

Up until March driving jobs were coming in and being well met, bus trips as successful as ever as were the monthly tea parties. Home visiting numbers were increasing steadily. We increased mileage allowance to 45p per mile and fitted a new noticeboard outside the office. The new bus arrived at the same time as lockdown preventing its use as yet. The Ways and Means Trust agreed to buy the old bus

Other changes included the formation of a finance committee, and upgrade of the computer software to allow for changes in details going out to drivers, as well as the ability of the drivers to book jobs directly from their emails. We also settled on a format for the volunteer handyman and asked Mary Norris to be the committee rep. for the home visitors.

While all this was going on, Clive Mills was leading us in seeking long term office accommodation. Our landlord, Dr Hemphill, has been fantastic and told us we can stay as long as we need, and offered us full co-operation with a short notice move, if need be. We chose to try and purchase the old Police Office in preference to going to Christ the King again or back to the village hall (where room alterations would have been done for us). This was agreed and voted 14 to 1 at an extraordinary general meeting on 11th September. Clive persuaded SODC to see it as a community asset, which put us in good stead for the purchase.

The asking price of £150,000 was negotiated down to £130,000 and all the Charity Commission's Guidance followed. Sonning Common Parish Council was very supportive with the offer of a loan, although this was not needed after grants received from SODC, Oxford County Council, and Mulberry Trust, as well as donations from Binfield Heath PC., Rotherfield Peppard PC., local notable people as well as use of our own funds and fundraising through the 'Buy a Brick' campaign.

A successful safeguarding course was held for the home visitors in October.

Christmas saw a very fine choir quickly assembled by Mary Norris and Anna Wright bringing joy to the Christmas Fayre in the village hall. In January, we updated our data protection to comply with the rules and everyone had to fill in new forms. A volunteers meeting was held and the Buy a Brick campaign launched. From April all meetings were held on line by Zoom. At the April meeting we voted to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This charity has since been registered as FISH Volunteer Centre (new Charity number 1189325)

Because of the pandemic we changed our operations (no driving jobs or bus trips now) to - supporting those who needed it, by regular phone calls and liaising with SOCO Support group and delivering shopping and prescriptions to those isolating or with difficulty getting out. Home visitors had to phone their clients to give them support. SOCO support Group has now ceased, but FISH still shopping and delivering prescriptions as well as starting up our driving service again (with special precautions).