BARBARA BUS

The patients of the NSIC have access to an adapted vehicle provided by the Barbara Bus Fund.

Are you fed up with being stuck in the hospital?
Would you like to be able to get out for the day?
Find out how the Barbara Bus Fund can help you.

Introduction

The Barbara Bus Fund began in 1968 at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. Barbara Werndly, a long term patient there, set up a donation based registered charity, the aim of which was, and remains, to provide a means of transport for people who because of their disability are unable to use conventional forms of transport.

Over the years the Fund has helped to transport thousands of people – sometimes just down the road to the dentist or hairdresser, to family parties, christenings, weddings and funerals, to theatres and cinemas, restaurants and shops and further afield to respite and holiday centres and even day trips and holidays abroad.

You will find full details of the Fund on our website – www.barbarabus.com.

At Stanmore the Fund has grown and developed and now has a fleet of six modern specially adapted vehicles which can be borrowed for anything up to two weeks at a time. We are now delighted to be able to provide one vehicle at Stoke Mandeville for the use of patients who are in the National Spinal Injuries Centre. For full details of how to make use of the vehicle, please read on.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can use the vehicle?
Any patient at the NSIC who uses a wheelchair and cannot easily transfer to a seat in a car.

How much does it cost?
As a Registered Charity the Fund makes no set charge to use the vehicle; users are asked to replace the fuel and make a donation to the charity.
Where can I go in the Vehicle?
Wherever you like – but please bear in mind that there is only one vehicle for all the patients to share.

Who can drive me?
Any friend, relative or carer who has a full manual UK licence and is aged between 25 and 70 years of age. Every driver must register with the Fund before driving and will also need to have a demonstration the first time they drive the vehicle.

How can I register a driver?
A driver registration form is on page 21 of this section. The forms must be completed and sent to the Fund at the address overleaf along with two passport sized photographs and a copy of the driver’s licence, which must be verified by a member of staff at the NSIC. The driver will then be issued with a Driver’s Card and will need to arrange for a vehicle demonstration before the first use of the vehicle.

What about insurance?
Once drivers are registered they are automatically covered by our Fully Comprehensive Insurance and Public Liability Cover.

How do I make a booking?
Call the Fund on 020 8416 0733 between 10am and 3.30pm, Monday to Friday, or e-mail the address below to check availability.

Where does my driver pick up the keys?
From the NSIC Reception 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, at all other times from the NSIC Bleepholder 779.

Will my wheelchair fit in the vehicle?
Most standard wheelchairs will fit – please see over for specific vehicle measurements and other details.

Can I use the vehicle after I leave the NSIC?
Patients living locally may have use of the vehicle Monday to Friday but weekend use is kept exclusively for in patients. Other vehicles are available from Stanmore.

How can I make a donation to the Fund?
You can send a cheque to the Fund at the contact address below, made payable to ‘Barbara Bus Fund’. If you are a UK taxpayer you can complete a Gift Aid form which increases the value of your donation – call 020 8416 0733 for details. Or you may like to set up a Standing Order if you plan to use the vehicle frequently.

Checklist for Use of the Barbara Bus Vehicle

- Has your driver registered and received the Driver’s Card?
- Has your driver had a vehicle demonstration?
- Have you booked the time and date for your trip?
- Have you checked the measurements of your wheelchair to make sure it will fit in the vehicle?
- Have you returned the vehicle clean, tidy and with a full tank?
- Have you made a donation to the Fund?
Contact Details

For booking, enquiries, drive registration and donations:

The Barbara Bus Fund
Louis Fleischmann Building
RNOH
Brockley Hill
Stanmore
Middlesex      HA7 4LP
Tel/Fax: 020 8416 0733
Email: office@barbarabus.com
Website: www.barbarabus.com

Vehicle Profile

The Barbara Bus Fund vehicle located at the NSIC Stoke Mandeville is a white Citroen Dispatch named ‘Barbara’, Reg. No. BX06GKC and these are the details you will need to know about it:

- Diesel Engine
- Rear ramp electrically lowering suspension
- 4 seats including driver
- 1 wheelchair space
- Internal Dimensions for wheelchair:
  - Entry height 1.52m (60”)
  - Max internal height 1.44m (57”)
  - Max width (for chair) 0.73m (29”)
  - Max length (for chair) 1.72m (68”)
- External Vehicle dimensions:
  - Overall height 1.93m (76”)
  - Overall width 1.80m (71”)
  - Overall length 4.44m (175”)
- Wheelchair secured with 4-point webbing restraint ‘Solo’ system
- Retractable side step for easy assess to rear seats
- Fully comprehensive insurance covers all drivers who register
- No smoking in vehicle
- Please fill tank and leave vehicle clean and tidy on return
- Return to designated bay in NSIC car park