

2025/26 Chairman's AGM Report

Welcome to the Westbury & District Link annual general meeting and especially those for whom this is the first they have attended. In the year from October 2025 to September 2026 we have undertaken more than 2,350 trips and have driven over 27,700 miles, more than the Earth's circumference around the equator.

Eight drivers have left us in the last year and we currently have 34 drivers on our system. I would like to welcome the new drivers who have joined us Tess Anderson, Charles Bishop, Mary-Anne Evans and John Rukin and I would also like to welcome Kristina Thomas who has joined us as a coordinator.

During the year Charmian Horseman retired as our Secretary and the Committee would like to thank her for the years of very valuable service which she gave us. Andy Pillidge has volunteered to take on the role.

I seem to report this every year but recruitment of new drivers still remains a problem for us and most of the other LINK groups in Wiltshire and word of mouth remains the best method of recruitment. The demand for our services continues to rise as in previous years and we have had to concentrate our resources on providing trips to medical related appointments and to continuing to assist established clients with their shopping.

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 telephone system is working well and clients are making more use of the ansafone facility for booking trips.

This year's annual dinner was on the 5th June at The Royal Oak in Hawkeridge and I think everyone had a very enjoyable evening. We will be discussing arrangements for next year's annual dinner at the Committee Meeting later this month and we will let everyone know the details after that.

I would like to thank all our coordinators and drivers for their tremendous efforts in the past year 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 Andy Pillidge, Treasurer Ann Bizeray, Social Secretary Mavis Payne as well as Dave Nolan, Dorian Jones, Colin Gladwell and Maurice Bizeray for their valuable support over the past year.