

Woodcote Volunteers



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Do you have any New Year's resolutions? Ours is to try to increase our pool of volunteer drivers from the current 34 to 40! We are becoming increasingly busy and our valiant team of drivers are getting a bit stretched!

If you would like to give something back to your community, and feel a huge sense of satisfaction by helping others, why don't you consider offering a few hours each month as a driver?

Our drivers always comment on how much they enjoy volunteering this way, as they can chat to some lovely people while driving, and at the same time make a huge difference to people locally, who say they cannot imagine how they would manage without us.

You don't have to commit to any specific days or hours – we call you and if you are free to take the job, great; if not, that's no problem. You can choose how far and where you are prepared to drive – we especially need volunteers to take local people to hospitals in Reading and Oxford - but if you don't want to drive that far, we have many requests for drivers to take clients to local towns and villages. Even if you can do just one drive a month, that would be wonderful. Your expenses are paid at the current government-set rate of 45p per mile.

Our only requirements are that you agree to undertake some simple training, your car is taxed, insured and MOT'd (if applicable) and that you have a genuine interest in helping people. Before you start, we carry out a DBS check, which is free of charge for volunteers.

See our website for much more information and if you would like to find out more, email our secretary Jane Forde – info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Yes, in February 2023, Woodcote Volunteers will be 40 years old! What an amazing milestone and such a credit to the people of Woodcote and surrounding villages who have kept this much needed service going for so long. We are run by volunteers only, who serve on the committee, as drivers and manage the office.

We plan to hold a celebratory event on Friday 3rd February in the Village Hall, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. We are inviting our current and past volunteers, clients and others who support us in a variety of ways. If you are a person who has volunteered for us in the past but lost touch, please phone our office and we will take your details and send out an invitation.

KEEPING OUR CLIENTS SAFE

In 2022, we began to introduce a few changes that we believe will reduce risk and keep our clients as safe and comfortable as possible. We are providing safeguarding awareness training to all our

drivers, and St John's Ambulance are giving us first aid awareness training this month. We have been given guidance from our local GP's as to what to do if a client falls. We have purchased a new, lightweight wheelchair so if a client is at risk of a fall, we can keep them safe by bringing this with us for the journey. We have a number of organisational Blue Badges, so we can park close to the entrance of a building, reducing the distance a person needs to walk, which is very welcome when walking is uncomfortable or tiring.

OTHER NEWS

We are very pleased to welcome Nikki to our team of volunteer drivers. Thank you so much for giving your time.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Janet Page and Stephanie Waite, who are leaving us. Janet has been a driver with us for ten years and Stephanie helped in the office for over a year. Thank you so much and you will be missed.

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 medical or social appointments and we can collect prescriptions.

Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us. One of our 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!