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## **WIMBLEDON GUILD PUSHES THE BUTTONS OF SUCCESS WITH CAPSTICKS SOLICITORS TO WIN PRESTIGIOUS VOLUNTEERING AWARD**

One of Merton's biggest law firms, Capsticks Solicitors LLP (Capsticks), has won a prestigious award for their work with one of the borough's largest charities, Wimbledon Guild.

The annual Team London Awards, run by the Mayor of London's office, celebrates the individuals, teams and corporate volunteers who make outstanding contributions to their communities. The Awards are one of the ways the Mayor recognises some of those volunteers who go above and beyond to create better local communities.

Capsticks won the Team London Awards 2018 Outstanding contribution to volunteering, Capsticks LLP, Business & Corporate Volunteering for the mobile and tablet workshops they have been running over the past three years every Wednesday lunchtime at Wimbledon Guild. The sessions are aimed at older people who have problems using electronic gadgets and staff from the Wimbledon based legal firm are on hand to troubleshoot and teach customers how to get the most out of their devices.

Both organisations are thrilled their hard work has been officially recognised and demonstrates the versatility of corporate volunteering as Wendy Pridmore, chief executive, Wimbledon Guild explains:

"We are so proud the incredible effort put in by both our community engagement team and Capsticks' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) group has been recognised by Team London and the Mayor of London's office.

"One of our organisation's key aims is to reduce social isolation and loneliness. By putting on sessions like the mobile and tablet workshops we are helping older people become digitally savvy and able to communicate with friends and family in a more interactive way. For example, showing someone how to text, take and send pictures on their phone, use Facetime or connect to the internet. Something that may seem a simple everyday task to many of us can be a huge hurdle to the older generation."

But it's not just about older people re-connecting with family and friends, it's also about building a relationship with local businesses to support charities with volunteers on a regular basis.

Pridmore continues: “ We are always very grateful for any volunteering support but Capsticks have shown that by making a long term commitment to Wimbledon Guild, they are able to make a significant contribution to our service delivery. The model we have developed with Capsticks is for them to put together a rota of volunteers who give up half an hour of their lunchbreak to attend the workshop. This gives them flexibility and ensures that volunteering doesn’t rest with the same people each week. It’s been a resounding success and one we have used to engage with other companies wanting to give something back to the local community on a regular basis.”

Commenting on the award, John Tippet-Cooper, senior lawyer and head of corporate social responsibility, said:

“This Team London Award means so much to us as a company as well as the team that have been involved directly with the mobile and tablet workshops. Our staff get so much out of the volunteering, building relationships with an older generation and really making a difference to them. We have regular attendees to the session as well as those who just come in with a specific problem. The social intergenerational integration benefits not just the local community but the well-being of our staff too. Those who regularly volunteer look forward to taking the time out of their day to do so and get so much back from it too.”

If you are a company or individual interested in volunteering at Wimbledon Guild you can contact their volunteer manager, Adam Butler, [abutler@wimbledonguild.co.uk](mailto:abutler@wimbledonguild.co.uk) or call him on 020 8946 0735.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in attending the Mobile and Tablet Workshop call 0208 946 0735 or email [activities@wimbledonguild.co.uk](mailto:activities@wimbledonguild.co.uk) to book a space.

For more information on Wimbledon Guild and the services they provide to people who live or work in Merton visit: [www.wimbledonguild.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk)

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#### Notes to editors:

#### **ABOUT WIMBLEDON GUILD**

Wimbledon Guild is a local charity that provides people in Merton with help and support in times of need.

From its base at Guild House on Worple Road, Wimbledon, it aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness, help people who are experiencing difficulties and enable older people to be active and healthy.

The services Wimbledon Guild offer includes:

- Transport, benefits and housing support
- Talking therapies
- Grief support
- Small grants
- Clubs, classes, talks and trips
- HomeFood Café
- Befriending and volunteering

Wimbledon Guild’s work in the local community can only continue through the generosity of the general public and rely heavily on donations and support from local people and

businesses.

[www.wimbledonguild.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk)

#### ABOUT CAPSTICKS SOLICITORS LLP

- Capsticks - One Step Ahead: [Watch our short video here](#)
- Capsticks is independently rated by The Legal 500 and Chambers UK as the leading healthcare and housing law firm in the UK, working for over 250 healthcare clients and over 150 social housing clients nationally. The firm is also well known for its regulatory expertise and more recently for its work within the emergency sectors.
- Capsticks is proud of its 100% trainee solicitor retention rate for the second year in a row.
- Capsticks has five offices:
  - London: 1 St George's Road, London SW19 4DR
  - Birmingham: 35 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3PU
  - Leeds: Toronto Square, Toronto Street, Leeds, LS1 2HJ
  - Winchester: Staple House, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8SR
  - Chorley: Ordnance House, 6 East Terrace Business Park, Euxton Lane, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 6TB

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