A logo of two hands

Description automatically generated**Woodcote Volunteers**

**Digital Inclusion Project (Let’s Get Digital!)**

***One-to-one advice sessions.*** Woodcote Volunteers are delighted to announce a new, free initiative to help with any queries that arise from using the internet, whether you have a device or not. This will be in the form of one-to-one advice sessions lasting approximately 45 minutes.

Being connected to the internet helps to prevent isolation and can enable people to connect with friends and family, make appointments, shop online, pursue interests or play games, amongst other things.

Perhaps you are already connected using your phone, tablet or computer but are unsure about some aspects of using it - or something doesn’t seem quite right? Maybe you’re not sure what to do about the end of support for Windows 10? Maybe you want to know how to use the NHS app?

We have recruited a team of friendly, helpful local volunteers who together have a wide range of experience of the digital world. All are DBS-checked and will do their best to answer queries, however simple or complex.

There are a few things we can’t help with, like repairs or setting up online banking. We are also unable to offer help over the phone or in your home – only at the advice sessions. However, we will aim to deal with most other issues - or if we can’t help, we will suggest who can.

The advice sessions are to be held on the first Saturday (2-4pm) and third Thursday (10am - noon) of each month in Woodcote Community Centre.The first sessions will be at **2-4 pm on Saturday 6th Sept** and **10am – noon on Thursday 18th Sept** To pre-book your slot, please call 01491 877749 and leave a voicemail if necessary. Please do not call our office number! Someone will phone you back to take your details.

***Talks with Q&As.*** To kick off the Digital Inclusion programme, in August we are holding two talks/advice sessions on two important topical issues of general interest, open to everyone. The first will be on **Moving from Traditional Landlines to a Digital Telephone Service – What You Need to Know** and will be held in **Woodcote Village Hall at 2pm on 9th August.** The second on **Saturday 16th August at 2pm** will be on the topic of **Staying Safe Online – Avoiding Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft.** Both meetings will be in the Function Room (entrance at the side of the Village Hall) and there will be time for questions and answers. There is no need to book – just turn up! (However, to get an idea of numbers, it would be helpful if you could register interest in the talks by phoning 01491 877749 and leaving a message.)

Please keep an eye out for further information and advertisements here, on flyers, on our website and on your village Facebook page (see below).

**Clients’ Tea Party**

On the afternoon of July 2nd, we had our latest monthly tea party, which featured a cream tea and a musical contribution from Henry Law, to whom we are very grateful. Next month the tea party will be at 2.30 – 4.00 pm on Wednesday **August 6th in Woodcote Village Hall Function Room** (the Community Centre being closed for refurbishment), when a friendly quiz is planned.

**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.

**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 the immediately surrounding villages. Please give us as much notice as possible before the date you need us. One of our friendly office volunteers will answer the phone between 9.30 and 11.00 am on weekdays (excluding public holidays) and at other times you can leave a message on the answerphone. Find out more about us and how to volunteer with 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).