

# NETWORK

## The Newsletter of Whitton Network

Registered Charity no 1117627

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Autumn 2020

Now  
open for  
transport again!

### AUTUMN MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well after the past few difficult months. We have faced an enormous challenge to the way we work and how we continue to support our clients during the coronavirus pandemic. We are aware that many of our regular clients have been shielding following government advice or remain in self-isolation to protect themselves and their loved ones. However, after a 5 month pause, I am glad to say that we are back offering lifts to clients to go about their business!

Not to say that the Network has been quiet, we have been joined by many new volunteers during the crisis and we are very grateful for their support. They have helped us to ensure the people of Whitton and Heathfield had access to food and medication during the coronavirus crisis. I want to record my thanks to Kate, Greg, Helen, Carol, Leona and Dave who are all new volunteers at the charity.

Whilst it's not over yet, we are glad to see local businesses and services re-opening in a safe way and hope to be able to get back to arranging outings in the near future.

Hugh Patterson, Chairman

### STAFFING NEWS

Marge Francis, the Coordinator here for 13 years, has now sadly resigned from her post due to ongoing ill health.

We hope to have a proper goodbye and send off in the traditional fashion in the future, but in the meantime we held a small socially distanced presentation in Marge's garden at the end of June.



Thanks to our trustees for attending and to all of our volunteers and friends of the Network for their very generous donations. We wish Marge all the best and will miss her wealth of experience and friendly face at the office.

## OUR NEW CO-ORDINATOR

Given the sad news of Marge's departure, we had already recruited a temporary Coordinator Ana Cavilla who we are pleased to inform you has accepted the post on a permanent basis. She has been running the Network office since the lockdown began in March and looks forward to meeting you all in the near future.

## GARDEN PROJECT 2020

Whitton Network did manage to roll out the gardening project this year, but could only support clients who had side or rear access to their gardens, so unfortunately could only support 21 clients. We are pleased to say though that Belderbos continue to do some great work and here are a few photos of the outcomes.



*Our befriending dog Hubby checking out the gardening!*



## WINTER FLU JAB

It is more important than ever to ensure that you stay healthy over this winter so we strongly encourage you to book in for your free flu jab, available to anyone over 65 and those with specific medical conditions, such as:

- People with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
- Pregnant women
- People living with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- Children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2020, those in primary school and children in year 7 (at secondary school)
- Frontline health or social care workers



All the local pharmacies and GPs offer this service and it's important to get the jab before winter takes hold.

**Action Fraud**  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
**0300 123 2040**

## AVOIDING SCAMS AND FRAUD

Please be especially aware of a number of scams that are going around locally, which have increased during the pandemic. It is vital that you don't let strangers into your home or ever give personal or banking details out over the phone, if you or a relative have been a victim of fraud please contact the Action Fraud hotline on 0300 123 2040