

CATBUS 2026 UPDATE

CATBus has had its busiest 6 month period to the end of April 2026, since we started in 2002, with April 2026 being the busiest month ever.

We continue to promote CATBus and now have seven minibuses to meet the increased demand. Passenger numbers have increased by 43% since 2023, with nearly 25,000 single passenger journeys in 2025.

Our social cars take passengers to medical appointments out of area, often to Yeovil District Hospital. We are estimating just under 1000 trips in 2026.

We continue to provide outings for residents, this week we have been to the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth, Dykes in Shaftesbury and Poole in Dorset. We aim to expand our trips this year and have a full list available on request.

The financial costs of running the CATBus continues to be challenging, especially with the significant increase in our fuel costs. We work very hard raising funds to support our work but with less money about and more organisations chasing, that route for funding is becoming ever more competitive.

There are so many in our community that have no access to affordable transport, access to medical appointments, social events to ensure relief from isolation and food shopping which many take for granted, is simply not possible without the Community Transport operations throughout the UK. CATBus does door to door, providing support where necessary and in many cases, we are the only people some will see. We interact closely with other charitable organisations in our area, such as the MHA, The Growing Space, The Balsam Centre, care homes in our area and many independent groups, providing transport to events, door to door.

CATBus is available to everyone in our community, the more it is used the better for our cost recovery, we have been around for nearly 25 years and are well versed in supporting those who need help with transport.

You can visit us in the Balsam Centre in Wincanton or call us on 01963 33864 or visit our website at southsomersetringride.org.uk

