

LINK BOX COLERNE RUDLOE

15 YEARS AND COUNTING

I was just about to retire when I was approached by an ex colleague, the late Chris Martin, who just happened to be the current chair of Box, Rudloe & Colerne Link, to invite me into the ranks of Link drivers. After CRB checks, I was handed my Link badge in 2004.

I drive all sorts of clients, some will tell you their life story on the way to the RUH, others are quiet. Both responses may well be due to apprehension of what they will be told during their appointment.

We have clients who only use us on the odd occasion, others we see on a fairly regular basis who become friends, such as the "terrible two" from Colerne. They know who they are.

During my 15 years, I've visited and learnt my way around most of the hospitals in our area and even one or two further afield such as the John Radcliffe in Oxford. The drive to the RUH Bath tends to vary considerably in time depending on the time of day. What a pity we can't use the bus lanes. The other problem with hospital appointments is that we never know how long we will be waiting for our clients. Some drivers head for Bath to do some shopping or for a coffee. I tend to wait in one of the comfy chairs in the atrium and read or play Scrabble on my i pad against the computer, one way of learning new words if it's set on "advanced" or above.

Sometimes I have difficulty locating a client's address, so I always leave myself plenty of time just in case. Oh, wouldn't it be great if everyone had their house numbers or names clearly visible.

It's always a pleasure joining clients on Link organised trips. They enjoy being entertained and looked after especially when there's a cream tea to enjoy before heading home.

I've enjoyed my fifteen years with Link and hope to carry on for a few more years. I find it very rewarding especially as most of our clients appreciate the service we provide and are always saying **"I don't know what I would do without Link"**

Please contact Link on 07970617617 if you would like to become involved in this worthwhile organisation.

Brian Hatton