A logo of two hands

Description automatically generated**Woodcote Volunteers**

**Office Volunteer Needed**

We urgently need someone to help man the office on Friday mornings. The hours are from 9.30 -11.00 am and you would be working alongside another volunteer, taking phone calls from clients and registering drives on the on-line booking system. Please see our website for more details and how to contact us.

**Volunteer Drivers Needed**

Due to a big increase in the number of requests for drives – especially to medical appointments – we are looking for a few more drivers, please. Our website has information about this role and how to find out more or apply. It is a treat to be able to help people get to their essential appointments, listening to stories and you are showered with gratitude! Expenses are paid.

**Digital inclusion and support project – can you help?**

We are all very aware how important it is to be digitally connected in the modern world – and how many people, particularly the elderly, struggle to get to grips with the technology. In our role as a provider of volunteer drivers we see how much our clients are affected by this. Being connected to the internet helps to prevent isolation, enabling people to connect with friends and family, make appointments, apply for blue badges, shop online, pursue interests, play games etc.

Woodcote Volunteers is therefore aiming to launch a ‘Silver Surfers’ type drop-in session, to be run once a month in Woodcote, specifically to address this issue. However, we do need volunteers who are able to help people unfamiliar with their digital devices how to use them. There’s no need for expertise – you just need to feel comfortable around digital devices. Support in the set-up and running of sessions will be provided by ‘Getting Oxfordshire Online’ (<https://gettingoxfordshireonline.org>). To find out more, please go to our website [www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk) or email info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk.

**Help with Blue Badge Applications**

If you think that you, or a relative, could be entitled to a Blue Badge, we are able to offer help from a team of volunteers who have experience of the eligibility criteria and the form-filling that is required. We no longer have our own, organisational Blue Badges, so it is important that any client with mobility difficulties has one of their own. We can help anyone in our catchment area. Please phone our office number in the first instance or email us using the address at the bottom of this article.

**AGM**

Our AGM was held in the Village Hall on 16th April and was very well attended. We said goodbye and a heartfelt thank you to our Chair, Helena McBride, who is stepping down after four years at the helm. We are very fortunate that a very able replacement, Sarah White, has been found and we look forward to the next few years with Sarah as our Chair. We also wish to thank four other committee members who stepped down after many years of service and will now have a well-deserved break. A number of other new members were elected to the Committee and gifts were presented to two of our long-serving volunteer drivers. We were also treated to a very informative presentation from Gaynor Williams from Age UK, who provided a rundown of the services that they offer and that could be of benefit to our clients.

**Clients’ Tea Party**

On the afternoon of May 7,th we had our monthly tea party which featured some fun bingo, with our Treasurer, Richard, acting as caller. Next month’s tea party will be in the Woodcote Community Centre at 14.30-16.00 on Wednesday 4th June. Tea and cake will be provided as usual, along with a quiz.

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**Saturday Coffee Morning**

Our next fund-raising coffee morning will be on the 31st May, in the Woodcote Community Centre. Please join us! Meet your friends or make new ones, over coffee and homemade cakes and cookies.

**To Finish..**

As usual, if you need a driver, please don’t hesitate to give us a call 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](http://www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk). Or visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers](http://www.facebook.com/woodcotevolunteers).