

Winslow Big Society Group Reports AGM 2026

Afternoon Teas

Another successful year of Afternoon Teas. The scones/cakes, that are contributed so kindly by willing volunteers, continue to delight our lovely guests each month. We normally have between 8 - 10 people attending. Ages range between 65 to 95 years. Many attendees have medical problems ranging between blindness, profound deafness and dementia - a happy group despite their ailments.

Card & Games for Fun

We have a steady core of participants. Everyone enjoys themselves and are very grateful for the sessions being run. We have regular games of Rummikub, Dominoes, and Scrabble, but we are always willing to try new games. New members are always welcome, so please if you haven't joined us yet, come along and see what you're missing

Dementia Friendly Memory Group

This has been a really successful year in terms of client satisfaction. Clients have loved the sessions, finding great comfort and security within the small group. Relatives have said how good it is that they can leave their loved ones, and have a little more time for themselves. Numbers have averaged 6 -8 clients at sessions, 50/50 men and women. It is sad that this seems to be the only activity available directly for those with dementia in the area. We have tried different activities including a singer, and we always recommend they try Singing for Pleasure too.

Equipment Store

The Mobility Equipment Store has dealt with a regular flow of requests in the past year. The most popular items requested for short term loans have been our lightweight wheelchairs and rolling walking aids, which have helped many people looking for short term mobility assistance, whether for themselves or for a relative or friend. We are now well stocked with most items that people are asking for and will continue to provide support to the local community in 2026.

Friendship Lunches

The Friendship Lunches have been very popular in the last year, with an average of around 45 guests at each lunch. We have had new guests join us at most of our monthly lunches, who have then become regular attendees. Our Christmas Lunch was very well attended with 52 guests, all of whom enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch followed by carol singing. We are looking forward to welcoming old and new guests in 2026.

Film Shows

This has been another very successful winter film programme to date, with an average audience of 55-60. We aim to show 5-6 films over the season. Feedback has been excellent on the choice of films and the technical quality, and we are very grateful to Winslow Lions for their indispensable help



in setting up and running the films for us. It certainly seems to fill a void for people on a cold dark winter's afternoon, which is its purpose.

Gentle Walks

The group continues to have some committed members who have been with us for several years. Very seldom are walks cancelled because of the weather. More than 20 walks have been written up and risk-assessed, high viz jackets are provided for leaders and backmarkers, and first aid training is available.

Hard of Hearing

Having acted as co-ordinator for many years, Diana Slevin stepped down at the end of 2025 and Christine Dodds undertook to take on the role until the end of 2026. The group meets ten times a year, and tends to alternate between general discussion sessions, sharing news about resources and services available to the hard-of-hearing.

Parent & Carers Drop In

Prior to Christmas we were a little worried that numbers had dropped as some of our regular children grew older (how dare they!) and moved on to nurseries and pre-school. However January has seen a very welcome increase in numbers and we now usually have 6 or 7 children plus carers/parents/grandparents. Everybody seems to enjoy the Monday sessions and that includes the volunteers, it's such a happy event. Thanks to the Library for continuing to host us and to the regular band of volunteers.

Parkinson's Group

The Parkinson's group was set up 7 years ago. We now have 26 members from Winslow, Buckingham and surrounding villages. Members often come with their spouses/carers. Some months we have a break off group for them to talk amongst themselves and share their worries. We know how important the group has become to all its members. Sue and Liz are very grateful for Jan Lewis's help and the use of the Library.

Play Schemes

These were again well attended, varying between 50-100 children at each. Simple activities went down well, and signposting to other services for support was available. Thanks to Winslow Sports Club for their hospitality. We utilised new volunteers this year and also purchased some new craft materials. Parents really appreciate free hot drinks served to them too.

Prescription Delivery Service

The free prescription delivery service which is available to housebound people living in Winslow currently has 14 clients and 16 volunteers available to deliver. These are clients who have been referred to us by Jardines chemist or the Patient Support Service.

If you would like to go on a reserve list as a volunteer to help with deliveries, please speak to a committee member.

Share Your Memories

We have been meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Library since June 2014. We reminisce on a wide range of subjects and often bring photos, books or memorabilia relating to the subject. Together with a cuppa and biscuits we enjoy an afternoon with friends sharing our memories. 2025 saw us eating lots of cake as we celebrated a 100th birthday and two Diamond Wedding Anniversaries.

Singing for Pleasure

The Group has continued monthly with a modest number of participants who have undoubtedly enjoyed the sessions. We are very grateful to our volunteer accompanist Jane Rennie. New singers are always welcome and encouraged to request songs they would like to sing either traditional or more recent. Barbara Preston's research into the background of the songs makes the session all the more interesting.

Telephone Befriending

As a result of cuts to NHS funding, it was agreed that the Telephone Befriending Service would revert to WBSG in mid-2025. There are currently more than 35 befrienders making calls and nearly 40 befriendees receiving them, with contact usually being made on a weekly basis.

We are actively trying to identify people living locally who would appreciate a regular telephone call with the same person each week, as well as continuing to receive referrals from the Patient Support Service and the Care and Support Team at Swan Practice.

Community Car Scheme (WCCS)

The car scheme continues to run smoothly. Two of our long-standing coordinators, Christine Moore and Sue Elderton, have decided to 'retire' this year after many years and will be much missed. Nearly 100 passengers are registered with us, with fewer than half of those actually asking for lifts, some more regularly than others. We have 24 amazing drivers, covering around 10 lift requests on average each week. These are mostly to WBSG events, although visits to the hairdresser and the Health Centre are also important, with a few longer trips to places like Buckingham and Aylesbury from time to time. Our only concerns have been around the new parking restrictions in Winslow which we are gradually learning to live with!

Wheelchair Car

This has been a busy year, 229 journeys having been undertaken, including an increase in self drive journeys and Christmas Day again. A dedicated team of 8 drivers have been as far afield as Kettering, Thame and Oxford with passengers, and have done many other jobs, way above the call of the duty of a driver. Thanks to Richard, a volunteer who maintains the car for us with monthly checks, and to KGB Body Work specialists, who for the price of a sticker on our car now give us free car washes. All good networking and supporting of local businesses.