



## Upper Wharfedale *Venturer* - Newsletter – March 2018

**Update:** The Upper Wharfedale Venturer is coming up to its second birthday. In our first two years we have:

- carried more than 22,000 passengers
- covered more than 50,000 miles
- used almost 11,500 litres of diesel

About half our customers are concessions (bus passes) – with the rest being paying passengers. In our first two years of operation, we have operated the service successfully and proved that our community bus service is financially sustainable. We have a brilliant team of volunteers - drivers, of course - but also specialist help from other members of our community. In total, there are some 25 people involved in running the Venturer - we really appreciate their commitment and contribution, as well as the support of you, our passengers.



**Forthcoming changes:** On Saturday 14th April, our friends at Pride of The Dales will stop operating the 72 Skipton – Grassington service; we wish Mark and Jo all the best in their retirement. From Monday 16th April, Keighley Bus Company will take over the 72 route, running a new timetable. The Venturer's timetable will be similar to the current timetable but is being changed slightly to align connection times to the revised 72 / 72R service. There is no change to the basic pattern of our timetable, in terms of number of buses per day, the differentiated service on Saturdays and school holidays (as opposed to school days), the route or the stopping places. Where the service times are changing, it is between 15 & 30 minutes earlier or later. The most significant change is on school day afternoons when the bus will leave Buckden half an hour earlier to make the connection at Grassington, but there is then a half hour layover in Grassington to ensure the last bus back updale is no earlier than at present. Note that the Venturer will now go round Grassington Square on every trip. Some Keighley Bus Company buses from Grassington to Skipton, will take a more direct route, thus reducing the overall time from updale to Skipton. There are also improved connections to the Airedale service from Skipton.

We are pleased to say that we are once again able to maintain the current level of fares - there has been no increase since April 2016. To view or download the new timetable, go to [www.upperwharfedale.com](http://www.upperwharfedale.com), or see local noticeboards. Printed copies of the new timetable will be available in early April. If you have any comments or questions, please email us at [info@upperwharfedale.com](mailto:info@upperwharfedale.com) or call **01756 636161**.

With Pride of the Dales stopping operations, we will obviously no longer be able use their drivers on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. We would like to thank Nick, Ian and Paul who have done a fantastic job for us in our first two years and we wish them all the very best for the future. We are pleased to announce that Derek Green, who many of you will know as the driver of the Kettlewell School bus, is joining us from 16th April to take over the shifts which were previously covered by Pride of the Dales.

As we start our third year of operation, we are confident that, in spite of all these changes, the Venturer will continue to provide a successful service for the updale communities, and we look forward to your continued support.