



Winslow Big Society Volunteer Newsletter

December 2021



Dear volunteers,

Here's wishing all our amazing volunteers a really happy and peaceful Christmas. The overriding thought in my mind as I write this is how many of our customers have said to me recently that their lives have been totally changed for the better by what we offer and do for them as volunteers. They can't all be wrong, so I'm now beginning to think that we probably do make a real difference to so many people, just by what seem such small things to us. So from the bottom of my heart I want to thank each and every one of you for what you do. I know I often only hear the tip of the iceberg of the story, but you all go the extra mile to really make that difference to others.

I feel so proud of each and every one of you.

Vron

Happy Christmas also to our partners, Norden House Surgery, Patient Support Service, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, Winslow Lions and Rotary, our churches and Winslow Town Council and Buckinghamshire Council. We couldn't do what we do without your support.

News from our services:

Telephone Support Service:

Keith writes: Thank you to our marvellous Telephone Support Volunteers. Through your support we are able to provide a Christmas call to 55 people that otherwise would not receive one. I am sure that is something that even Father Christmas would struggle to do! Thank you and have a very merry and safe Christmas!!

Gentle Walks: Volunteers, why not come along to a Gentle Walk to see what is involved, with a view to joining the team as a walk leader/back marker. It's about an hour per walk (with tea/coffee afterwards).

At the moment we appreciate volunteers being on the rota about once per month, but the more we have the less often you do it. Walks are already sussed out and planned. It's amazing what a difference we have made to others lives through just the walks. It's a lovely group. Ring Christine on 714336 for more information.

Community Car Scheme: This will be entering its 9th year of continuous operation in January 2022! We still have a good number of drivers including some of our founder volunteers but, with business picking up again, we could do with a few

new recruits to be part of the team. It's flexible volunteering! No fixed days or times and you can always say 'No' to taking on a drive. You do need to be a Winslow resident. Please make contact for further information 07508 330750 winslowcarscheme@gmail.com

WBSG Hard of Hearing Group: With a staggering number of older people identified with a degree of hearing loss we can be sure many of our clients (and indeed volunteers) are struggling to hear what's going on. The HoH group is seeking to find ways of improving life for the deaf in Winslow by sharing ideas, lobbying for change, passing on experiences while hearing from experts and having a good moan about the problems of deafness over a cuppa!

In the long term please can you help by encouraging any deaf clients to come to monthly group, coming along yourself, passing on tips and information to clients direct or by passing their details (with their permission) to the group organisers so we can contact them. In the short term, please equip yourself with a visor rather than a mask for when you are in face to face contact. We have plenty of visors, via Diana. Have a look also at the RNID

tips:: <https://rnid.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02>

[/RNID_CommunicationTips_For_PeopleWithHearingLoss.pdf](#)

Did you know that?--

20% of the population, 40% of over 50s and **70% of over 70s** – that's 7 in 10, have a hearing problem!

Do please get in touch through HoH main organiser Diana 07803 174583 (best to text rather than phone as rather deaf!)

Queens award for Voluntary Services nomination:

We have been nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, the equivalent of the MBE for the work we do. We have got through the first round, submitted the second round and wait for one more before hearing in the summer whether we have been successful. A big thanks to Tracey and Diana for their amazing work to get all the evidence in within a week, as well as Committee members helping out.

Would you believe the statistics of the volunteering hours we put in across the group?:

Committee hours	1375
Regular activities	5334
One off projects/activities	246
GRAND TOTAL	6955
(volunteer hours per annum)	

Other activities:

We have now reopened almost all of our regular activities. Our new sitting service and decluttering service happen on a 1:1 basis. **These and our pen pal service need more customers, so please think about suggesting these services to people who might be in need of them.** Do use the website to get up to date information and to recommend us to other customers and volunteers.

Thank you:

Thank you to Sarah and Greg Morris who have helped us so much with our newsletters. We shall miss them as they leave to do different things.

Wheelchair car:

Watch out in 2022 hopefully for a new wheelchair car. We are awaiting on a grant application result from Buckinghamshire Council via the Winslow Community Board, and hope if successful to have a new vehicle by Easter.

The car is now used a lot, and we are lucky to have new drivers to help us too.

Dementia Friendly Memories group: Help!!

We know there are so many people with some degree of memory loss.

Sadly through a loss of most of our customers, this has had to close. If you know of anyone with some memory loss who might be interested in a structured monthly get together, please let Vron know. We are ready to restart!

Information Updates.

Please share any relevant information with WBSG clients without internet.

What can you do to help?

The most important thing right now is to publicise our services, especially the new ones, to people you know or are new to the town, and might benefit from them. Tell them about them, give them a leaflet or ask them to ring one of us.

We still need volunteers for these roles:

- **Someone to put articles on Ebay, Gumtree etc from our decluttering service**
- **Walk leaders**
- **Car drivers**
- **Telephone befrienders**
- **Help with publicity**



**General contact email: contact@winslowbigsocietygroup.info
General enquiry phone number (same as Car Scheme): 07508 330750
Website: <http://www.winslowbigsocietygroup.info>**