

WILTON AND DISTRICT LINK SCHEME
(Registered Charity No 1084953)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

By

The CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCTION

The Wilton and District LINK scheme originally supported a client base comprising Wilton, Barford St Martin, Burcombe, Compton Chamberlayne, Dinton, Quidhampton, Great Wishford, Steeple Langford, Teffont, Netherhampton and South Newton. In 2006 the villages of Wylde and Stockton were added. Having become operational in February 2001 the scheme has now completed its eighth year of operation.

MANAGEMENT

The Scheme is managed by a Management Committee which met 6 times during the course of the calendar year. All Management Committee members have been CRB cleared.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM held on 11 March 2009 was sparsely attended. Members, who heard a report from the Chairman outlining the events of the year, were satisfied with how the Scheme was running. A member of the Project Office attended.

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 2008 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. Taking only the operating costs from the accounts, the average loss per task in 2008 was 62p – a slight decrease in the loss in the previous year.

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. A cheque for £2100 was presented by the Mayor of Wilton as a result of our being his chosen charity for 2007/08 .

PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR

During the course of the year we have met a total of 1064 requests; this is the first time that requests have exceeded 1000. Non-health related tasks increased from 268 in 2007 to 479 in 2008. 129 tasks involved care rather than a driver (35 more than in 2007 and 117 more than 2006) – this is a feature of our operation that we plan to encourage and increase.

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. The number of volunteers remained stable and we were able to meet all but 25 requests from clients. All new volunteers continue to go through the CRB process.

A newsletter is provided to clients and volunteers and 4 were produced in 2008.

We organised an outing for clients in September 2008 and we expect to organise a further outing in 2009.

In order to improve communications a website was established and can be seen at www.wiltonlink.org.uk.

THE FUTURE

Demand for our services is not expected to diminish. A number of our well established volunteers are expected to call it a day this year so advertising for new volunteers becomes imperative if we are to continue to meet this demand. We will continue to put greater emphasis on the non-driving side of our operation. All volunteers will now be asked to go through the CRB process in anticipation of the introduction of 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.