

# ROAD RUNNER

**Welcome** to the Winter 2018 edition of Road Runner. We have a packed programme of outings listed on the reverse, including a couple of new destinations. Hopefully you will be able to banish those 'winter blues' and book an excursion or two!

## **Christmas Outings**

We are delighted to announce that we have arranged two trips to the popular Christmas market held in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral. This really is a superb day out, there is a huge range of chalets where you can stock up on gifts, an ice-rink and plenty of festive treats. And of course there is the majestic cathedral itself, which is always well worth a visit.

So, keep 26th November and 11th December free and get your bookings in as soon as you can. On Tuesday 18th December, we will be visiting Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market. There are carols and readings at the Cathedral, with Borough Market right next door boasting a wide range of fantastic international food stores and more. Again, please book early to avoid disappointment.



*Winchester Cathedral and the Market*

## **Dial-a-Ride**

Since we took over several Dial-a-Ride runs in the area, we find we are picking up more and more of our own regular passengers, and we are really pleased that more people in Wandsworth are giving it a try.

Without doubt, Dial-a-Ride is a fantastic and unique service and we urge all our passengers to sign up and start using it. The service is all computerised now, and it is much easier to get the ride you want. AND WHO KNOWS – it just might be your regular WCT driver that turns up in our familiar red minibus to take you where you are going.

Of course, it will never replace our unique and extraordinary Shopping Shuttle and Shopmobility. Transport is just part of the equation, and we know that without our fantastic volunteers to help you and the loan of a wheelchair or mobility scooter, that many of you just couldn't make it round the shops.

To use Dial-a-Ride you need to register on

**0343 222 7777**

If you are over 85, receive full disability living allowance or are a member of taxicard you are automatically eligible, but otherwise may need some supporting evidence from your Doctor.

***Wandsworth Community Transport Chosen as the Mayor's Charity***

*We were really pleased about this . It is a great honour and a tribute to the good work we do.*

# We wish you all a very merry Christmas!

We are hoping for a great response to our Christmas outings this year.

Get into the festive spirit with a trip to the wonderful Christmas market in Winchester or our brand new destination, Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market.

Winchester is such a lovely place to visit at Christmas. There is a great atmosphere in the city and the market is the main attraction. Set in the grounds of the historic cathedral, you will find over 100 wooden chalets brimming with festive goodies! There is an incredible range of homewares, British arts and crafts, accessories, decorations and a good selection of festive foods to enjoy at the event or take home.

You will have an opportunity to visit the world-famous gothic cathedral (pictured on the front page), which attracts visitors from across the globe. The second new trip is to Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market. There will be a carol service (with carols and readings in an informal setting) at 12.45. This is free of charge, but you are advised to get in early as it is “first come first served” and very popular. You can have a look round the market beforehand and get a bite and a drink. Passengers are advised to “play it by ear” depending on the crowds and the queues.

## WHY NOT TRY A MOBILITY SCOOTER

More and more people are using mobility scooters and they can be a real lifeline. BUT, we find that many of our passengers are wary about giving one a try, which is a shame, because they can keep you independent and saves us from having to find someone to push a wheelchair when that is the only alternative.

So, we are encouraging people to consider trying a scooter as a possible solution. “If you have ridden a push bike or driven a car, you will have absolutely no problem,” says Malcolm, “and I will give you some training and make sure you are safe.” We also sell and rent scooters and wheelchairs and are the first people to call you need help or advice.



*New recruit Sandra at Brighton—Everyone thinks she's great!*

## 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.



*Deputy Mayor Jane Cooper at the Shopmobility Volunteer's Open Day*

*She was a real star!*

## COME TO OUR AGM AND SEE THE WCT CHOIR'S FIRST PERFORMANCE

We are delighted that the Mayor of Wandsworth will be the guest speaker at our AGM, so do come along to meet him and hear about what it will mean for us to be one of his chosen charities this year. You will have the chance to have your say and get involved with the organisation, meet the staff and hear what is happening. This year we have again specially moved the start time to the afternoon, hoping more people will come. The AGM is on Tuesday 20th November at 1.30pm at Earlsfield Library and it would be nice to see some new faces this year. Tea and biscuits will be served and if you need transport, give us a call on 020 8675 3812 and book up in the usual way.

**BUT** the big news is the WCT choir will be singing a couple of numbers to help enliven proceedings. This is a new venture, and part of our combating loneliness and isolation campaign. We all know how good singing is for you, and who knows, you may be inspired to join up. Members include our passengers, staff, volunteers and Management Committee, so it really does represent the whole organisation and is great fun.



*Some of the choir in action at Shopmobility*



*Anyone for a Knickerbocker Glory?*

## FREE SUMMER OUTING

Next year, we hope to offer all our Road Runner passengers a free trip to the coast. We will designate a specific week in August as part of our combating loneliness campaign, and mobilise all our resources in one huge effort. We will have to close Shopmobility for the week and use all our buses, volunteers, drivers and office staff to get everyone on board. We will use it as a way to increase publicity and to get new members and volunteers and we will aim to get some corporate sponsorship, and get the whole community involved.

We will ask our Shopmobility passengers to miss that week's shopping and buy double the week before, but won't let anyone go short if they really need to get out.

At the moment this is still in the planning stage, but do let us know what you think.

## **THANKS TO SAINSBURY'S, WBC AND OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Road Runner, as always, would like to record its appreciation to the people responsible for funding the services we provide for Wandsworth residents. In particular, Sainsbury's have been fantastic in providing us with brilliant new premises, and along with the long-term committed support of Wandsworth Council, have made us a world leader in this type of service. 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. To keep our VIP's informed, we are sending them a copy of this newsletter .

# Wandsworth Community Transport

## ROAD RUNNER WINTER TRIPS 2018/19

### November

Tuesday	06	Ealing Road, Wembley (Shopping)	£6
Thursday	08	Thames Court, Shepperton (Pub Lunch)	£7
Wednesday	14	Garson's Farm & Restaurant, Esher	£7
Thursday	22	Woodcote Green Garden Centre, Wallington	£7
Monday	26	Winchester Christmas Market	£12
Wednesday	28	Anchor, Wisley (Pub Lunch)	£7

### December

Monday	03	The Drummond, Albury	£7
Tuesday	04	Walthamstow Market (Shopping)	£6
Thursday	06	Polhill Garden Centre, Nr. Orpington	£8
Tuesday	11	Winchester Christmas Market	£12
Wednesday	12	Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Farnham	£8
Tuesday	18	Southwark Cathedral Carols and Borough Market	£6

### January

Tuesday	08	Green Street, East Ham (Shopping)	£6
Wednesday	16	Toby Carvery, Ewell East (Pub Lunch)	£7
Tuesday	22	Fairmile, Cobham (Pub Lunch)	£7
Thursday	31	Chessington Garden Centre	£7

### February

Tuesday	05	Ealing Road, Wembley (Shopping)	£6
Monday	11	Thames Court, Shepperton (Pub Lunch)	£7
Wednesday	20	Squires Garden Centre, Shepperton	£7
Thursday	28	Anchor, Wisley (Pub Lunch)	£7

### March

Tuesday	05	Walthamstow Market (Shopping)	£6
Thursday	07	Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Farnham	£8
Wednesday	13	The Drummond, Albury	£7
Monday	18	Garson's Farm & Restaurant, Esher	£7
Wednesday	27	Fairmile, Cobham (Pub Lunch)	£7

### April

Tuesday	2	Green Street, East Ham (Shopping)	£6
Monday	8	Polhill Garden Centre, Near Orpington	£8
Thursday	11	Toby Carvery, Ewell East (Pub Lunch)	£7
Tuesday	30	Kew Gardens (including entry fee)	£9

Please note :

We reserve the right to cancel any trip should we consider it is not economically viable. Fares do not include admission prices.

Please call 020 8675 3812 to make your bookings – maximum of 3 trips per person at any one time