

WHITTON NETWORK

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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----- SUMMER 2025 -----

Message from our Chairman

Welcome to this summer edition of our Whitton Network Newsletter, we have remained busy since we wrote out to you at Christmas, continuing to provide transport, befriending, and help with shopping, and prescriptions. As well as our usual services, we also run a weekly coffee morning in the annex at the back of the Whitton Library which takes place every Monday morning, 10.30 -12 noon so please join us if you're free, there is no need to book.

As we come out of the winter months we will be re-starting our outings programme, and we will be embarking on a River Thames Cruise, and we are also planning to head back to Littlehampton again, as well as having a tea party later in the year. We are as ever grateful for the ongoing support from the Hampton Fund, The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames and the Lottery Community Fund for continuing to support us and our activities as well as the amazing donations that we receive from those who use us.

Hugh Patterson – Chairman

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU CHRISTOPHER BLIGH

9th July 1946 - 7th February 2025



Back in February this year, we were devastated to hear that our long-standing volunteer and dear friend Chris Bligh had passed away. He was not only a trustee and our treasurer for over 15 years, but even after he stood down from the committee, continued to drive for us, supporting many clients with

their appointments. He was always calm, patient and kind. He volunteered for the Whitton Network for an incredible 20 years! In 2022 we were delighted when he was nominated for and won a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Community Heroes Event run by London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.



He was lovely man, and a true gentleman, and will be missed by all of us. He leaves a big gap in the Whitton Network family as well as his own family. Thanks, Chris for everything you did for us all.



WHITTON LIBRARY HOME DELIVERY SERVICE - Can't get out and about, but enjoy reading – there is a solution. The Library Service provides a free home delivery service for Richmond upon Thames residents who, because of age or disability, are unable to get to their local library and do not have anyone who can borrow and return items for them. When you enrol, a member of the library staff will contact you and fill in a detailed questionnaire about your reading tastes and the items you would like to borrow. You will then be visited every four to six weeks at a regular time by a volunteer who will deliver your books, audiobooks, CDs or DVDs. *There is no charge for any part of the service.* If you're interested in learning more, please contact them on 020 8734 3343, or you can email them on: libraries@richmond.gov.uk. For more details about the scheme – visit https://richmond.gov.uk/services/libraries/home_library_service



ST. GEORGES DAY PARADE - We've been out and about already this year, and you could find us hosting a stall at the Whitton High Street St. George's Day parade which took place on Sunday 27th April. Thanks to all of you who visited the stall, bought plants and helped out to make the day such a success, we raised an incredible **£571** in the end which was the highest total ever! Special thanks go to **Simon Lord Horticulture** for his amazing plant donations.



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS - The Whitton Network were also in attendance at the VE day celebrations hosted at the Whitton Community Centre, the event saw some 120 people turn up for copious amounts of tea and cake, and it felt like a real community event, with Homelink, Visiting Angels South Middlesex, the Whitton Woolies and many other groups represented on the day. Our very own John took the opportunity to head out in his full regalia and was the star of the show. Thanks for a brilliant afternoon.



WHITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WHITTON AGE UK - The Trimble Lounge is now open at the Percy Road Community Centre on a Tuesday afternoon from 2-5pm to anyone wanting a cup of tea and a chat, also AGE UK Richmond, run activities all day on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Whitton Social Centre on the Kneller Road. For further details or to get involved see:

- https://www.facebook.com/WhittonCommCtr?locale=en_GB for Whitton Community Centre, or call on 020 8894 4452
- <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/richmonduponthames/activities-and-events/social-and-wellbeing-centres/age-uk-richmond-whitton-social-centre/> for AGE UK Richmond, Whitton Social Centre, or call on 020 8894 4963