



Ken wanted something to keep him busy in retirement - driving with Cuckmere Community Buses was just the ticket. He's now been driving with us for over 5 years.

How did you end up becoming a volunteer bus driver, Ken?

I was due to retire from working in London in March 2016 and was looking for something to do. My wife saw an advert on the back of a Cuckmere bus and thought I might enjoy it. I rang the number,

was impressed with the aims and principles of the charity and signed up! She was right (as she always is!) I enjoy the driving, being part of a very friendly and worthy organisation and providing a service to the country villages.

How often do you drive and how many routes do you know?

I drive five or six times a month. I try and fit round my wife's diary so it doesn't interfere with homelife too much. I know four routes, but mainly drive two - both country village routes where the driving conditions can be interesting! You never know quite what's coming round the next bend, but it's great fun.

What's your favourite drive and why?

I honestly couldn't choose between routes 42 and 43. They both connect rural villages with Hailsham or Eastbourne and Polegate. I love driving the country lanes and visiting the pretty villages. Every drive has something different to notice. Seeing horse riders out and about, farmers busy doing their thing and senior cycling clubs out for their weekly rides. I love seeing the seasons change too - new spring flowers in the hedgerows or the changing colours of leaves in the Autumn. It's a joy!

What's the best thing about driving for Cuckmere Buses?

The best part is the passengers! It is more of a social gathering than a journey to the shops. In the outlying villages there is no commercial bus service. We provide an essential service to people who can't drive and have no other means of transport apart from expensive taxis. I haven't yet met an unhappy passenger.

**To find out more about volunteer driving with CCB call 01323 870920
or email volunteer@cuckmerebuses.org.uk**