



## **Celebrating Age Wiltshire**

### **Report on Activities and Engagement in South West Wiltshire 2020/21**

Celebrating Age Wiltshire has worked in South West Wiltshire during 2020/2021 adapting our offer to ensure our programme worked within COVID 19 guidelines but continued to deliver to the most vulnerable and isolated older people. We have delivered doorstep Christmas Carol concerts, other doorstep concerts and art workshops focussing on observing nature to 242 elderly and vulnerable participants in the area.

#### **Christmas Carolling**

On 17<sup>th</sup> December, in collaboration with Celebrate Voice, 6 doorstep carol concerts were performed. 4 wonderful singers from Celebrate Voice, led by Lynsey Doherty, sung carols at a safe distance in people's gardens, courtyards and car parks to referred individuals, who are often housebound and particularly at this time were extremely isolated.

#### **Carol singing at Nadder Close**



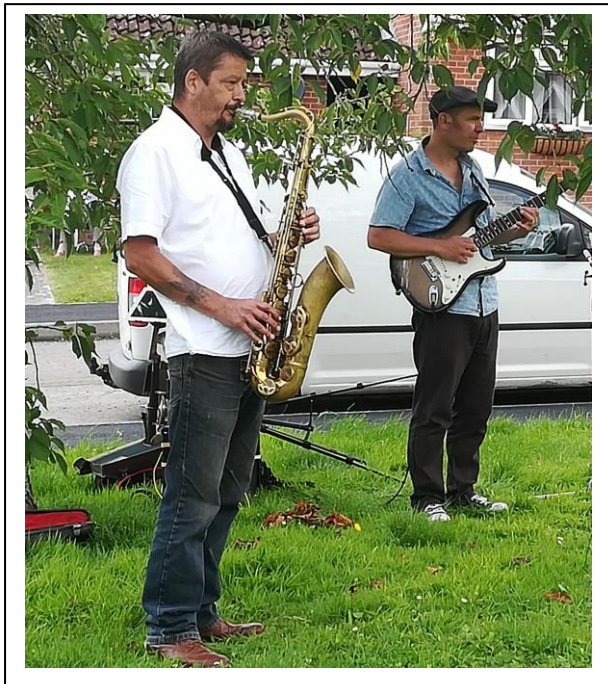
Feedback from participants included comments: 'I have been made to feel very special' 'So lovely, what a treat.' 'Thank you for caring, this is really special'. The Celebrate Voice singers were so glad to be given the opportunity to sing to people who would not normally be able to get to a concert to hear them.

### **Outdoor/Doorstep Concerts**

We schedule concerts in Wiltshire with musicians performing in people's gardens or on their doorsteps at prearranged times. Individuals can be referred for these concerts. In addition to the carol concerts, 16 other doorstep concerts have taken place to individuals and care homes and sheltered housing, including Albany House in Tisbury, Clays Orchard in Fovant, Nadder Close in Tisbury and the Broadchalke Community Hub.

Feedback from participants included comments: 'Thank you for The lovely music this afternoon in Dinton, lots of smiling faces & positive remarks, like " What a wonderful way to see your neighbours" " nice to be outside sharing a drink together and meeting new friends" (Val Okeefe)

### **Dan and Paul playing on Spracklands green at Dinton**



### **Noticing Nature Art Workshops**

Noticing Nature is an outdoor health and well being arts project, with artist James Aldridge guiding participants through steps to observing and noticing nature in their own gardens/ local outdoor spaces. There is an online resource pack and video available for all, and in addition individuals or small groups can be referred for one to one workshops in their gardens.

James ran these workshops in Quidhampton with a group of older people who had been very isolated during the pandemic, and were brought together by local resident, Jane Taylor. The sessions were hosted by a 98 year old in her garden!



Feedback from participants included comments: 'Living on my own (and deaf too) it was good to meet up with a small group of people and having the opportunity to learn and relearn new and old techniques etc. It was good too to say to myself 'you can do it again - reviving old activities!' 'Gave me something else to think about and do - I looked forward to the visits and doing something a little different. I miss going to my art group'. 'I loved trying out new ideas and also the opportunity of meeting local friends as a group again after the restrictions of Covid'.

### **Online Concerts**

We also schedule online concerts which are resourced from an online archive of concerts and performances recorded during lockdown at Wiltshire Music Centre, that are released monthly to our mailing list which included all care homes and an increasing number of individuals. The full playlist is available on our YouTube channel, a link to which is on our webpage: [www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/learn-take-part/celebrating-age](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/learn-take-part/celebrating-age).

Throughout the year we have continued to extend and build our contacts with referrers and community connectors to increase our reach within South West Wiltshire. New contacts include: Janet Chapman at Albany House, Tisbury; Val O'Keefe at the Thursday Club in Wilton; Jane Taylor in Quidhampton; Revd Ben Rundell-Evans in Zeals; Tony Patel at the Chalke Valley Community Hub and Wiltshire Council Sheltered Housing at Nadder Close in Tisbury and Clays Orchard in Fovant.

We very much hope to be able to continue our work and build on the connections we've made across South West Wiltshire through 2021/2022.