

Woodcote Volunteers – 40 years old!



40th ANNIVERSARY CHEESE AND WINE RECEPTION

Well, that was some party!



A heart-warming evening was enjoyed by current and past volunteers, clients and distinguished guests on Friday 3rd February, to celebrate 40 years of providing a driving service to residents Woodcote and surrounding villages.

Over 75 guests enjoyed drinks, food and entertainment at Woodcote Village Hall on Friday evening in a tribute to volunteers past and present. The attendees at the evening included volunteers, both current and past, clients and guest speakers and we were entertained by performance on the piano and singing by two wonderful musicians, Ethan and Alejandro, 6th form pupils at the Oratory School.

There are so many people to thank for their contributions to the success of the evening, it is hard to know where to start.....but in no particular order.....

Our clients – who put a smile on the faces of our team by their cheerfulness, fascinating life stories and gratitude.

Our wonderful speakers –

Helena McBride, our Chair, who introduced the event and talked about the history of Woodcote Volunteers;

Dr Ed Capobianco on behalf of the Medical Practice, who work closely with us and appreciate that there are many patients who would not be able to receive treatment without us;

Ann Lardon, one of our regular clients, who spoke movingly about the help we provide with kindness and good cheer;

Dave Turner, Chair of South Oxfordshire District Council, who recognised the invaluable service we provide and the power of community spirit;

Monika Watters, our longest serving office helper (30 years and still going strong!), who spoke about being an office helper and what an invaluable service that whole team provide;

Brian Forde, on behalf of OWL (Our Woodcote Library group of volunteers), who spoke about the Library Service and what they can offer local housebound residents;

Elizabeth Payne, our longest serving driver, who explained why she loves being a driver;

Annette Mack, one of our drivers who is a member of Woodcote Parish Council, who spoke on behalf of the Council, thanking us for our commitment to the local community;

Revd. Canon Kevin Davies – thanked Woodcote Volunteers and pointed out that when the world's problems seem overwhelming, we **can** do something positive, locally, to help others, which in turn helps us.

Our raffle prize donors –

The Highwayman	Gerald Seymour	Jessica Tilley
The Red Lion	Premier (RNK Stores)	Blue Tin Produce
Kimberley's Hair	Helena McBride	Woodcote Garden Centre
The Plaice	Jane Forde	Cotswold Wildlife Park

Our raffle helped raise £250 to support Woodcote Volunteers, so thank you to all who supplied us with prizes and bought tickets.

The Oratory School –

We were so privileged to have some beautiful music provided by two very talented boys from the local school. Ethan sang three songs for us, while Alejandro played the piano – both background music as people arrived - and then some amazingly fast pieces between songs – the speed at which he played meant we actually saw his fingers blur!

The organising team –

Jane Forde, Christine Bernard, Janet Harper and Angela Jenkins

Cakes –

Lorna Tappin provided us with a batch of absolutely delicious lemon fairy cakes at cost. Needless to say, there were no “No thank-yous” to those!

Canapes –

One of our clients, Rico de Giorgio, made some amazingly delicious cheese wafer crackers – they melted in our mouths and none were left at the end. Thank you.

Our volunteers –

drivers, the office team and committee who do an outstanding service to local residents who say they would be lost without us. To all who were able to come along and help set up, clear up, sell tickets, drive clients, take photos, serve refreshments – a huge thank you.

More photos of the evening are on our website – details below.

It was definitely an evening to remember and we look forward to the next 40 years!

OTHER NEWS

Our next event will be our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 19th April 2023 at 7pm in the Pavilion Room at Woodcote Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome. There will be more information about this in next month's edition.

We are very pleased to welcome Sally, Hilary and Esther to our team of volunteer drivers. Thank you so much for giving your time and we are sure you will love what you do.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Ian Brannan and Mavis Beardsley, who are leaving us. They have been drivers with us for several years. Thank you so much and you will be missed.

We wish to thank St John's Ambulance for providing our volunteers with a fascinating and informative talk on Emergency First Aid. While most of our drivers are not fully first aid trained, we do know now what to look out for, what action we should take and who to call should the worst happen..... I can reassure you it hasn't happened yet but we felt it best to be prepared!

TO FINISH.....

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to give us a call on **01491 681171**. Our drivers are available to take you to health related, social appointments and we can collect prescriptions. Just give us a call if you are not sure if we can take you somewhere!

Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us. One of our friendly office workers will answer the phone between 9.30 and 11am on weekdays (excluding public holidays) and you can leave a message on the answerphone at other times.

Find out more about us by looking at our website: www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers

We're here – to get you there!