In Boxted some months ago a community service was started, providing, free of charge, volunteer drivers to take those living in Hartest, Boxted and Somerton who had no transport, to for example, medical appointments.  It has been very successful and their bank of drivers have helped quite a number of people. The feeling amongst the drivers there is that they should limit themselves to those 3 linked villages at this stage. But somebody in Stanstead had asked to be included.

So it has been suggested that Stanstead might like to set up a similar system. If it is decided that this should go ahead, the first stage is to find at least 2, preferably 3, people who would be prepared to run it.

If you are interested in helping with a Stanstead version of this scheme, please contact Roy Weedon, Parish Clerk, on 01787 281572, 07977254114, or stansteadpc@gmail.com.

This is how the Boxted/Hartest/Somerton service works (contact details removed):

***‘People on Wheels’***

***A community service for those needing transport***

*From August 1st, we will be providing a car driving service for residents in Boxted/Hartest/Somerton for anyone in need of transport.*

1. *Anyone can apply, providing they give at least 48 hours notice. There is no cost for being driven although a donation towards the costs of this service (petrol etc) can be given to the driver. This donation will be passed on and used to help those drivers who wish to receive some help with their costs.*
2. *The service is primarily for medical needs such as appointments to Hospital, GP, Dentist, Chemist, Optician etc, and social needs (to the Village Institute or visiting a friend for example). Regular shopping trips are not included except in an emergency.*
3. *There is a maximum distance for a single trip of 15 miles each way.*
4. *We already have a small bank of drivers who have kindly offered to help but we need a few more. Drivers are unlikely to have to make a drive more than once a month.*

***Procedure for arranging a driver and car***

*If you need help (or know someone that does), please ring. They will find you a driver and car and will let you know who the driver is, and confirm with you the request (where to collect from, the time and destination).*

*If the phone is on the answer-machine please leave a message giving your number and name. We will try and contact you within 24 hours.*

***Also, if you are willing to become part of the ‘driver bank’ …***