**Chalke Valley Link - Report for the year to April 2023**

For the calendar year to December 2022, in the Western half of the Chalke Valley i.e. the villages from Stoke Farthing to Berwick St John, the Link undertook 124 health related transports, 31 non-health and 47 prescription pickups. This compared to 103, 40 and 38 for the previous year, 2021. Overall, a little bit up in activity but some changes in the destinations requested by our clients.

Health related journeys include the hospitals (Salisbury in the main, Bournemouth, Southampton), both surgeries (Broad Chalke and Sixpenny Handley) and dentists, opticians, chiropractors and similar. Non-health trips include hospital visits and social groups.

For the current year, activity has been down. Unfortunately, this has been due to a few of our regular clients having died.

We have recruited some new drivers to the team from the villages we cover, to replace some long-standing members of the driving team who have decided to stand down and some others who have moved away from the Valley.

We remain keen to support members of our Valley communities where there are difficulties in getting to and from locations. If you need us, give us a call. If you know of someone who may benefit from our service, give them our number or perhaps call on their behalf.

Any Valley resident who has some time available during the day and would like to join us in the driving team, we would love to hear from you.

Terry Jolly

Joint coordinator, Chalke Valley Link (Western District)

Link number 01722 780800