

NETWORK

The Newsletter of Whitton Network

Registered Charity no 1117627

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Summer 2023

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Thanks everyone for your continued support of Whitton Network this year. We are incredibly busy at the moment with loads of appointments and referrals, so please be patient! We are delighted to say that despite booking 265 driving jobs this year - that's 100 more driving jobs than at this point last year - we have only had three appointments that we couldn't manage to find volunteer drivers for!

We've had two great outings with a Spring Tea party at the end of March and a visit to RHS Wisley in May with some other events coming up later in the year, so watch out for letters in the post! Also, we had a plant stall at the St George's Day Parade in Whitton that raised over £200 and it was good to see that the weather held up! We thank all of our keen gardeners for their contributions.

If you haven't visited our regular coffee morning yet, please do come and say hello. It runs from 10.30 – 12 noon every Monday morning in the Whitton Library Annex and we'd love to see you there!

Hugh Patterson – Chairman

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE

The Annual General Meeting of Whitton Network was held on Monday 22nd May.

The election of the Committee of Trustees was:

Chairman: Hugh Patterson Treasurer: Richard Hurdle Secretary: Linda McHugh

The Trustees for the year are:

Greg Addington, Valerie Irvin, Mary Sangtabi, Rosa Sworn and David Willis.

The Chairman's Report, 2022 Minutes, and Annual accounts were all approved by those who attended. Hugh noted that Mike Kerslake had stood down as a trustee this year after 12 years and thanked him for his long service. He also thanked the families and friends of Peter Ede, Marge Francis, Rita Strong, Denis Watkin and Vivienne Watson who as a result of their legacies, gifted just over £4000 to Whitton Network in 2022/2023.

DON'T FORGET.....

We do need **advance notice** of any journeys that you need drivers for. Ideally a week's notice is appreciated as we have to allocate an available volunteer. If you leave it too late, we may not be able to help you, so call as soon as possible on 020 8755 1336.

Please remember, our drivers are all volunteers - not mini cab drivers!



MARCH SPRING TEA PARTY AND RHS WISLEY IN MAY, 2023

We had a great Spring Tea Party and a fabulous day out at RHS Wisley with 34 people attending. We had mobility scooters and wheelchairs to help people get about and a great cream tea to finish it all off.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who came along and helped us out. It really was an amazing place to visit.



HELPING US TO MEET YOUR TRANSPORT NEEDS

It is getting busier and busier here at the Whitton Network and we sometimes struggle to find drivers. So while we will continue to drive as many of you as possible, we may need to prioritise hospital and GP appointments over hairdresser and social trips. We will also try to make sure that we help those most in need with severe mobility difficulties. If we can't help you, remember that there are subsidised alternatives so it is worth registering for **Dial a Ride**. If you have certain conditions or are on some benefits you can automatically register, but call Transport for London on 0343 222 7777 to ask for an application form. Another option is to register for the **London Councils' Taxi Card Scheme**. This gives subsidised taxi trips. To find out more you can contact the London Borough of Richmond Supported Travel Scheme by telephone on 020 8831 6096 to ask for an application form.

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS AND TRIPS

- Trip to the Seaside – early July 2023 – Letters will be coming out soon
- Connaught Opera – September 2023
- Christmas Party and Carols – Mid December 2023

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are delighted to welcome some new volunteers to the network this year with Sue, Jean and Nan joining as drivers, Rita as a befriender and Jill and Mary coming into work in the office, so you'll hear some new voices in the office if you call us for a job.