



Newsletter—November 2011

Chairman's message

Newsletters would not be the same without a plea for more volunteers, and whilst we do manage to meet the vast majority of the requests made to us it can be difficult at times. So if you know anyone who might be interested then please ask them to give us a call.

We are currently posting leaflets on village notice boards and will continue to look at ways to advertise and raise the profile of the Link service.

Coordinators

The coordinators really are the hub of the operation as they organise clients to volunteers and this continues to be done by Valerie and Sarah on alternate weeks. Although we have Peter in the background to stand in when needed there are times when we could do with some more help. The time spent co-ordinating probably amounts to an hour a day. If you or anyone you know is interested please ring the Link number.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning and book sale at the Wilton community centre attracted good support and raised approximately £100.

Drivers

Can all time sheets be handed in by 14th January 2012. Thank you.

Wilton Christian Fellowship Christmas Day Lunch 2011

For many years, the churches and other Christians in Wilton have organised a lunch on Christmas Day. This is a traditional Christmas meal with turkey and all the trimmings and is held in Wilton Community Centre.

We would like to invite any Link clients who live in Wilton or nearby to join us. There is no charge and transport can be provided if required. For those who cannot leave their homes, the meal can be delivered to them. It is always a very warm and jolly affair in the true spirit of Christmas.

If you want to book a place or to find out more, please contact the coordinator, Marion Powell, on 01722 742925. Early bookings advised as numbers are limited. We do hope that some of you will take up our invitation, we promise you a really Happy Christmas

If you need to contact Wilton and District Link please telephone 01722 741241

Wiltshire Good Neighbours

Helping older people to live in their own homes for longer

Looking after our community this Winter

The **Good Neighbour Scheme** has been running in Wilton for over 10 months, and now there is a second Good Neighbour Coordinator who will be working in the villages around Wilton which are covered by the Wilton Link. This means that for the first time the whole Wilton Link patch is covered by the **Good Neighbour Scheme**.

For those of you that haven't yet heard of the **Good Neighbour Scheme** or have forgotten about it, it is a **free** and **confidential** service, which provides **information** and **signposts** older residents living in Wilton and the surrounding villages to the excellent services and organisations that are available to them.

The **Good Neighbour Scheme** can provide information about any and every service available to help older people to live more independent and fulfilling lives. Due to the time of year I wanted to particularly draw your attention to issues that might face us this winter.

The colder temperatures are here, and with fuel costs rising and in the wake of last winter's freeze, we will do well to prepare ourselves for the winter ahead.

Did you know that:

- There are ways of reducing electricity and gas bills?
- There are specific tariffs that are cheaper than others?
- There are social tariffs for those who meet specific criteria?
- There are ways to get one step ahead with water bill debts?
- A third party will calculate the best energy deals for you for free?
- There are insulation grants for homes in Wiltshire?
- There are tips available on keeping homes warmer?

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the above or any other services available to older people, please contact your local Good Neighbour Coordinator who will do what they can to provide you with the information you need and put you in touch with the right people.

So if you think the **Good Neighbour Scheme** can help you or someone you know, or if you have any questions, or would like further clarification about the service, do please feel free to ring for a chat or to arrange a home visit.