

2024/25 Chairman's AGM Report

I would like to welcome all of you to the Westbury & District Link annual general meeting and especially those for whom this is the first they have attended. In the year from August 2024 to September 2025 we have undertaken 2,462 trips which is an average of nearly ten trips every weekday and have driven over 27,600 miles.

We currently have 35 drivers on our system and I would like to welcome the new drivers who have joined us during the year James Button, Naoual Benmelouka, Sara Honor, Simon Kertland, Andy Pillidge and Clive Shelbourne.

During the year Lucy Gaitskell decided to stop driving for us and we would like to thank her for the years of service which she gave us. Recruitment of new drivers still remains a problem for us and most of the other LINK groups in Wiltshire. We have tried attending local events in an effort to recruit more drivers but without success and word of mouth remains the best method of recruitment.

Unfortunately, this year's annual dinner was cancelled by the venue at short notice and we were unable to arrange an alternative venue in time and on behalf of the committee I must apologise to you for what happened. The committee is already drawing up plans for next year's dinner which will be at a different venue and will be on Friday 5th June 2026 so please make a note in your diaries and further details will be coming out shortly.

The trip booking system continues to work well and we have again made a contribution to Marlborough Link towards their annual running costs of the system. The VOIP telephone system for the coordinators introduced last year has been a success and clients are making use of ansafone facility for booking trips.

Maurice Bizeray has joined the committee and will have responsibility for driver's welfare.

I would like to thank all our coordinators and drivers for their tremendous efforts in maintaining an excellent service for our clients. Despite the demands now being placed on us, it is extremely rare for us to decline a request for a trip because we can't provide a driver.

Finally, thank you to my vice-chairman Nick Pyne, our committee members Secretary Charmian Horseman, Treasurer Ann Bizeray, Social Secretary Mavis Payne as well as Colin Gladwell, Dave Nolan, Dorian Jones and Maurice Bizeray for their much valued support over the past year.