

Woodcote Volunteers



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

2023 Roundup

2023 was a year of development for us. We started 2023 with 34 drivers and we now have 46, which is a huge improvement for us as the number of requests for help has increased significantly during the year. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to offer their time to help others in our community. We welcome our new drivers this month – David and Rosemary, Jo, Jon and Robin. They have already started in their role and will enjoy getting to know our clients. We have also been fortunate to secure a new office helper, Carol, so clients might speak to her if they call on a Friday morning. We thank all our new volunteers who have joined us this year – your help means so much.

We celebrated our 40th anniversary with a party at the Village Hall in February – a wonderful evening enjoyed by volunteers, clients and guests with some moving talks from various speakers. Our drivers benefitted from St John's Ambulance emergency first aid awareness training. We circulated useful info sheets to all clients who requested them, which tell them about what's on in the villages, what help is available and how to access further support. We have also circulated Age UK Winter Wellbeing Packs to clients. We operated stalls at Whitchurch Hill and Woodcote Fetes (the latter on the hottest day of the year – phew!), helped out at Woodcote Rally and held two fundraising coffee mornings. We ended the year in style, putting the finishing touches to our new bookings website and we purchased a computer for our office. The office team and drivers will benefit hugely from the new system which makes finding a driver much quicker. To request a driver phone the office as usual, giving us as much notice as possible, please.

Looking forward to 2024

We are hoping for stability in 2024 but will be as busy as ever, no doubt. We have a good complement of drivers but can always use more, so if you are reading this and thinking of joining us, please don't hesitate – we need you! As last year, we will be holding our AGM in April, two coffee mornings in June and October, will be helping at the Rally and will run stalls at local village fetes.

TO FINISH.....

As usual, if you need a driver, please don't hesitate to call our office on **01491 681171**. We collect from Woodcote and immediately surrounding villages.

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