

Wine & friends

» Community



Raise a toast to Friends of Cotswold Volunteers who are organising a gourmet dinner event to raise funds to keep their show on the road

A group of volunteers are busy helping the community where they need it most. Cotswold Volunteers, run by CEO Jane Winstanley, have been providing essential, life-changing support services to those in need in the Cotswolds for more than 50 years. Today, as well as providing hospital transport, day care centres and Dial-A-Ride, Cotswold Volunteers is the region's foremost volunteer recruitment and placement service with more than 200 voluntary organisations on its register.

Lisa Hewett is a member of Friends of Cotswold Volunteers and helps out in the Town Information Centre at Bingham House, once a week. She said: "Friends of Cotswold Volunteers are raising funds for a new family vehicle with full wheelchair access to replace the current one (which is very tired and impractical. The vehicle is used by the volunteer drivers to transport wheelchair users to appointments at hospitals, doctors, etc. It will be available for self-hire so families without suitable transport can go on local trips or outings further afield."

So far the Friends have raised nearly £11,000 with events including an open day at Batsford House private gardens, a sponsored walk along the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path by Julian Lewis and Dan Smethurst, a poetry contest, whisky tasting and talk at Bingham Gallery and quiz nights with the Jubilee Club and Cirencester Rugby Club.

The adapted vehicle will cost £22,794 and so the fund-raising continues with a four-course gourmet dinner on Saturday 14th November in the splendour of Cirencester's Parish Church. This event will be hosted by Tina Lewis (pictured) of Heritage Wine, with more than 20 years' experience in the trade. Tina is selecting a wine for each course and will talk guests through her choices. The food is being provided by local caterers Relish and tickets are available from the Town Information Centre.

● If you are interested in giving up some time to help Cotswold Volunteers, visit; www.cotswoldvolunteers.org or see the group's Facebook page.

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