

WILTON AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME
(Registered Charity No 1084953)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

By

The CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCTION

The Wilton and District LINK scheme supports a client base comprising Wilton, Barford St Martin, Burcombe, Compton Chamberlayne, Dinton, Quidhampton, Great Wishford, Steeple Langford, Teffont, Netherhampton, South Newton, Wylde and Stockton. Having become operational in February 2001 the scheme has now completed its ninth year of operation.

MANAGEMENT

The Scheme is managed by a Management Committee which met 4 times during the course of the calendar year. All Management Committee members have been CRB cleared.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on 10 March 2010. Members, who heard a report from the Chairman outlining the events of the year, were satisfied with how the Scheme was running.

MODUS OPERANDI

This remains unchanged from previous years. All requests continue to be channelled through a Co-ordinator who contacts an appropriate volunteer to provide the service. A bank of 3 co-ordinators (supplemented from time to time by a further co-ordinator) was established in 2008 and has worked well.

FINANCE

An income and expenditure report for the year ended 31 December 2009 has been produced and examined by Mr Robin Hall who was appointed at the AGM in 2007.

The mileage allowance payable to volunteers remained at 40p per mile.

We are not a charging organisation. Anonymous donations from clients range from the extremely generous to the small change in the pocket. For the first time the cost

difference between the amount paid to volunteers and the amount of voluntary donations (the operating costs), showed a small profit.

Some Parish Councils provide financial support in recognition of the service that we are providing to their communities as do Wilton Town Council. Additionally fund raising activities such as coffee mornings and other donations have helped to ensure that the current financial position of the Scheme remained sound.

PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR

During the course of the year we have met a record number of 1183 requests. Non-health related tasks numbered 546. 92 tasks involved care rather than a driver (less than in 2008) despite an attempt to put emphasis on this feature of our operation.

We continued to invest in advertising during the course of the year and raised the profile of the Charity by having a stall in Wilton Market. Despite being able to meet all but a handful of requests, the number of volunteers remains inadequate and for a significant number of tasks we are vulnerable by being dependent on a small number of our volunteers.

We were ready to meet an increased demand for help associated with swine flu but that has so far not materialised.

All new volunteers continue to go through the CRB process and cannot start as volunteers until that process is complete.

A newsletter is provided to clients and volunteers and 4 were produced in 2009.

We organised an outing for clients in September 2009 and we expect to organise a further outing in 2010. This is a very popular event with clients who otherwise find it difficult to get out.

In order to improve communications a website was established in 2008 and maintained and updated during 2009. It can be seen at www.wiltonlink.org.uk.

THE FUTURE

Demand for our services is not expected to diminish. Advertising for new volunteers becomes imperative if we are to continue to meet this demand. We have purchased display boards which we plan to have available at local events as well as Wilton Market. We will continue to put emphasis on the non-driving side of our operation. The CRB clearances of some of our volunteers are becoming time expired and will have to be renewed. After July all new volunteers and those seeking renewal of CRB clearances will also seek clearance from the Independent Safeguarding Authority. Changes to the way in which the National Health Service is delivered (for example patient choice) continues to have little impact but we are watching this carefully.