

SILVER DAY TRIPPERS

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the Silver Day Trippers' newsletter. You should all have had your first vaccinations by now and hopefully you are 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 The information would probably be out of date before you even got it!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 find us easily.

"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, you probably 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 if any latest

news comes up which you need to know about.

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 the 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 no escort provision or waiting inside Shopmobility. As a result, we are less able to help so many wheelchair users who need assistance, but we are still offering home shopping for those who can't travel yet. We are also limiting the shopping time to around one hour and 15 minutes. 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.

Outings

We are sure you are all looking forward to getting out during 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. The trips will operate with social distancing in accordance with Government guidelines.

The outings are on the back page—book up in the usual way and keep everything crossed.



Vaccinations and Health and Safety

We are expecting that everyone will have had their first jab by now, but we need to carry on as before, and maintain our safety procedures. You might be feeling safer, but you can still get the virus and 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.
- 4 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 take adequate precautions.

You may be reassured to hear that most of our drivers have now been vaccinated. Nearly all of the passengers we surveyed have also received their first jab, except for two who 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 in January. If you are having problems getting to your appointment, call us and we will be able to help.

VACCINATION POLICY MARCH 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 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 taking over 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 and cathedral city trips only. The reason is that we are unsure about what will be happening at venues like stately homes and garden centres regarding social distancing. The coast is easy because you can disperse and do your own thing once you 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 the use of 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 to Wandsworth Borough Council. 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.



Simon, Marcus and Victor, our dream team who worked tirelessly delivering food to vulnerable people at the height of the pandemic.

TRIBUTES

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

Paul, Keith and Stephen 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 and Johnny who did the lion's share of the emergency shopping deliveries and are now doing the vaccinations and the shopping.

Leigh and Michael who very kindly gave up their weekends to take elderly people to have the vaccine.

Alan and Terry who have been volunteering at Shopmobility throughout to assist with the home shopping service. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Jorge our dynamic bus cleaner who worked tirelessly to keep the vehicles spotless and germ-free.

The Dial-a-Ride Drivers who have been working throughout and doing a stalwart job.

Wandsworth Community Transport

SILVER DAY TRIPPERS SUMMER 2021

Friday 4 June	Eastbourne	£12
Tuesday 8 June	Brighton	£12
Monday 14 June	Hastings	£12
Wednesday 16 June	Worthing	£12
Monday 21 June	Broadstairs	£12
Thursday 24 June	Whitstable	£12
Monday 28 June	Southend	£12
Tuesday 6 July	Rye	£12
Thursday 15 July	Eastbourne	£12
Wednesday 21 July	Brighton	£12
Thursday 29 July	Hastings	£12
Monday 2 August	Worthing	£12
Thursday 12 August	Whitstable	£12
Wednesday 18 August	Southend	£12
Monday 23 August	Bexhill	£12
Friday 3 September	Broadstairs	£12
Friday 10 September	Herne Bay	£12
Thursday 16 September	Eastbourne	£12
Monday 20 September	Rye	£12
Tuesday 28 September	Chichester	£12
Wednesday 6 October	Salisbury	£12

BOOKINGS HOTLINE 020 8675 3812