



*Dear volunteers,*

*I'm sorry the newsletters have been more spasmodic this year, just been a bit busy! It's been another good year for the Big Society, our volunteer numbers are now 120, with a steady trickle of new volunteers coming through all the time. You've obviously told your friends how great volunteering is. We still seem to change lives by our small actions every day. We have received many donations this year, including following the death of customers whom we have helped. Our thanks go to them all.*

*But it is to you, our volunteers, to whom we owe so much gratitude. Your commitment, enthusiasm and for ever going the extra mile is what makes the organisation work. Thank you all. May this Christmas be a peaceful happy one, not necessarily full of presents, but full of the things that really make the world go round.*

*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.*

**Annual General Meeting, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Winslow Bowls Club.**

**Come and join us to hear of progress over the last year, give us your new ideas, and lots of cake! We also have a couple of vacancies on the Committee.**

**Sad news:**

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Nick Abraham. Nick had been part of the Car scheme coordination for many years, as well as a driver. He was always ready to offer help at our events too. He shall be sadly missed. We extend our sympathies to Ann and her family.

**Events of the year:**

**Celebration of the Queen's Award.**

This is the equivalent of an MBE and awarded to a volunteer organisation for the work they do. We were amazed to have received this, and also especially touched as it was the last of such awards from our late Queen. We had a wonderful afternoon with the award being attended by so many people, and presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Bucks. The beautiful glass memento and certificate are being taken to our events so you can all see them.

**Launch of the new wheelchair car.**

We are so grateful to the Winslow and Villages Community Board for their generous grant to enable this to happen. The car is out almost every day, and is picking up more passengers from the villages now too. Thank you to an amazing team of drivers who do runs from 7am on weekdays to Saturday afternoons.

**New service: Equipment Store.**

We have been aware for some time of the need for a store of small pieces of equipment like walking frames, perch stools sticks etc, that people might need to use for a short time only, as well as people looking for a place to donate such equipment that cannot be sent back to the NHS when use is finished. We are well on the way to establishing such a store in the town, and currently working out the details. So more on this soon.

### **Film Shows.**

These are now back on schedule and we had a good turnout at our first one in November.

**The date of next one is Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Jan at 2.30pm in the Bowls Club. Film to be announced.**

### **Thinking of making a New Year resolution?**

Why not join the Gentle Walks, leading or backmarking? We have more than twenty walks written up, which can be varied as you wish, and have a core group of walkers who thoroughly enjoy going out for about an hour on a Wednesday morning, with a coffee at The Bell afterwards. More information from Christine Dodds on (01296) 714336.

### **Telephone Support Service:**

We now have over 50 volunteers and customers using this service. It is pretty much unique in the UK as a telephone only service.

Thanks to Keith for his hard work in matching people so successfully.

### **Community Car Scheme:**

Open to all Winslow residents, including families, the Car Scheme is now picking up more journeys after these had dropped off since Covid. Drivers are always needed, but at the moment we also have an urgent need for an End of Month Coordinator to Collect monthly returns from Drivers' forms, receipts and money, and match these against the weekly record sheets and collate some statistics for us.

If you know of anyone who likes figures, maybe is a bit housebound even, but could help us with this vital role, we'd be really pleased to hear from them.

Please make contact for further information  
07508 330750 [winslowcarscheme@gmail.com](mailto:winslowcarscheme@gmail.com)

### **Thank you to:**

**Kay Peck and Diana Slevin:** who are leaving the committee, and have been founder members of the Big Society as well as committee members ever since. We thank them sincerely for all they have done till now, and look forward to keeping in touch with them whilst they continue in other roles.

**Liz Gardner:** who has been a Car Scheme Coordinator and helped doing other roles including afternoon teas for a long while.

**Christine Moore:** who has stepped aside running the afternoon teas. Laura Stobbs is taking this over.

### **New trifolds:**

We have recently republished our trifolds, so please look for one in the Library or Council Offices, or ask a committee member for one. Please also share them with friends and neighbours, or people new to the town.

### **Dementia Friendly Memories group:**

The group is small and friendly, and supports both carers and sufferers, using a structured but informal approach. Come and join us over a cuppa. If you know of anyone with some memory loss who might be interested, please let Vron know on 712460.

### **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.**



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