



# Wandsworth Community Transport

(Registered Charity No. 286095)

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## ROAD RUNNER—AUTUMN/WINTER 24/25



A very warm welcome to the Autumn/Winter newsletter. As usual we have plenty of trips for you to enjoy like Winchester Christmas Market, but new this season is Knights Garden Centre in Chelsham, Warlingham for you to explore! Full details within.

### Survey response and donations

Many thanks to all who responded to our recent survey and who made a donation. We have raised over £3,000 which is amazing! We didn't manage to get round to everyone to say thank you personally - there were just too many of you, but we really do appreciate it! You know who you are!

We had a massive response to the survey, which shows a massive 94% of you giving us an overall rating of excellent, with a similar response saying we have helped keep them active, fit and independent. We have helped people make new friends and stay connected and improved physical and mental wellbeing. If you want a detailed analysis of the responses, send us an email.

But best of all were the comments people made which were quite heart warming and supportive. A small selection are listed below:

*"WCT makes life so much better having door to door transport and everyone's so sociable"*

*"WCT has made a huge difference to my life — lovely days out good value — I love it very helpful."*

*"It has given me independence in getting weekly shopping and meeting people."*

*"Look forward to shopping driver never moans no matter what - It help me to have more confidence."*

*"My praise goes to Shopmobility and staff and volunteers Having collapsed a few times I feel secure knowing I will be looked after at Shopmo."*

*"Could not manage shopping without WCT and have made several friends."*

### Shopping and Shopmobility

We are still looking to recruit new members to our door-to-door shopping shuttle. If you find it difficult doing your weekly shop we have the solution! Our minibuses will collect you from your home and take you to Sainsbury's at the top of Garratt Lane, opposite the Southside Shopping Centre. The fare is £3 and we operate from Monday to Friday. Southside has loads of great shops and a brand new Lidl's which is proving very popular. Do call us on 020 8675 3812 if interested.

### New Website

We would like to thank our IT expert Steph for all his help in setting up our new website. It can be found at <https://wctbus.org.uk> and has lots of new information about us and photographs too. Search for Wandsworth Community Transport and it will take you straight there. Do check it out!

*Winchester Christmas Market and Cathedral  
Always popular*



*Aldith and Jaycee at Kew Gardens with regular and much loved driver, Simon*

### **Kew Gardens - Incredible Value**

We are extremely fortunate to get our tickets at a fantastically reduced rate, when the normal cost is £22. It is well worth a visit (at £10 a person, including entry fee) and will be lovely in October with the autumn colours. The land train pictured below will take you round in comfort, and the tropical glasshouses will keep you warm if the weather isn't so nice. Why not follow Aldith's lead and give it a try

*Let the train take the strain! The land train at Kew Gardens*

### **Do you need Inspiration?**

We had a lovely thank you letter from Aldith Grandison and her daughter Jaycee after their trip to Kew Gardens, celebrating Aldith's 95th birthday.

*"It was an extra special treat that we had our regular Shopmobility driver Simon, who we appreciate so much, always lots of jolly banter."*

*Many thanks for everything you do, it means a lot to Mum to be able to get out and about, something she is not able to do much these days. She enjoys the bus ride and loves seeing all the beautiful colours of nature."*

We thought it was such an inspiring story that we wanted to share it with you. If you haven't been on the Shopping Shuttle or the outings yet, now is the time to give it a try with our free introductory offer. Regulars will tell you how fantastic the drivers are (like Simon, pictured) and Marcia and Malcolm at Shopmobility will look after you and make your visit a real pleasure. Even more important are all the fantastic volunteers who will help you round the shops if you need assistance and join you in a cup of tea.



*Let the train take the strain - scooters also available but need to be booked*

### **Why Didn't You Get our Last E-Mail?**

We are depending more and more on email, with the cost of postage making newsletters incredibly expensive (£10,000/year believe it or not). If you aren't already getting our regular emails, email us and we will add you to the list. If you don't use email, get a friend or relative to add their address instead, and they can pass on the latest news.

## **OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS IS [INFO@WCTBUS.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@WCTBUS.ORG.UK)**

**Please Spread the Word - FREE VOUCHER FOR FIRST TIMERS**

From our last survey we found out that most of all new members came through word of mouth. This makes all of you incredibly important as our agents, telling people about what we do and encouraging them to give us a try.

The free voucher is for first time users, so if you are already one of our regulars, why not pass it on to a friend who can benefit? There are still people out there who don't know about us and it is so sad to hear people say "I wish I had found out about you years ago—it would have really made a difference."

### **Pub Lunches and the Winter Months**

There is not much that appeals in January and February except a heart warming pub lunch by an open fire! We have several on the schedule and we limit numbers as the pubs don't like crowds! Try and sit together (separate bills of course) and make new friends.

### **Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market**

You always need at least one carol service at Christmas and we will again be visiting Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market. There are carols and readings at the Cathedral (pictured), with Borough Market right next door boasting a wide range of fantastic international food stores and more. Again, please book early to avoid disappointment.

### **ASDA and Roehampton News**

The ASDA megastore on the A3 has proved popular, and we are running it every second Wednesday of the month to encourage a regular clientele.

Meanwhile we are working with the Council on the Roehampton Regeneration Scheme and will soon be offering a free shuttle to ASDA as well as occasional outings. Call us if you live in the area to register your interest.

### **Malcolm's Half Marathon Triumph**

Well done Malcom who raised £600 towards a new scooter. Still not too late to add some more!



### **Thanks to WBC, Sainsbury's, and our Volunteers**

A special thanks needs to go to Wandsworth Borough Council, (who fund us of course), and to Sainsbury's who provide us with our fantastic Shopmobility premises. Our partnership with them has made all this possible and they deserve all the praise we can give them. Of course, none of it could happen without our superb team of volunteers who drive the minibuses, help at Shopmobility, support our passengers on outings and act as trustees on our Management Committee. They are all brilliant!

### **INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS**

For those of you who have joined us recently and have not quite worked out how we can help you, the following explains it all!

**Shopping Shuttle** — We collect you from home and take you to our Shopmobility Centre at Sainsbury's. We have volunteers to push wheelchairs and to help.

**Outings** — We run a programme of outings throughout the year. Please refer to the back page for full details.

**Shopmobility** — Based at Sainsbury's in Garratt Lane, provides free wheelchairs, scooters and volunteers.

**Silver Daytrippers** — Trips for people who are 60 plus and able to travel independently to our collection points in the Borough. A wide range of popular destinations.

**Scooters and Wheelchairs** — Always available for rent or to buy — try before you buy and some great lease/purchase options.

### **KNIGHTS GARDEN CENTRE - WARLINGHAM**

New this autumn is the Knight's Garden Centre. Set in picturesque Surrey, it has the full range of items and eateries you would expect, and the perfect chance to pick up some Christmas shopping.

Ross spotted this on a day out with his family and immediately thought it would be great for our Roadrunner members. Why not give it a try and tell him what you think.

Our old favourite Polhill still features as well as shopping opportunities at Battersea Power Station, Westfield, Southall and Walthamstow Market.

### **AGM Thursday 21st November**

We love seeing you — come along to Earlsfield library at 2pm and have your say. Transport available.

## **ROAD RUNNER AUTUMN/WINTER TRIPS 24/25**

### **October**

Monday	21	Knights Garden Centre, Chelsham	£8
Wednesday	23	Drummond, Albury (Pub Lunch)	£8
Friday	25	Asda's, Roehampton (2 Hour shoppers special)	£3
Tuesday	29	Kew Gardens (including entry fee)	£10
Thursday	31	Green Street (Shopping)	£6

### **November**

Friday	1	Battersea Power Station	£3
Tuesday	5	Thames Court, Shepperton (Pub Lunch)	£8
Thursday	7	Westfield Shopping Centre, Shepherd's Bush	£6
Monday	11	Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Farnham	£8
Thursday	14	Ealing Road, Wembley (Shopping)	£6
Monday	18	Asda's, Roehampton (2 Hour shoppers special)	£3
Thursday	21	W.C.T Annual General Meeting, Earlsfield	FREE
Monday	25	Jovial Sailor, Ripley (Pub Lunch)	£8
Wednesday	27	Polhill Garden Centre, Sevenoaks	£8

### **December**

Tuesday	3	Winchester Christmas Market	£12
Friday	6	Asda's, Roehampton (2 Hour shoppers special)	£3
Tuesday	10	Knights Garden Centre, Chelsham	£8
Thursday	12	Walthamstow Market (Shopping)	£6
Monday	16	Sutton (Shopping)	£5
Thursday	19	Southwark Cathedral Carols and Borough Market	£8

### **January**

Wednesday	8	Westfield Shopping Centre, Shepherd's Bush	£6
Monday	13	Thames Court, Shepperton (Pub Lunch)	£8
Thursday	16	Southall (Shopping)	£5
Tuesday	21	Asda's, Roehampton (2 Hour shoppers special)	£3
Thursday	23	Drummond, Albury (Pub Lunch)	£8
Wednesday	29	Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Farnham	£8

### **February**

Tuesday	4	Fairmile, Cobham (Pub Lunch)	£8
Friday	7	Bromley (Shopping)	£5
Wednesday	12	Asda's, Roehampton (2 Hour shoppers special)	£3
Tuesday	18	Polhill Garden Centre, Sevenoaks	£8
Thursday	20	Ealing Road, Wembley (Shopping)	£6
Monday	24	Drummond, Albury (Pub Lunch)	£8
Thursday	27	Battersea Power Station	£3

### **March**

Wednesday	5	Thames Court, Shepperton (Pub Lunch)	£8
Thursday	6	Asda's, Roehampton (2 Hour shoppers special)	£3
Tuesday	11	Westfield Shopping Centre, Shepherd's Bush	£6
Thursday	13	Walthamstow Market (Shopping)	£6
Monday	17	Fairmile, Cobham (Pub Lunch)	£8
Wednesday	19	Knights Garden Centre, Chelsham	£8
Tuesday	25	Sutton (Shopping)	£5
Monday	31	Kew Gardens (including entry fee)	£10

**Please note: We reserve the right to cancel any trip should we consider it is not economically viable.**

**Fares do not include admission prices unless otherwise indicated.**