



# WHITTON NETWORK NEWSLETTER



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----- CHRISTMAS 2024 -----

## *Christmas message from our chairman*

*Merry Christmas to all our clients, their friends and families and supporters of the Whitton Network.* We end 2024 on a high. We've had another good year with plenty of outings and events, a regular Monday coffee morning and we've had some lovely feedback from our members. We took a group to see the Connaught Opera at the Hampton Hill Theatre, alongside AGE UK Richmond, in October, and were hosted by the Hounslow Evangelical Church for our annual carol service and tea party at the start of the month. We've also been out supporting the Rotary Club of Twickenham Upon Thames with their Christmas Street collection, and were delighted with a £400 donation from them to support our work.

We remain grateful for the ongoing support of our main funders the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the Hampton Fund, as well as the National Lottery Community Fund, who are helping to support our outings programme this year and next. We hope that 2025 brings continued good health and prosperity to all, and we will continue to provide support to all of our members that need us next year.

*Hugh Patterson* - Chairman



## KEEPING HEALTHY OVER THE WINTER MONTHS

We'd like to remind all clients that many of you will be eligible for a Covid-19 Jab and a Flu jab, also that some of you will have been invited for a pneumonia, shingles and / or RSV vaccine (for those aged 75 to 80). If you haven't yet booked your Covid-19 vaccine you need to do this **as soon as possible**. Information can be accessed at [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/covid\\_vaccine](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/covid_vaccine) or bookings can be made by phoning 119. If you are unsure, please check with your GP to see if they can offer advice or to check your immunisation records.



## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the office **will close at 12 noon on Monday 23rd December and re-open on Thursday 2nd January at 9.30am**. If you need any essential help or transport during this period, it may be possible to arrange this, but please do contact us as early as possible to let us know on the office number 020 8755 1336 and we'll try to help. Please note that many of our volunteers are away themselves over this period so it may not be possible to provide transport between the 24<sup>th</sup> December and the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are delighted to welcome 3 new volunteers to the Network since the summer as we've been joined by Maggie and Chris as drivers and Patricia as a befriender. We are very grateful for their help and we're always looking for more volunteers so if you know anyone who might be able to help, please do send them our way! We can offer volunteering as a driver, to help with the coffee mornings, to do shopping, to help out in the office or as a befriender.

## CONNAUGHT OPERA AND CAROLS AT HOUNSLOW EVANGELICAL CHURCH 2024



*The many costumes of Maria Arakie*



**Christmas Fun at the Carol Service and Tea Party**

## TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AND AVOIDING RISK

We've sadly heard of a few local people who have recently found themselves at risk whilst using cash points in and around Whitton High Street, we are very fortunate to live in a very safe borough with low crime rates, but please do be alert when using cash points. Remember that you can withdraw money inside the post office using your card instead, and some supermarkets still offer cash back. We recommend that you make sure that there is no-one standing near you or around you before you withdraw cash, or even better go with a friend!

## MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS – 10.30AM TO 12 NOON AT WHITTON LIBRARY

**Our last coffee morning of the year will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**, so do drop in and see us if you are around to share some Christmas cheer. We will re-open on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 10.30am**.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR SERVICES?

We have enclosed a short survey with this newsletter that we'd be very grateful if you could complete and return to the office. We want to keep track of how we are doing and what impact we are having on the lives of our clients, so would appreciate you filling it in. If you'd prefer to have this via email to complete, please email us at [whittonnetwork@btconnect.com](mailto:whittonnetwork@btconnect.com) to let us know.