

2022/23 Chairman's AGM Report

I would like to welcome all of you to this Westbury & District Link annual general meeting and especially those for whom this is the first they have attended.

In the year August to July we undertook 2110 trips, an increase of nearly 50% on the same period last year and represents an average of eight trips every weekday. Non-medical trips increased by over 60% and on some days we have undertaken up to twenty trips in total.

We currently have 32 drivers on our system and I would like to welcome the new drivers who have joined us during the year. Andrea Cartwright, Bob Merritt, Clare Harcourt, Dorian Jones and Nigel Ede

During the year, Bill Yeadon and Martin & Glen Smith decided to stop driving for us after many years of sterling service for which we thank them.

We were honoured to be presented with a Civic Award by Westbury Council in recognition of Link's outstanding service to the community.

All drivers were issued with high viz waistcoats to provide a greater degree of safety when serving clients.

All drivers now have the facility to log in to our trip system and record days when they will not be available as well as seeing what trips are unallocated and selecting one or more for them to undertake. A number of drivers are making use of this facility, making life much easier for coordinators.

During the year we presented to a meeting of the U3A on the benefits of volunteering for link and also had a stand at the Vintage Car show. A number of people expressed an interest in volunteering at those events although, to my knowledge, none have yet followed through.

We received a £300 donation from Linden and Bovis Homes as well as a posthumous donation from our client Richard Payne who wanted to express his thanks to Link drivers who had assisted him in his later years.

David Nolan joined the committee and agreed to take on the position of Safeguarding Officer. This role ensures that link has the proper safeguarding policies and procedures in place for our clients and volunteers, delivering safeguarding briefing and/or training for volunteers. He is also the first point

of contact concerning any safeguarding concerns any volunteer has for themselves and/or clients.

Our treasurer Celia Carpenter has decided to retire from Link duties after nineteen years. During that time, she has been a superb treasurer, handling Link's finances in a very secure and professional manner. We will miss her and hope she enjoys her "retirement".

Ann Bizeray has been assisting Celia for some time and has volunteered to take on this role.

I would like to thank all our coordinators for their valiant efforts in maintaining an excellent service for our clients. Despite the demands often placed on us, it is extremely rare for us to decline a request for a trip because we can't provide a driver. In addition, Margery Painter for her amazing diligence in transferring telephone numbers twice a day every week day.

Thank go to our Vice Chair John Masson for his much-valued support, our committee members. Secretary Charmian Horseman, Treasurer Celia Carpenter, Admin Controller Ann Bizeray, Social Secretary Mavis Payne as well as Nick Pyne, Bill Yeadon and Colin Gladwell.

Finally, Wendy and I have decided we should downsize our house and, at the same time, move closer to our family who are all in the south east. So, this will be my final AGM. I have greatly enjoyed volunteering for Westbury & District Link for the past six years and it will be with great sadness that we leave all our Link friends.

I'm delighted to tell you that John Masson has offered to stand as Chairman and Nick Pyne as Vice-chair. They and Ann will all be excellent in those roles.

Our agenda includes a formal election to these roles.