

Happy Birthday Shopmobility!



Shopmobility was 3 years old on the 17th of June this year and over 70 people including Councillors, service users and friends dropped in to wish it all the best. Birthday gifts, cakes, sandwiches and drinks (non alcoholic!) were generously supplied by local retailers to make the day go with a bang.

Shopmobility's 500th registered member was presented with a lovely gift of jewellery to mark the occasion. Shona Davenport said, "**Shopmobility has given me back a quality of life that had gone as I am unable to walk distances and tire very easily. Sometimes just getting the bus from Wemyss Bay is tiring enough but now my friend and I can enjoy some shopping and some leisure time without me feeling tired. It's just great**".

She was presented with her gift by Cllr Jim Hunter, who was undertaking his first official engagement as Depute Provost. Cllr Hunter said that "**the project had brought great pleasure and comfort to many in Inverclyde and was a great example in making sure that our community is fully**



Shopmobility user Mrs Smith, ICOD Chairperson Jessie Duncan and Company Secretary Jim MacLeod enjoy some Birthday cake.

inclusive. We are delighted to have helped the project with funding together with the Big Lottery and local businesses."

Jessie Duncan thanked Cllr Hunter and said that she was looking forward to next three years with a degree of confidence now that the funds had been found as not so long ago it did not seem possible to even have a birthday party. **Shopmobility is open Monday – Saturday 10am – 4pm for anyone who has mobility problems. All are welcome.**

ICOD **Notice of AGM**

ICOD is holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday the 23rd of August 2005 at 6.30pm at the James Watt College Waterfront Campus.

We would be delighted to see all our members attending, and the guest speaker will be discussing the setting up of an Access Panel in Inverclyde. Please see back page for more details...

Kerb these Drivers!

ICOD and the Council have joined forces recently to take up the issue of parking in front of dropped kerbs with the Minister of Transport for Scotland. The matter has also been raised with Anne McGuire the Minister for the Disabled for the UK.

It is hoped that the issue will be resolved by allowing the Roads Authority to create yellow lines across the dropped kerbs at the time they are constructed, therefore inconsiderate drivers continuing to restrict access will be subject to fixed penalties.

A spokesman for ICOD said: **“there is no point in trying to improve access in**



our area if others don't play their part in keeping access clear. It's sad in a way that it is necessary for enforcement action to have to take place for people to get the message. When requesting someone to remove their car from in front of a dropped kerb recently, the reply was "I don't care", so

there really is no other way forward”.

Let's hope that the Scottish Executive takes this seriously and helps to improve access for all not just in Inverclyde but throughout Scotland.”

Watch this space!

Sign Up!

The deaf youth group is currently looking at services for the deaf and where they can be improved.

Many deaf people now socialise in Glasgow since the demise of the local deaf club.

Services that hearing people take for granted like a visit to the

doctor or the cinema and going to the pub or restaurant are much more difficult for deaf people to access.

We are look forward to finding out what the youth group thinks is required and then speaking to those who can help change things for the better.

In the meantime ICOD is looking to improve services by providing

sign language courses for the voluntary sector starting in the autumn of this year and places, although limited to a maximum of 15, are FREE courtesy of Inverclyde Alliance.

Contact the office if you are interested in finding out more.

Tune In!

VIP on Air, Europe's first radio station for people with a visual impairment, has recently been granted a community radio licence by the regulator, OfCom.

Currently listners can tune in to VipOn Air through the website at

www.viponair.com. The new licence will allow the service to be broadcast over the airwaves in the Glasgow area.

The station provides a wide range of programming, from news and current affairs to talk shows, music and features on accessible technology.

Details for broadcast have not been finalised yet, but Linkability will keep our readers informed about how to tune in to the new service.

 **viponair**
www.viponair.com

Enabling Access

ICOD's new companion service for visually impaired people has recently started, we talk to one of its first users

Maggie Sinclair came down from the Island of Barra to study at the Watt College. Maggie is registered blind and found it a little daunting going about the town centre on her own.

Her social worker suggested that she contact ICOD, which was considering starting up a guiding service for the visually impaired. Upon doing so she was immediately involved in setting the guidelines for the scheme and as such became the first user of it.

Maggie said " I always knew what I wanted when I went out to shop but that was not very often and my outings were fairly short but the new service allows time for a coffee and a chat with my guide and shopping has become a much more pleasurable experience".

I now have more self-confidence and all the staff are very friendly and easy going and they make you feel very comfortable. I would recommend it to anyone who is

visually impaired and needs to get out and about even just for a walk and a blether".

Isabel Berry who is involved in the scheme paid tribute to Joan Anderson, a social care student, who was on placement from the Watt College and instrumental in getting the scheme off the ground. **"Four people have now used the service and all are coming back soon so we must be doing something right!"**.

If you would like to find out more about our Visual Impairment Service please contact us by phoning: **01475 732600** or by emailing: **shopmobility.icod@ntlbusiness.com**

Shopmobility Update

Rambling with Shopmobility

Phoenix Health and ICOD have agreed to work in partnership to provide opportunities for disabled and non-disabled to take part in short rambles helping them to get fitter for life.

To date 6 people have had the opportunity to participate in the ramble on the cycle path at Bowling and at Largs Waterfront. Although the weather was inclement at Bowling, all had an enjoyable day. A hot cup of tea at the end was most welcome.

The Largs ramble was kinder in terms of the weather, and this is an excellent way to enjoy a social day out at the same time as becoming healthier. Anyone interested in taking part can contact ICOD on 732700 or Phoenix Health on 892197 for more details. ICOD can

supply mobility equipment, including rain gear, after all it is the West of Scotland! Rambles take place every fortnight, leaving from Craighend Resource Centre.

Shopmobility in Port Glasgow and Gourock

Remember that Shopmobility is in Port Glasgow and Gourock this summer. These outreach services are open from 11am-3pm and we are in Port Glasgow on Monday and Tuesday, and in Gourock on Wednesday and Friday. We are operating from the health centres in each town centre. Remember to phone and book on 01475 732600.

Scoot off on Holiday!

ICOD now has 3 energy efficient scooters which can be dismantled into 3 parts for easy transportation. These are ideal if you are scooting off on holiday and there is not a shopmobility service nearby. The scooters can be hired for £5 per day, or £30 per week.

Spreading the Word!

Are you a member of a community group or social club and would like to hear more about shopmobility? We would love to come along and let your members know about the services we provide. For more information call **Donna** on **01475 732700**

Notice for Dial-a-Bus Users

Recently there has been some confusion with the Dial-a-Bus service, with some of our members booking this to pick them up at Cathcart Square, and others arranging pick-up at the back door of Shopmobility. This has resulted in some members not being picked up. To overcome this problem can we ask that when you are booking Dial-a-Bus to be picked up from Shopmobility, please ask to arrive and be picked up from the back door of Shopmobility.



**Subtitled and Audio
Described Cinema
Screenings**

Glasgow Film Theatre

12 Rose Street, Glasgow
Telephone: **0141 332 8128**
email: **info@gft.org.uk**
www.gft.org.uk

Millions (12A) (Subtitled
and Audio Described)
29th August 6.15pm
30th August 12.45pm

UCI Clydebank

23 Britania Way, Clydebank
Minicom: **18001 0808 1560 609**
www.uci.co.uk

**Charlie and the Chocolate
Factory (PG)** (Subtitled)
26th August 7.30pm

Always phone the cinema
before you travel to make
sure they are still showing the
film! You can also visit
www.yourlocalcinema.com to find
more accessible screenings.

**For
Sale**

From time to time our members
contact us with disability/mobility
equipment for sale, if you would
like us to publicise your equipment
please contact us.

TGA Superlight Scooter

Purchased June '03, tried
once indoors just for seating,
Cost £1600, Will accept
£1350 Contact Mr Peter
Roffe **635664**

Stair Lifts

Internal and External models
Cost £8,000, 5yrs old, only
used for 2 yrs. No
reasonable offer Refused.
Contact Robert McShane
888704

Your Letters

Dear Editor,

As a disabled person and
wheelchair user I am
finding it increasingly
difficult to get disability
friendly taxis when I
require them, especially at
night. I shall be interested
to know of any other
LinkAbility readers who are
experiencing the same
difficulties.

Name and Address Supplied

The Editor Replies...

If you have experienced
similar difficulties in getting an
accessible taxi when you need
them, please let us know at

ICOD. You can phone us on
01475 732700 or Minicom
01475 732995, or why not
drop into our offices at 10
Clyde Square in Greenock
and let us know.

Events Listings

ICOD Events

Annual General Meeting
6.30pm, Tuesday 23rd August
2005, James Watt College
Waterfront Campus

This years AGM is a
particularly important and
discussions will take place
regarding the possible
formation of an Access
Panel for Inverclyde. Our

speaker will be addressing
this issue and we will be
looking for people
interested in finding out
more and getting involved
with the Panel.

We are always looking to
bring in new members and
if you would like to get
involved with ICOD in any
way please contact us.

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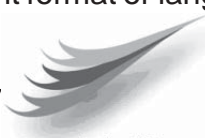
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