January to May, you have covered 2056 hours in our shops. You have achieved an awful lot and for that - we thank you. You have supported and enabled us to do what we do.





FUNDING NEWS

Borders Wheels were delighted to receive £7.5k from The Robertson Trust in April to go towards a new vehicle purchase, much more funding work is underway so watch this space.



PHOTO COMPETITION

In June we would encourage all of you to take photos out and about of your role in the Borders Wheels organisation. Be it a member of staff, a driver and a trip out, or a shop volunteer in the shop we are seeking your images. These will be judged at the end of June and top three images will all receive a small prize!! Get snapping and please note images will be used on Social Media so make sure you have, or you give consent.

WE HAVE A NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Denise Carmichael is our new Chief Executive Officer, Denise joined Borders Wheels in March, after 15 Years in an Active Travel role at Scottish Borders Council, where she was awarded Volunteer Manager of the Year by Paths for All in Autumn 2023. Denise managed a Team of 120 active volunteers and brings a strong knowledge base into her role with Borders Wheels. Denise is leading on the relaunch of the new Borders Wheels organisation in Autumn 2024.

OTHER NEWS

In March, Borders Wheels also welcomed Brenda Vannan to the organisation as the new Transport Manager for Tweed. Brenda joins us from a background in corporate pensions.

In April we were delighted to complete the merger of Berwickshire Wheels into the Borders Wheels fold and staff took up their existing posts with us. It is great to be together as one strong Borders wide organisation. We are working hard to support each other without boundaries and we thank our Volunteers who have helped us recently with doing just that.

We completed a review of all Borders Wheels fleet insurance, which whilst achieving some savings, also allows us much better management of all of our vehicles and means we can also raise the driving age of our volunteers!



Borders Wheels

Registered in Scotland as a Company Limited by Guarantee No. SC305830:
Scottish Charity No. SC037646
Registered and Head Office: Brewerybrig, Low Buckholmside, Galashiels TD1 1RT

www.borderswheels.org.uk