



Melksham & District Link  
E-Newsletter  
Issue 20 June 2022



### Committee Members

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### Message from the Chairman.

“Firstly, a big thank you to our drivers, you continue to accept the ever-increasing number of trips that you’re asked to do and the vast majority of you are now providing your availability on a Monday morning, which makes the coordinators life a lot easier. When you’re giving your availability please could you also include the weekend as those trips are becoming more frequent.

Offering to take on the position of vice chair may be a bit daunting to some of you but I’m sure there are those who just need a bit of encouragement and maybe a bit more information before putting their names forward. You may get a call from me over the next couple of weeks to see if this important role is something you could take on.

Our summer get together for all volunteers and plus 1s is scheduled for lunchtime on Saturday 6th August at mine and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

With best wishes.

Richard “

### Roadworks.

We are aware of these up and coming roadworks that will impact on journeys times

- ❖ From June 13th to July 1st there will be work upgrading the traffic lights at Fiveways and Kingsdown Rd will be closed. Extra time will be needed for RUH
- ❖ Wiltshire Council has announced that the proposed six-week closure of the B3108 Winsley Road in order to construct a new shared-use path. The work will proceed in three phases. The first phase, starting on July 4 until July 24, will see the closure of Bradford Road in

Winsley, to the west of the B3108. During this period, all traffic can use the B3108 Winsley Road. The second phase, from July 13-24, will see work on the B3108 roundabout, with two-way traffic signals in place and Bradford Road remaining closed to facilitate this. The final phase, which begins on July 25 to September 2, will see Bradford Road reopen, but the B3108 Winsley Road will be closed to motor vehicles. The road will still be open to cyclists and pedestrians during this time and all businesses will remain open as normal

## Cheese & Wine Evening

The Cheese and Wine evening held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May was a great success, it was so lovely to see you all enjoying yourselves and mixing with other volunteers. These social events are a great way for the volunteers especially the drivers to talk to other volunteers and for the coordinators to put faces to names.

## Summer Lunch Picnic

The date for this year's summer lunch is **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August from 1200 to 1500**, all volunteers and their plus ones are invited to Richard's at 52 Lowbourne. In order to reduce the workload and to ensure the hosts Richard and Dee can enjoy the social the committee has agreed that this year's format will be **Bring Your Own Picnic and Drink, rather than a dish for sharing.**

More details to follow nearer the time.

## Melksham Food & River Festival

We will have a stall at this event on **Saturday 3rd September in King George V Park**. This year we will not be accosting passers-by to see if they will volunteer for Link but be at our stall and let people come to us. Assistance will be needed on the day. More details to follow at a later date

## AGM Date

This Year's AGM will be at the **Riverside Club from 7pm to 9pm on Thursday 13th October**. We will not be having a speaker this year but will have a Cheese & Wine following the formalities.

## Vacancies

- ❖ Secretary: Katherine Mills a new volunteer has offered to be our new secretary
- ❖ Assistant Treasurer: Phil Davis, one of our drivers has volunteered for this post
- ❖ Vice Chair: still vacant. If you think you might like to have a go please contact Richard.

## Welcome Pack for Clients

At the last committee meeting the question about frail clients, long waits and other problem areas were raised. We have decided to put a small information pack together for our clients that will contain information **about what we do and don't do and what we expect from them.**

We also need feedback from our drivers when you encounter a client that needs additional help and should have another person to help them. Recently a few of our clients that have used us for years have become very frail and need more support, this is not down to the driver to give so please feed information like this back to the duty coordinator or else you are just passing the problem on to the next driver.

If you have any suggestions for this welcome pack then please email them to me, thank you.

## GWH, Swindon: Outpatient Welcome Liaison Service (OWLS)

Jane Williams, the Link Development Officer at Community First has made Link schemes aware of this service.

I wanted to make you all aware of this service at GWH in Swindon:

<https://www.gwh.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/extra-help/owls-outpatient-welcome-liaison-service/>

It's a free service for outpatients and carers – a volunteer will meet them on arrival and escort them to and from their appointment. This needs to be booked on **01793 604046** at least five working days before the appointment. This would be really useful for passengers who need to be met with a wheelchair, and/or whom have dementia, anxiety or need assistance with any other issue.

### Drivers Availability

Just another reminder to all drivers to let the duty coordinator know on the Monday of your availability for the following week, including weekends. It's one call/text/email for you whilst it can be 20 or more for the coordinator. A big thank you to those who do give their availability in a timely fashion. This one thing makes it so much easier for our coordinators and they really appreciate it. Thank you.

### Front Seat or Back?

Whether a client sits in the front or back seat is down to the **driver**. Now that the rules around Covid have relaxed it is up to the driver where they sit. Some of the clients would probably struggle to get in the back and those with hearing problems wouldn't hear. However, if a driver wants the client to sit in the back then that is ok but please let the coordinator know so they can allocate the appropriate client.

### Starters and Leavers

A big welcome and thanks to the following new volunteers who have started recently

- Lynn Baker – Coordinator
- Katherine Mills – Secretary in waiting

Farewell and thank you to these volunteers who have resigned recently.

- Lynda Oliver – Coordinator
- Mike Chislett – Driver
- Les Tizzard – Driver