



## **Chairman's Report**

**A.G.M 14th May 2026**

Good afternoon and welcome to JoyCare's A.G.M in the new pavilion which maybe a first visit for some of you.

Last summer JoyCare's trustees were keen to co opt new trustees as both Leila Lauder and Margaret James had stepped down from their roles. We were delighted when Julie Lister and Lorna Sexton agreed to be co-opted. As I'm sure you know Lorna has been very poorly and she has been unable to participate in the running of JoyCare.

So, we were very pleased to welcome Diane Bailey as a co-opted trustee and she has already been very busy getting to grips with how JoyCare functions and with lots of ideas on how best to take JoyCare forward.

Last year we were keen to maximise the use of the minibus and Elaine arranged outings to Luton Hoo, Beth Chatto's garden in Colchester, a coffee and cake morning cruise and a fish and chip lunch cruise both on the Grand Union Canal. Much work is involved in the planning of these outings to ensure they run smoothly but they were a great success and very enjoyable.

Of course none of these events would be possible without our minibus drivers - Keith, Andy White, Richard Hill, Nick Spinx and Julian Siedlecki. The minibus has also been used at Open Gardens, a visit to Brick Lane Music Hall and a church outing to St Alban's Abbey. I think the Walking Group have used it as well. Nick has now moved away but we thank him for all the driving he did for JoyCare.

Keith, as well as being our treasurer, manages the extensive upkeep for the minibus and, no question, if it wasn't for Keith we would not have undertaken this responsibility.

We must make the best use of the minibus whilst we have it. It is by far the largest expenditure for JoyCare. Our insurance and our charitable status precludes us from hiring it out to third parties so we are reliant on our funds to pay for the frequent maintenance charges the minibus incurs.

We would like more people to come on the monthly shopping outings kindly organised by Lesley Donavon to whom we are very grateful. It is a sociable occasion with plenty of time for a supermarket shop, with you and your shopping delivered back to your door. It would be lovely to see the minibus used to its full capacity for these outings. We aim to have a trustee or volunteer to help on the shopping trips so don't be put off from coming just because you may need a little assistance. The shopping trip cost will remain at £4.00.

The monthly lunches have been arranged either by Elaine, Julie or myself. Julie masterminded the Christmas lunch at The CrossKeys. Always very popular. 50 places were booked although a few people had to cancel at the last minute due to ill health. We were fortunate and very appreciative to have a grant from Herts County Council Winter Celebration Grant.

A few new venues have been sampled, the Plume of Feathers at Ickleford , the Crown at Shillington and we have been twice to Mount Pleasant View Golf Club. Numbers attending the lunches are increasing, and they are lovely social occasions. However the cost is increasing too and not all our favoured pubs are able to offer lunches on the 2nd Thursday of the month as has been our custom. So we may have to be a little flexible in the future with the date. Long gone are the days when JoyCare asked for £5.00 from you for lunch. Two years ago we put the price up to £10.00 and from next month the price for lunch will be £12.00 but JoyCare will continue to subsidise the lunches.

Helen arranged a successful and enjoyable day out to the Hampton Court Flower Show. This year it is a visit to Burghley House again organised by Helen. These day long outings are not confined to JoyCare folk. Any and all ages welcome and it's not necessary to live in Pirton. It would be lovely to have a full coach.

Elaine arranged for a water colour painting afternoon and also organised the film matinee and lunch back in October. We are very grateful to Lorna and Jan for soup and scones and cake and to Peter Johnson for running the film. Of course we couldn't run these events without help from volunteers. Rosemary Manders and Sally Lake are at the forefront for setting up for events. Thank you. Rosemary is also our minutes secretary and keeps a timely record of trustees meetings. Thank you.

The Good Neighbour Scheme had 77 calls in the past year. 58 were requests for lifts to medical appointments. The remaining were mainly prescription collection requests. We have had 6 new users to the scheme and 3 new volunteers to replace those who have stepped down . It is very rare for a request to have to be refused for lack of a volunteer and Pirton is indeed fortunate to have lovely, caring volunteers.

The pavilion is open on a Wednesday and Thursday morning for a coffee or tea. If you would like to come but maybe the distance is too far I'm sure a volunteer would be able to offer you a lift there and back.

JoyCare can facilitate the setting up of a Care Line. Perhaps something to consider for some. Reassuring to know that help can be quickly to hand should an incident occur. Pam or Mandy would be the trustees to contact for further information.

In line with most organisations JoyCare has to have a number of policy documents including safeguarding and data protection . These policies are reviewed every two years. Elaine often has to submit policies when applying for a grant. Submitting applications for grants is a time-consuming process and our thanks to Elaine for her diligent work in procuring grants .

The trustees are very grateful for the grants awarded by Herts Community Foundation, North Herts Council Community Grant and Councillor David Barnard's locality grant for transport. At the film matinee and lunch in October Laura from North Herts Council came along and chatted with quite a few people. I think she was really quite impressed with what Joycare gets up to.

My thanks to my fellow trustees who work extremely hard to keep JoyCare flourishing. I'm stepping down this time but will continue as a volunteer.

Alison Maple.  
Chair  
14 May 2026