

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

England & Wales · Charity number 1019971

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1993-04-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 6 Elm Tree Close
Devizes
SN10 3ER

Phone 01380721584

Activities

Objects: TO ADVACNE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE IN THE AREA OF DEVIZES AND DISTRICT

Activities: Provides Transport for the elderly, disabled and/or people with a low income to get them to & from Medical appointments at Hospital/Surgery, Shopping and other such good neighbour requirements.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE DEVIZES AND DISTRICT
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£34,604	£30,254	-	-
2024-03-31	£39,917	£24,873	-	-
2023-03-31	£15,814	£16,700	-	-
2022-03-31	£9,150	£9,141	-	-
2021-03-31	£5,191	£2,126	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PETER EVANS	Chair	
BARBARA GLOVER		
Lt Col Norman William James Minty		2016-08-01
Mrs Val Elmes		2013-05-14

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

England & Wales - Charity number 1019971

Accounts

DEVIZES & DISTRICT LINK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at the Wyvern Club at 8:00pm on May 29th, 2025

Present

Peter Evans (Chair)
Norman Minty (Treasurer)
Val Elmes (Secretary)

Chas Stonestreet, David Hows, Barbara Glover, Peter Martin, Sheila Martin, Dec McSweeney, Ann Sainsbury, Les Salter, Ali Gee, Jane Merritt, Mary Rennie, Roger Short, Andy Potts,
David Bell

Apologies: Lewis Cowen, Martin Houghton, Jean Altree, Margaret Dobie, Jacqueline Courtnage, Bernadete Cuss

2. Minutes of last AGM. These were adopted. Proposed by DH Seconded by LS

3. Matters arising: none

4. Chairman's Report:

Verbatim report follows:

Good evening to you all and welcome to this year's AGM

The year has been a challenging one as demand has increased and recruiting new drivers has become more difficult, but we have had a small increase in driver numbers.

A special lunch was organized by Peter and Sheila Martin which proved to be a great success for all who attended, and I thank them both for their time and efforts in setting it up. I hope it is something they may repeat next year.

My thanks go to Ian Hopkins the Devizes Town Mayor for his donation to Link from his Mayors appeal also the Wyvern club for their donation to Link

We welcomed Bernadette Cuss to the position of coordinator together with Ann Sainsbury, which relieves some of the load with the ever-increasing demand. Thank you both for your hard work.

I must mention George Royle, who after many years of driving for Link retired only a few weeks ago. Sadly, George died peacefully in his sleep earlier this week. His work for us was an achievement that we will always remember.

We are going forward with a new telephone number and a solid financial position which will be outlined by our treasurer.

PE then quoted some driving statistics expanded in the treasurer's report below.

5. Treasurer's Report

Verbatim report follows:

For the first time during my tenure as Treasurer copies of prepared account are available for viewing on your tables. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission after this meeting, and I am pleased to inform you that the accounts are in a very healthy state.

The opening balance for 2024/25 was £36139. This includes money in the NatWest General account, the Petty Cash and the investments held in the Hampshire Trust Bank.

During the period there were various donations amounting to £2110 have been received during the year. You will see a list of those on the printout I have supplied for you. This has meant there was a very healthy balance of £40489. at the close of the financial year 2024-25.

During the year, Volunteer drivers have completed 1044 journeys covering some 47280 miles, an increase of 6.5K miles on the previous year. Devizes Link personnel have giving approximately 3500 voluntary hours of their time, another increase of approximately 500 hrs.

As I have done each year, I will ask again that we all try to encourage anyone we know, especially those who can drive, and who may be able to spare a few hours, to consider joining our team of Volunteer Drivers. Recruiting drivers has proved to be a difficult area and if anyone has any bright ideas please bring those ideas up with the Committee.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our dedicated Coordinators Ann Sainsbury, Bernadette Cuss & Vera Oram for everything they do for us. They do a wonderful job of matching up those who need our services to the volunteers who can take on the tasks.

We have changed our telephone system from land line to mobile phone during the year, and it has gone reasonably well. The land line is still capturing a few people who have not heard about the change and that will continue for a couple of more months to ensure we do not miss those in need of our services.

JS Weeks & Co, very generously scrutinise the Charities Accounts free of charge, and our thanks must go out to them for their generosity. I do have my digital copy of the account with me, and you are welcome to come and ask any questions you might have. I will attempt to answer those questions and if I do not have the answer to hand, I will investigate and get the answer to you.

Thank you for your attention, and I would request your approval of the accounts and my report.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by PM seconded by RS
They were unanimously accepted by a show of hands

6. Election of New Committee:

- Lewis Cowen continues as Hon. President.
- Peter Evans continues as Chairman
- Re-elected committee members were as follows:
Norman Minty – Treasurer
Val Elmes - Secretary
Barbara Glover - Driver Recruitment
Roger Short,
Peter Martin

The committee was proposed by SM, seconded by AS and voted in unanimously by a show of hands

7. Any Other Business:

SM: Could the driving statistics mentioned be publicised on radio /facebook etc

PE will be doing some promoting of Link and will include them.

PM: he will arrange another drivers' lunch this year as it was well received last year.

PM: he has had his link badge accepted for priority parking at some venues.

NM: will send out details of the current procedures at various hospitals.

DM: There are still some issues with the old Link phone number. It is found on google and even on our ID cards.

NM has investigated some public platforms that hold our phone number and got them changed where possible. Some sites are out of our control.

AS: Thanked all the drivers and said they were wonderful.

8. 100 Club May Draw

1. £20 3 Bernadette Cuss

2. £15 53 Lesley Polack

3. £10 65 Maurice Orchard

9. date of Next meeting - Monday June 9th

The meeting was closed at 8:25 pm

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2025

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

Accountants' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the accounts on pages 2 and 3 from the accounting records of Devizes and District Link and from the information and explanations supplied to us.

The Alanbrookes Group

**THE ALANBROOKES GROUP LTD
T/A JS WEEKS & CO**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

10 Market
Place Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1HT

Dated:- *23 April 2025*

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
General Account		
Income		
Contributions	30,182	22,667
Fund Raising	959	1,035
Donations	2,110	15,799
Interest Received (Elizabeth Pickering Trust)	1,353	416
	-----	-----
	34,604	39,917
Less:- Overhead Expenditure		
Co-ordinators Fees	4,900	4,900
Insurance	408	360
Fundraising	740	695
Postage, Stationery and Advertising	85	
Telephone	395	1,140
Volunteers Expenses:- Motor and Travelling	23,726	17,778
	-----	-----
	30,254	24,873
Surplus of Income over Expenditure/(Expenditure over Income)	-----	-----
	<u>4,350</u>	<u>15,044</u>

Note:-

The funds of the Elizabeth Pickering Trust are now incorporated into the Devizes and District Link.

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current Assets		

NatWest - General Account	10,667	7,662
Hampshire Trust - 90 Day Notice Account	2,250	2,238
Hampshire Trust - 1 Year Bond	27,486	26,145
Cashin Hand	86	94
	-----	-----
Total Assets	40,489	36,139

Represented By:

Capital Account

Opening Balance at 1 April 2024	36,139	21,095
General:- (Deficit)/Surplus of Income over Expenditure	4,350	15,044
Balance as at 31 March 2025	<u>40,489</u>	<u>36,139</u>

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

England & Wales - Charity number 1019971

Accounts

DEVIZES & DISTRICT LINK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at the Wyvern Club at 8:00pm on May 23rd, 2024

Present

Lewis Cowen (President)
Peter Evans (Chairman)
Norman Minty (Treasurer)
Val Elmes (Secretary)

George Royle, Chas Stonestreet, David Hows, Barbara Glover, Martin Houghton, Jean Altree, Sheila Martin, Dec McSweeney, Ann Sainsbury, Mike Knock

1. Lewis Cowen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked Ian Hopkins, the mayor, for attending. He was interested in the issues raised during the preceding drivers' meeting, saying some had been issues since the start but he accepted that the Link role is changing.

We are taking more responsibility for the clients' welfare, and he felt that this is the way charities are going. He thanked the Link drivers for all the extra time and commitment involved and praised the work that they do.

Apologies: Lesley Mills, Peter Martin, Andy Potts, David Bell,

2. Minutes of last AGM. These were adopted. Proposed by NM Seconded by SM

3. Matters arising: none

4. Chairman's Report:

Verbatim report follows:

Good evening to you all and a special welcome to our new Devizes Town Mayor for 2024/5 Cllr Ian Hopkins who joins us for our AGM.

At the start of this year the committee and I attended the Health and Wellbeing event on the Devizes Green many thanks to the committee members who joined me on that day .

We have signed up some new drivers during the year, not as many as we would like, and my thanks go to Barbara for her hard work in obtaining the required certification from Wiltshire Council for the new and renewing certificates for existing drivers.

During the year we have been blessed with two large donations which will assist with our running costs over the next periods, but we still need additional donations to enable us to continue the service we provide for the residents of the Devizes and local area.

A Wiltshire Link System was demonstrated to the committee by Martin Houghton and after discussion with members it was decided to continue with the present system as we could see no benefits in a major change to our present method of operation again thanks to Martin for his time in the demonstration.

Peter Martin organized a Sunday Lunch for all drivers and partners together with all committee members and their partners but unfortunately at present we have only 22 confirmed who have booked for the lunch and the number required to make it viable is 25 so let's hope that we can get the extra numbers to enable the event to take place thanks Peter for your effort to organize it.

We have with us Cllr Ian Hopkins the newly installed Mayor of Devizes who has nominated Devizes Link as one of his Charities for the coming year which we thank him and wish him a very successful year ahead.

My thanks to our coordinator Ann and Vera for the continuous hard work in matching requests from residents and matching them up with available Drivers your work and customer care with the public is outstanding.

I must thank my fellow Committee members for their help and assistance over the past year, especially my Treasure Norman Minty for his work with not only our accounts but also running the 100 club and sorting out parking issues at various hospitals.

5. Treasurer's Report

Verbatim Report follows: -

The full 2023-24 accounts are currently with the accountants for verification and will subsequently be submitted to the Charity Commission. I am pleased to inform you that the accounts are in a very healthy state, and in lieu of the account, I have supplied you with a printout of the income and expenditure throughout the last financial year.

The opening balance for 2023/24 was £21510.74. This includes the money that is held in the Hampshire Trust Bank in two separate accounts: a 90-day Business Notice Account and a 1-year Business Bond. On the maturity, after a further 12 months, those investments provided the link account with interest of £402.82 bringing the total invested to £15966.55. With the increase in interest rates changing substantially during 2023 the committee decided the better investment option was to consolidate most of our investments into the 1-year Bond account. This consolidation happened in December of 2023.

The 90-day Business Notice Account now stands at £2237.8 with an interest rate of just 0.25% per annum and is there as a safety net in case the current account needs to be topped up. A withdrawal from this account will not affect the percentage interest for the year.

The one-year business bond which was boosted by the transfer of funds from both the 90-day account and the Current Account now stands at £26144.62. This has an interest rate of 5.15% which is forecast to pay £1340.97 pence on the maturity date of 06/12/2024.

Donations amounting to £15799.37 have been received during the year. You will see a list of those on the printout I have supplied for you. Particularly notable is the £7K from the closure of the Combined Charities, the £5K from the estate of Barrie Barrett and the £1.5K from the sponsorship of The Wyvern Club. You will, I hope, be pleased to hear that we were selected, alongside one other charity, to be supported by the Wyvern Club again this year.

During the year, Volunteer drivers have completed 1044 journeys covering some 40839 miles and giving a total of 2948 voluntary hours of their time. There is always a need for new drivers but the recruitment of Volunteer Drivers is still slow and any help in recruiting more drivers by any of you would be most welcome.

I believe everyone is aware that Ann Sainsbury now holds the coordinators mantle, and is ably supported, when necessary, by Vera Oram. The telephone situation has been resolved and the cost of calls and landline connections have been rationalised. However, we will soon have the issue of loss of land lines to deal with when we all must move to the Voice over Internet protocol by the end of 2025. Watch this space.

In summary, 2024 has seen us return to the pre-Covid levels of support to the community and everyone has stepped up a gear at least for us to meet the demand. As I have said in previous years, there is never room for complacency! We need to keep ourselves in the public eye and let the local people see that it is only with their backing and generous support that will ensure we continue well into the future.

I would like to thank JS Weeks & Co, who very generously scrutinise the Charities Accounts free of charge. I do have my digital copy of the account with me, and you are welcome to come and ask any questions you might have. I will attempt to answer those questions and if I do not have the answer to hand, I will investigate and get the answer to you.

Thank you for your attention, and I request your approval of my report.

PE informed us that the move from land line telephones to 'Voice over Internet Protocol' (VoIP) has now been deferred until 2027.

6. Election of New Committee:

- Lewis Cowen continues as Hon. President.
- Peter Evans continues as Chairman
- Re-elected committee members were as follows:
Norman Minty – Treasurer
Val Elmes - Secretary
Barbara Glover - Driver Recruitment
Roger Short,
Peter Martin

These were voted in unanimously by a show of hands

7. Any Other Business:

Lewis Cowen thanked the mayor for choosing to support Link as one of his charities for the year and invited him to say a few words.

Ian Hopkins said he was impressed with the esteem in which Link is held in the town. When he was previous mayor, in 1995/1996, he also made Link his charity and was pleased to do so again. He thanked everyone for their hard work in providing a much needed service for the community.

8. 100 Club May Draw

1. £20 Lewis Cowen
2. £15 Audry Pink
3. £10 Lewis Cowen

9. date of Next meeting - Monday June 24th

The meeting was closed at 8:25 pm

Devizes and District Link Drivers' meeting May 23rd, 2024

SM: **Link drivers' roles are changing**, and we are being requested to be much more than drivers – often giving care and support to lonely people.

MH: we are regularly asked to give more assistance.

PE: Clients needing assistance should be able to bring a friend or relative along, but some have no one they can call on.

DM: We need to ask in detail exactly what assistance is required before accepting the journey.

AS: we had agreed at a previous committee meeting that we would not accept anyone requiring a wheelchair unless they were accompanied by a carer.

DM: Liability issues need to be considered when giving any form of assistance. NM assured us that Link has liability insurance.

PE any client can ask the surgery for assistance in getting to appointments.

SM felt that Community First should issue some health and safety guidelines for all Link drivers.

PE: the committee will draw up a list of questions for the coordinator to ask each client.

AS: at the end of the day, we are a charity and can only do our best.

Hospital Parking

Salisbury:

MH First time you need to register your car at reception & then receive a ticket valid for 3 months.

DM there are spaces allocated to Link but these are often full.

Chippenham

NM: Input your car reg at reception & this authorises your stay. If you leave and come back you must reregister.

GWH

No letter now needed. Your car reg is recorded on entry to the carpark. Go to reception and enter your name and car reg on the list and you will get a ticket for the barrier. The system here appears to change frequently so best to check at reception.

Hospitals put their information into a central point and Community First should then distribute.

PE has had dealings with CF for several years. The personnel change a lot and effectiveness seems to be limited.

PE At the last drivers' meeting the issue of clients on benefits claiming back the cost of their journey was raised. The amounts vary and can be minimal. They have said if an invoice is produced this will be honoured. NM has created a blank invoice which he will include with envelopes to drivers in future. They can then complete this with the current mileage allowance and submit to the hospital.

AS has been contacted and asked to verify journeys for this purpose.

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

Accounts report for the year ended 31 March 2024

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

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THE ALABAMAS GROUP LTD
1212 WILKES ST

CHARITABLE ACCOUNTANTS
10 Water Place

1st Floor
Widdow
SM10 1TH

March 2024

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK**Accountants' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the accounts on pages 2 and 3 from the accounting records of Devizes and District Link and from the information and explanations supplied to us.



**THE ALANBROOKES GROUP LTD
T/A JS WEEKS & CO**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
10 Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1HT

Dated:- 9 September 2024

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023
	£		£	£
General Account				
Income				
Contributions		22,667		12,262
Fund Raising		1,035		845
Donations		15,799		2,576
Interest Received (Elizabeth Pickering Trust)		416		131
		-----		-----
		39,917		15,814
Less:- Overhead Expenditure				
Co-ordinators Fees		4,900		4,400
Insurance		360		331
Fundraising		695		996
Postage, Stationery and Advertising		-		162
Telephone		1,140		536
Volunteers Expenses:- Motor and Travelling		17,778		10,275
		-----		-----
		24,873		16,700
		-----		-----
Surplus of Income over Expenditure/(Expenditure over Income)		15,044		(886)
		=====		=====

Note:-

The funds of the Elizabeth Pickering Trust are now incorporated into the Devizes and District Link.

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current Assets		
Natwest - General Account	7,662	5,021
Hampshire Trust – 90 Day Notice Account	2,238	5,225
Hampshire Trust – 1 Year Bond	26,145	10,742
Cash in Hand	94	107
	-----	-----
Total Assets	36,139	21,095
	=====	=====
 Represented By:-		
Capital Account		
Opening Balance at 1 April 2023	21,095	21,981
General:- (Deficit)/Surplus of Income over Expenditure	15,044	(886)
	-----	-----
Balance as at 31 March 2024	36,139	21,095
	=====	=====

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK**Accountants' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the accounts on pages 2 and 3 from the accounting records of Devizes and District Link and from the information and explanations supplied to us.



THE ALANBROOKES GROUP LTD
T/A JS WEEKS & CO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

10 Market Place

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 1HT

Dated:- 9 September 2024