



Sue was looking for something to keep her busy in retirement, and then along came a Cuckmere Community Bus. She hasn't looked back since.

How did you end up becoming a volunteer bus driver?

When I retired someone told me that for a good and active retirement you should do something you've always wanted to but never had time and something a little outside your comfort

zone. For the first one I took up painting (on canvas not walls) and the second I decided to drive a bus. I found out about Cuckmere Buses when a bus drove past me and I saw the advert for volunteer drivers on the back of the bus. I rang the phone number, and the rest is history. That was 14 years ago!

What was the training like?

It was really good. I had several sessions with one of their friendly instructors and I felt pretty comfortable with it straight away. You don't need a special licence to drive our 16-seater buses either.

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

I usually drive two or three times a week, but I also have some long holidays when I go away and then I don't drive for a while. It's great that I can just do as many or as few drives as I want. I drive four routes: the 40 and 120 which both serve Seaford and surrounding areas, as well as the 39 Sussex Art Shuttle and 47 Cuckmere Valley Rambler.

What's your favourite drive and why?

The 47 Cuckmere Valley Rambler which runs at weekends and Bank Holidays from April through to the end of October. It must be one of the most scenic routes in the country, winding its way through the Sussex countryside. It's really popular with walkers and tourists. There are a few people who use this route to hop and off at various pubs along the way. They get on the first bus in Seaford and get off at the end of the day - all very happy. I call them The Booze Cruisers!

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

It's such a friendly organisation and every member is there because they want to be. Everyone is more than willing to help or advise when asked. I enjoy meeting the passengers too and now know many of them by name. When doing a route round the villages I think I am the first person they have spoken to sometimes in days. Our services are often described as a lifeline by many passengers.

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