

Silver Salisbury

South West Wilts Area Board Feb 2023



Summary

Silver Salisbury reduces social isolation by promoting events and activities where older people will get a warm welcome. In July 2022 we were awarded a grant of £700 by the South West Wiltshire Area Board. This funding, together with support from The National Lottery Awards For All and Wiltshire Community Foundation has enabled us to promote activities in the South West Wilts area. Early last year we found that older people were keen to get out and about again but were unsure of what was available locally. People that weren't on-line were struggling to understand what had re-opened after the lockdown. Funding from the Area Board helped us produce a Spring Newsletter to help promote activities and social groups in Salisbury, Wilton, Dinton and Fovant. Later in the year 5,000 copies of our 55-page Autumn Programme were shared with older people, including around 400 in the Wilton and Dinton area. Around 1,000 people attended one-off events advertised in the programme and 64 people went to new regular clubs. Our attendees came from across Salisbury, Wilton, Downton and Amesbury. We would expect a reasonable number to come from the South Wilts Area but it is hard to quantify how many. We received great feedback from older people that had tried new things and met new friends. We continue to get requests for information from people and support services who have seen our programme and want to know more.

How we used our funds in 2022

Our 2022 funding enabled us to run a programme of outreach work with local older people's groups. Locally, we met older people at the Thursday Club and Downside Sheltered Housing. We talked about local activities and shared our knowledge of what was around and what people enjoyed doing.

The April Silver Salisbury Spring Newsletter, promoting activities in Salisbury, Amesbury and Wilton included a section on activities in Wilton, Barford and Fovant. This was shared locally with older people's housing groups, the Wilton and mobile libraries, clubs, shops and older people's groups.

During July and August we produced and distributed around 400 copies of our Autumn Silver Salisbury programme in the Wilton and Dinton areas and 5,000 further afield. The programme was a paper 55-page guide to 59 local regular groups and 36 one-off events that welcomed older people across the Salisbury, Amesbury, Downton, Wilton and Dinton areas. The Wilton section included a range of fitness, social and support groups. As transport was a key issue in our discussions with older people, we also promoted the availability of the Wilton Link scheme.

Silver Salisbury update for Salisbury Area Board Feb 2023

Popular one-off local events included Celebrating Age Wiltshire's jazz standards at the Thursday Club, a Bookchat group at Wilton library and Riding for the Disabled's invitation to tea with a pony. Unfortunately, the Healthcare history talk we'd arranged at Wilton Community Centre had to be cancelled due to a covid infection.

We met people from in and around the South West Wilts area at events in and around Salisbury, including our Celebration of Older People's Creativity at the Guildhall and our teacups and piano classics event at the Quaker Meeting House.

Impact of our activities in 2022

- Around 1000 older people came to the 36 one-off events promoted in our autumn programme. We would expect a reasonable number to have come from the South West Wilts area but are unable to determine exactly how many. We know of at least 67 people that attended one-off events in the Wilton area. 6 people came to the Thursday Club for the first time to experience the jazz session and 4 have become regular members. We've provided details of fitness groups at Wilton Community Centre, encouraging new members.

These activities provide opportunities for older people to socialise and try new things. Printed brochures and phone numbers make the events accessible to the digitally excluded. Many older people tell us they rely on written material or word of mouth to find out what's on.

- We've promoted activities of 17 groups in the South West Wilts area, helping people to make connections within the local community and providing useful information to support groups, including the Wilton Link scheme and the Stoma Support and Stroke groups, who delivered the programme to all their members. We were told;

'It's so useful to see what's on' and 'Yes please, I'll take one and can I have a few for my neighbours?'

- Many of the groups we promote are run by older people. We have promoted the work of many volunteers and advertised volunteering opportunities for the community transport teams, Arundells and Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire.
- We've built connections with social prescribers; patient leads and members of the prevention and well-being team. They have told us how our guides and programmes help them in their work improving the well-being of isolated people. One said, *'A very useful resource, please let us have the next edition'.*