

# Wandsworth Community Transport

(Registered Charity No. 286095)

Spring 2021

1 B Yukon Road  
London  
SW12 9PZ

## ROAD RUNNER

**Welcome** to the Spring 2021 edition of Road Runner. You should all have had your vaccinations by now and feeling more secure and ready to get out and about. We are all desperate to put these troubled times behind us, so read on and find out what we have planned.

### Emails and Keeping In Touch

Firstly we have to apologise for our lack of regular newsletters over the last year. Things have been changing so quickly, it has been impossible to send out the latest news by post. The information would probably already be out of date before you even got it! Furthermore it costs over £2,000 to do a print run and mailout, so it is impossible to do one every month as we would perhaps have liked. Instead we have been keeping in touch with e-mails and keeping our website up to date. Just search for Wandsworth Community Transport and you will easily find us.

“But what if I haven’t got email or the internet”, I hear you ask. Don’t worry, we will still send out hard copies, but meanwhile, do you know someone who has an email address who can act as your go-between. A relative, friend, neighbour? Ask them to send us an email and we will add their address to our

mailing lists. That way, they can tell you all the latest news which is relevant to you.

We will have sent out this newsletter already by email, so if you received it electronically, we have your details. If not, send us an email right now or ask someone to do so on your behalf, so we can add you to our email list. This is our address

**w.c.t@btconnect.com**

### Shopping and Shopmobility

Now the current lockdown is over, we are restarting the Shopping Shuttle and re-opening Shopmobility. **BUT** this will be in a limited way. Because of social distancing, there will be less passenger capacity, with limited escort provision or waiting inside Shopmobility. As a result, we are less able to help so many wheelchair users who need assistance, though we are still offering home shopping for those who can’t travel yet. We are also limiting the shopping time to around one and a half hours. There is nowhere to get refreshments, so we think that will do until things open up.

So do call us if you wish to resume shopping and we will do our best to help. Wheelchair passengers may have to wait longer, but do be patient. We are doing our best to follow the government guidelines.

### Outings

We are sure you are all looking forward to getting out over the summer, so we have taken a leap of faith and published some days out at the coast starting in June. These are subject to things continuing to improve, but be prepared for cancellations if they don’t. Similarly it may not be possible to take passengers who need assistance. The outings are on the back page—book up in the usual way and keep everything crossed.



### Vaccination Transport Still Available for your Second Jabs

*Pictured is volunteer Marcus, taking Mr Khonboker to Balham Health Centre. Call us if you need help.*

# Vaccinations and Health and Safety

We are expecting that everyone will have had their vaccinations by now, but we need to carry on as before, and still maintain our safety procedures. You might be feeling safer, but can still get the virus and still pass it on even if you are showing no symptoms. So the following measures still apply.

- 1 No travel if you are exhibiting any symptoms, cough, temperature or loss of smell or taste.
- 2 Only one passenger per double seat (except for partners or those in the same support bubble)
- 3 Masks to be worn on the bus and in and around Shopmobility
- 4 Gloves and hand sanitizer to be used.

Be mindful that you can never totally eliminate risk, so it is up to you to make your own judgements and make sure you take adequate precautions.

You may be reassured to hear that all the shopping drivers have now been vaccinated and all the passengers who we have surveyed except for just two that have provided a medical exemption

The following is our recently drafted policy on vaccinations.



## VACCINATION TRANSPORT STILL AVAILABLE

*Pictured is our volunteer Marcus taking a grateful Mr Khonboker for his vaccination. If you are having problems getting to your appointment, call us and we will take you.*

## VACCINATION POLICY APRIL 2021

- 1 *All our passengers and front-line staff should have been offered, or will soon be offered, their first vaccination.*
- 2 *We want all our passengers and front line staff to have been vaccinated before travel or when at work.*
- 3 *We recognise it isn't yet proven that the vaccination will lessen the danger of transmission to other people, but based on findings reported to date in the press, this does seem likely. Having a vaccination should help protect other people from becoming ill if you are an asymptomatic carrier.*
- 4 *The argument that people who refuse the vaccination are only putting themselves at risk is therefore not valid. Neither does WCT want to have passengers and staff getting sick as, whilst not responsible, we would inevitably feel so, if this were to happen on our buses.*
- 5 *We recognise that a very small minority of people may have been advised not to be vaccinated and we would request that this information be made known to us together with any supporting evidence from their Doctor.*
- 6 *For those who have refused their vaccinations, we understand they are within their rights and we will not refuse travel. But we would ask them to carefully consider whether they should still be using our services and potentially putting other innocent passengers at risk.*
- 7 *Our protective measures regarding wearing face coverings on the buses, hand sanitising, social distancing and bus cleaning remain in place and must be followed.*
- 8 *This policy has been ratified by the Wandsworth Community Transport Board of Trustees and will be regularly reviewed as circumstances and Government Guidelines change over the next few months. It has been circulated to passengers and staff.*

## LAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

As you all know, we had to restrict our usual shopping and outings last year, but we still did some pretty important work. These are some of the highlights.

**Emergency food deliveries** with Age UK Wandsworth and Wimbledon Dons.

**Home Shopping Service**, run by Marcia and Malcolm at Shopmobility, making sure that those shielding could still get their weekly food delivered.

**Our Dial-a-Ride Buses**, which continued providing essential transport throughout.

**Hot Meal Deliveries**, working with Generate and Share to keep their isolated customers well looked after.

**Transport for Vaccinations**, making sure nobody missed out getting their jab because they couldn't get there or because they needed a wheelchair.

**Outings** we managed to get a few outings before the lockdown at the end of the summer. Rye was particularly successful with seven minibuses flooding the town

**Shopping Shuttle** Similarly we managed a few months before the last lockdown and we know how delighted many of you were to get out again.

## THE OUTINGS

We have limited this summer's outings to coastal trips only. The reason is that we are unsure about what will be happening at venues like stately homes, garden centres and pub lunches, especially regarding social distancing. The coast is easy because our passengers can disperse and do their own thing once we get there. We will continue with limited numbers on the bus, in line with the current government advice. Face coverings remain mandatory and we advise gloves and hand sanitizers.

We hope the autumn newsletter will include a wider range of venues, but meanwhile do enjoy a day out at the coast, get out of London and see the sea!

## THANKS TO WBC

A special thanks needs to go to WBC. They fund us of course, and were happy for us to divert our resources into providing the additional COVID related transport mentioned above. This kind of partnership was vital to make things happen quickly and respond to emergency demand.



*Southend Pier – still the longest in the world*

## TRIBUTES

It's a long list of heroes but here are a few who especially deserve a mention.

**Paul and Keith** who have kept everything running smoothly at the office and with the fleet.

**Marcia and Malcolm** who have been doing all the home shopping services and restarting Shopmobility and the shopping shuttle

**Marcus, Victor, Simon, Julie, Deepak, Steve, Leigh and Johnny** who did the emergency shopping deliveries, the vaccinations and the shopping.

**Alan and Terry** who have been volunteering at Shopmobility throughout and have been a vital help.

**The Dial-a-Ride Drivers** who have been working

## THE MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

On Wednesday afternoon, 22nd September, we are having a celebratory tea party at the Home Community Cafe, St Andrew's Church, Garratt Lane SW18 4SR. This has been organised by our new Chairperson, the wonderful Hicky Kingsbury, who many of you know from her time at Age UK.

It is a free event and places are limited, so book early.

We hope to organise some entertainment and a fantastic high tea and a lot of fun is guaranteed for all. We also hope you will go along with the theme and wear your favourite hat, but stress this is optional..



# *Wandsworth Community Transport*

## **ROAD RUNNER SUMMER TRIPS 2021**

### **June**

Thursday	10	Brighton	£12
Tuesday	15	Hastings	£12
Wednesday	23	Southend-On-Sea	£12
Tuesday	29	Eastbourne	£12
Wednesday	30	Bexhill-On-Sea	£12

### **July**

Monday	05	Eastbourne	£12
Thursday	08	Worthing	£12
Wednesday	14	Brighton	£12
Friday	23	Southend-On-Sea	£12
Tuesday	27	Bexhill-On-Sea	£12

### **August**

Wednesday	04	Worthing	£12
Tuesday	10	Brighton	£12
Monday	16	Bexhill-On-Sea	£12
Thursday	19	Southend-On-Sea	£12
Wednesday	25	Eastbourne	£12

### **September**

Wednesday	08	Hastings	£12
Friday	17	Eastbourne	£12
Tuesday	21	Southend-On-Sea	£12
Wednesday	22	Mad Hatters Tea Party	£2.50
Thursday	23	Bexhill-On-Sea	£12
Monday	27	Worthing	£12

**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 at any one time