**Chair’s Report**

**A.G.M 20th April 2023**

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to JoyCare’s A.G.M. This last year we have been able to hold all our activities for the first time since Covid.

For some time now the trustees have sought to change JoyCare’s constitution to better reflect the changing needs of people in Pirton. Finally we are in a position to seek your approval for the amended constitution which has at last been approved by the Charity Commission. Elaine will go through the proposed changes in a short while. Pam and Elaine have spent many hours on taking this forward for which I thank them very much.

Keith will take you through our accounts. I am very grateful for his time and expertise in managing the finances.

JoyCare hosted a memorable tea party to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Once again a magnificent tea prepared and baked by Judy McDonnell and her team. We were very grateful to Herts County Council for the grant towards the event. Little did we know that just a few months later the nation would be mourning the death of HM Queen Elizabeth. On May 8th JoyCare will be hosting a tea party to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 111. I am sure many of you will be coming.

Helen arranged the summer outing to Hever Castle which was a very enjoyable day out for the 31 people who came. The excursion to Highclere Castle this year is fully booked. Thank you Helen for the considerable time and effort needed to arrange these outings. We need to rethink the Christmas shopping excursion. We had to cancel the outing to Bluewater as too few people wanted to come. Perhaps Bluewater was too far away. Suggestions welcome for a venue for this year or maybe it is just no longer wanted.

Elaine arranged the film matinee in November and the next matinee will be in a few weeks time. On average 40 people attend this popular event.

The monthly lunches continue to be ably arranged by Margaret and are well attended with new people joining us. Around 23 people come to the lunches. Sometimes many more, sometimes a few less.Thank you Margaret for your time and effort. You do a great job. Fabulous Christmas lunch at the Cross Keys. Again we were in receipt of a grant enabling the cost to be minimal and everyone went home with a present! It is through Elaine that these grants have been accessed. It’s a time consuming task filling in the lengthy forms needed to apply to be considered for a grant. Thank you Elaine for this and for the many other things you do for JoyCare.

The lunch price has remained unaltered for several years, the actual cost of the lunches has of course risen considerably. The trustees after much deliberation have decided to increase the cost to attendees to £8.00. This will commence from next month. JoyCare will still be subsidising each lunch by £3.00 to £4.00 .

Shopping trips organised by Lesley Donovan continue to be quite well supported with an average of 7 shoppers and our thanks to Lesley for managing these enjoyable outings. Hitchin Helping Hands with whom we hire the mini bus may change the way they function and we may not have this service going forward. We are looking at ways we can continue with the shopping trips.

A third grant from Herts County Council was used to offset the cost to those of you who attended lunch at The Green Man in March as well as pay for a light lunch for those who joined the shopping trips in February and March.

The Good Neighbour Scheme continues to provide help and support to those wanting transport or prescription collection or mobility aids. In the last year just over 100 requests were made and help was arranged through our coordinators taking the calls and volunteers carrying out the requests. Mandy arranges for care alarms to be installed for those who have requested them. Thank you to Mandy who oversees the Good Neighbour Scheme and thank you to our coordinators and volunteers who give their time so freely. We now have over 80 people on our database who access our services whether social activities or the Good Neighbour Scheme. Thanks also to Malcolm Payne who kindly houses wheelchairs, frames etc in his garage.

Sally continues to oversee the chiropody clinics and is an invaluable help in setting up this room for the events we hold here. Flowers, tablecloths - you name it, Sally will find it!

Thank you Rosemary for ably taking the minutes of trustees meetings, and for writing. and delivering Christmas cards to our volunteers.

We are always pleased to find out what you would like JoyCare to arrange. Please do complete the short questionnaire at your convenience.

When JoyCare was started it was thought it would last maybe three or four years and here we are some twenty four years later, a much valued and appreciated asset to Pirton. I hope it continues for many years to come.

Alison Maple

Chair Pirton JoyCare