



Teddington & Hampton Wick
Voluntary Care Group

SPRING 2012

Hello Everyone

What a year we have ahead of us! In June we celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This is a truly great occasion as she is only the third monarch to have reigned for so long. What an amazing lady she is. Then in July we have the Olympic games in London. There have been many stories both for and against the games but I am sure they will be splendid and we shall all feel very proud. There has been so much misery and gloom over the past year or so and we need to have something to celebrate. So let's put up the red white and blue and give a cheer for Great Britain!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Enjoy the sunshine and long days.

Best wishes to you all

Miriam



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone

I hope you are all looking forward to spring. I know I am. Snow drops are finishing and daffodils are appearing. I hope, too, you are looking forward to our summer outings. We are always trying to find new places to go as well as the old favourites. If you have any ideas please let us know.

The committee is working hard to keep things running smoothly and our wonderful volunteers help with enthusiasm giving their time and effort. In fact I feel honoured to be Chair of such a charity.

Mary

FREE HOME EYE TESTS

If you are over 60 and can no longer get to a High Street optician, or if you are registered blind or are diagnosed as having glaucoma or diabetes, you may be entitled to a FREE NHS sight test at home. The optician's visit will last about an hour and you will be able to choose from a range of spectacles. Call 0800 85 44 77 for more information or to make an appointment.



PENSION CREDIT

About 4 million people aged over 60 are entitled to Pension Credit yet about a third of those eligible are still not claiming it. There are 2 parts to Pension Credit – you may be eligible to receive one or both of them.

Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level set by the government.

Savings Credit is extra money for people who have an income higher than the Basic State Pension or who have a small amount of savings.

To find out more or to see if you are entitled call Age UK Richmond upon Thames on 0845 600 1090

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A word about our volunteers

We have had quite a few new clients join us over recent months so I thought it might be nice to 'fill them in' on how we operate.

We currently have about 70 voluntary drivers on our books but obviously they are not all available all of the time! Also we have 6 voluntary bus drivers and those of you who use the shopping buses will be familiar with them. In addition we have about 8 people who act as escorts on the bus and about 5 more who are willing to help with shopping for the housebound. It seems a lot but we often struggle to find someone available to help you but hopefully we do not let you down. These kind people give their time and efforts for free and we are very grateful for all they do.

BUS INCREASES

It is with great regret that we find we must increase the cost of the weekly shopping buses. At present the cost is £2.50 per trip. This will rise to £3 from the beginning of April. If anyone has a problem with this please contact the office for advice.

POSTAL SCAM

Beware! If you get a letter from an investment advisor saying a client has died leaving a small fortune and the client had the same name as you, It is a scam!!!The writer offers to split the money with you but do not be fooled! If you receive such a letter please pass it to the police. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY!

BEWARE!!

OH dear!! More scams!! One of our members has told how she had a call from someone who said he was from 'the electricity board' and had a wonderful new device that would save her money. He asked for her full name and date of birth which she gave. It was only when he started asking for bank details that she got worried and hung up. Please, PLEASE never give personal details over the phone. If the call is genuine then they can write to you. There is never any need for personal information to be given. Be aware. Not everyone is all they seem!

EVENTS

Please contact the office if you would like to come to any of our events 0208 943 3112.

Squires

Spring is in the air and it would be nice to have a trip to Squires to see the flowers and enjoy a cuppa.. Do join us on 8 May.

See Booking form for details.

Music Museum

We have a wonderful new outing for you this summer .We have arranged a trip to the Music Museum in Brentford on Tues 12 June where we shall have a talk and then tea and biscuits. It is a fascinating place and I'm sure you'll enjoy it. See booking form for details.

Picnic at the Stockyard

It's that time of year again. Picnic time! We are having our annual picnics in Bushy Park on 10 July and 24 July. If you have never been on one of our picnics do join us. They are held in the Stockyard and are great fun .Please don't worry we have proper chairs and don't make you sit on the grass! See booking form for details.

Pembroke Lodge

We are off to tea at Pembroke Lodge on Tues 14 August .If numbers are high we may introduce a second date. See booking form for details.

Coffee morning

Do join us for coffee on Sat 8 September I regret we will no longer have a Bring and Buy but we shall have the usual cake sale and lots of books to buy.

The Swan

Looking ahead we have a lunch planned for 11 Sept and possibly the 25 Sept at the Swan in Thames Ditton. This is a lovely pub on the river. See Booking form for details.

Throughout the year we try and arrange various outings. Apart from being enjoyable they are a very valuable way of helping people to socialise and avoid the dangers of isolation. If you are lonely and would like some company, do give us a call and join us. You may well meet new friends. We can cater for most mobility problems and we would love to help you. I know it takes courage to go somewhere when you know no one but we are friends and will do our best to make you feel welcome.

BLANKETS

One of our lovely ladies makes the most beautiful baby blankets which she sells for charity at £3 each. If you would like to order one please call the office and state your colour of preference.

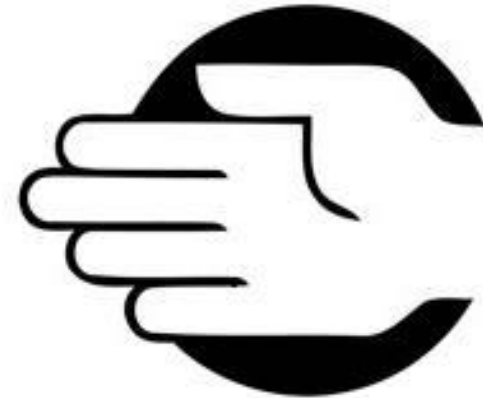
FURNITURE SCHEME

Are you downsizing or perhaps having a change of scene and you have furniture in good condition that you wish to donate, then the Richmond Upon Thames Furniture Scheme would love to hear from you. They can arrange to collect and all furniture is either sold for charity or given to those in need. Call them on 8755 4665. The office is open from 10am till 3pm.



NEW WEB SITE

We have had a web site for several years but have recently improved it. Linda Jephson is adding photos after each event and is keeping it up to date with news and forthcoming events. Please try and look at it as we think you will find it interesting. Why not pass the details on to your relations so they can see what we get up to. The Web address is: www.tedcare.org.uk



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