



# In praise of the Car Link Scheme

During this long running Covid pandemic we have all recognised how many people from all sorts of organisations from both the professional and volunteer sectors have stepped up to the plate and helped us all manage our way through this awful time. From all the NHS staff, to teachers;

from transport workers, council staff to postmen and delivery people; the police and the army; from supermarkets, farm shops to corner shops; and from fund raisers, donators and good neighbours – the list is truly endless. To them all, we owe a great deal of gratitude and will continue to do so.

But if there is one worthy voluntary organisation that might be singled out for due praise at this time then it is the local Car Link Scheme.

This excellent voluntary scheme has, over the years offered a vital transport network, ferrying people (usually elderly folk without the means to travel as they once did) to hospital or doctors' appointments, collecting prescriptions as well as other 'good neighbour services'.

Today the Link scheme continues to do these tasks but now they are also transporting residents to and from their very important covid vaccination appointments – an integral part of the huge effort by the government and the NHS to roll out access to the vaccine across the country so that hopefully, some day life can get back to some kind of normality.

To that end a fair number of Ansty residents have been able to call on our local Tisbury Car Link for their reliable services over the years and especially during the pandemic and they are all truly grateful to the volunteer drivers (several from Ansty) that collect them and the people who organise it all.

## **URGENT! New Volunteers needed to support our Local Link Scheme!**

The Tisbury & District Car Link Scheme is one of 43 Link schemes in Wiltshire governed by Community First, a charity based in Devizes.

This essential service provides a safety net for those unable to access services in other ways. The Tisbury & District Link Scheme aims to complement other services, statutory and voluntary. It operates as a small, independent charitable organisation and all volunteers use their own private vehicles. (Insurance and DBS checks are carried out).

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 crisis, the Tisbury & District Link scheme, along with all of the other 42 Link schemes has lost a large number of their volunteer drivers because they have been unable to drive because of their age and/or vulnerability to the virus.

Consequently they urgently need new volunteers and have asked our Parish Council to publish their details to try and recruit new volunteers and they need them NOW as the Vaccination roll-out gathers pace.

Please do feel free to contact them directly for any more information either by email ([tisburylink@gmail.com](mailto:tisburylink@gmail.com)) or phone 07484 284 670

The **Tisbury & District Link Scheme** serves the following villages:

Ansty, Swallowcliffe, Fovant, Sutton Mandeville, Hindon, East Knoyle, Semley, Donhead St Mary, Donhead St Andrew, Wardour, Fonthill Gifford, Tisbury, Chilmark, Teffont Magna, Lower Chicks Grove, Dinton,

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