



Car sharing

Introduction

We want to make our walks accessible to as many people as possible and car sharing helps us to do this, as well as reducing our CO₂ emissions. This process uses a WhatsApp group to coordinate between drivers and passengers. [WhatsApp](#) is an app that must be [downloaded to a smart phone](#). See below if you don't have a smartphone. We welcome any [feedback](#).

Offering a lift

If you can OFFER a lift or would like one from the Kingston area then please text one of the WhatsApp group administrators listed below to be added to the 'Lifts' WhatsApp group.

Once you have access then please post a 'lift offer' in the following, deliberately brief, format:

- Date of walk
- Walk Title (as there may occasionally be multiple walks on the same day)
- Your name and mobile number
- Rendezvous details (this need not be from Surbiton Clock Tower)
- Any special restrictions
- Place holders for passenger names, one for each seat you are offering

e.g. Here is an example of Simon offering two spare seats. He will be available for loading from 0830 and will depart at 0910:

Sunday 29 Jan 2023
Peaslake Circular
Simon Smith 07822 345321
Pick up Norbiton Station 0830-0910.
1 /2
2/2

Booking a lift

If you want to book a lift then text one of the WhatsApp group administrators listed below and ask to be added to the 'Lifts' WhatsApp group (be aware that Kingston Ramblers also uses other WhatsApp groups). Please do this as early as possible before the walk to avoid panic and disappointment if you cannot be set up in time.

You can then look at the lift offers available on the WhatsApp group and choose one. [COPY the message](#) and add your name to a vacant seat. The number of rows indicates the number of seats on offer (or already booked). Do not add extra rows. Post the updated message. This way everyone can see that you have 'reserved' a seat and how many seats are left.

Continuing with the example above, if Mary books a lift she posts the following message:

Sunday 29 Jan 2023
Peaslake Circular
Simon Smith 07822 345321
Pick up Norbiton Station 0830-0910.
1 /2 Mary Poppins
2/2

What if I don't have a smartphone?

If you don't have smart phone then you can ask a friend, preferably a Rambler, to join the WhatsApp group, review the lift offers and book on your behalf. In case the driver needs to contact you ask your friend to include your mobile number if you have on, or 'no mobile' if you don't. In this example Paul does not have a smart phone and has asked Gerry to book a lift for him so Gerry posts the following message:

Sunday 29 Jan 2023
Peaslake Circular
Simon Smith 07822 345321
Pick up Norbiton Station 0830-0910.
1 /2 Mary Poppins
2/2 Paul Renoir no mobile

Principles

1. By joining the WhatsApp group your mobile number will become visible to other members of the WhatsApp group. By joining the WhatsApp group you consent to this. Please treat each other's contact information with care. You can leave the group at any time using the features within WhatsApp.
2. Drivers are requested to repost their list 48 hours before the walk if they have spare seats so that any people who have just been added to WhatsApp group have visibility of the latest lift offers.
3. You can mute the WhatsApp group to avoid getting pings for walks which don't interest you. If you are a driver or passenger then it is recommended to unmute the WhatsApp group on the morning of the walk so that you get any last minute messages.
4. Please don't bring dogs without prior arrangement with the driver.
5. Please bring spare travel shoes or boot covers to protect vehicle interiors from muddy boots.
6. If you no longer need a lift then please update the lift offer and remove your name ASAP so that the seat may be offered to someone else.
7. Departure times are engine start times, not when loading commences so aim to arrive in good time. If you are late for the rendezvous the driver may have to depart without you.
8. Please offer the driver a contribution towards fuel costs. The Ramblers suggest 10p/mile. It is up to the driver whether they choose to accept.
9. Once downloaded to your smartphone you can then [use WhatsApp from your computer.](#)

WhatsApp Group Administrators for 'Kingston Ramblers – Lifts'

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