

ICOD takes Dropped Kerbs Issue to Scottish Parliament

Inverclyde Council on Disability Ltd. has sent a petition to the Scottish Parliament to ask it to consider streamlining the Transport Regulations. This would allow yellow lines to be painted across dropped kerbs to stop inconsiderate motorists from parking across them. Getting about is often difficult enough, but when obstacles are put in the way wheelchair users, visually impaired people

and parents with prams find it even more so. Inverclyde Council has spent considerable money in helping make our town centres more accessible only to be thwarted by people's inconsideration.

This issue has been on the go for a considerable time and it is only now, after much appreciated publicity in the local press, that ICOD has taken this step.

Parliament will consider the petition early in the New Year and hopefully Jim



Dropped Kerb abuse in King Street

MacLeod will be able to talk to the Committee about ICOD's concerns.

Several national, local organisations and individuals have indicated support for ICOD's actions and we await the outcome of the parliament's views.

Watch this space.

Executive Plans Scotland Wide Free Bus Scheme

A consultation paper is out regarding free bus travel throughout Scotland for the elderly and disabled people.

This really just extends the bus scheme currently operated by the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority to the whole of Scotland. Rail travel is not included

although for those living on the islands free travel to the mainland twice per year is being proposed. In the Strathclyde area ferry travel exists so this applies to those in places such as the Western Isles and the Orkneys and Shetlands. ICOD Ltd. welcomes this initiative with a degree of caution as until buses are



freely physically accessible by disabled people there will be not a great deal gained from this initiative. It has therefore responded by requesting that the Scottish Executive to ensure that physically accessible buses are used on the scheme.



Help with home insulation and central heating

The Warm Deal has been set up by the Scottish Executive and the EAGA partnership to provide financial assistance and help people insulate their homes. Grants of up to £500 towards insulating your home may be available for people on the

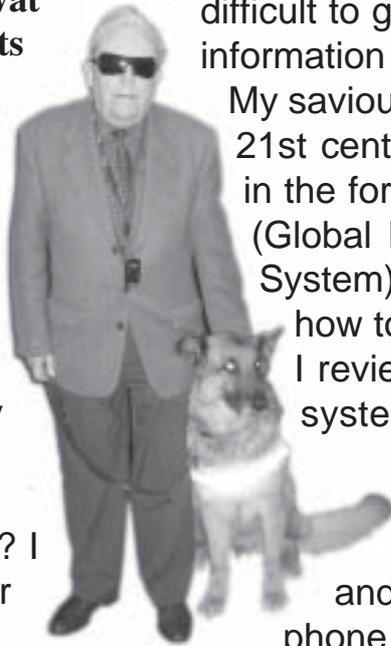
following benefits:- Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Disabled Persons Tax Credits, Income Support, Pension Credits, War Disablement Pensions or Child or Working Tax Credits (if your income is less than £15,050). A central heating programme is also

available for people who are over 60 who do not have a central heating system, or if their present system is broken and beyond repair. You can find out more information by contacting the ICOD office, or contacting EAGA on **0800 072 0150** or visit **www.eaga.co.uk**

Going Boldly...

New ICOD Ltd. board member Jim Mowat reveals the benefits of technology for People who are blind

I recently moved to Gourock and set about finding my way round the area. Not so easy when you are totally blind. How would I do it? I could take taxis or avail myself of ICOD's sighted escort service but these options require forward planning and don't allow for outings on the spur of the moment. I could take my long white cane and courage in both hands and venture out into the wide blue yonder and ask passers by for directions. This not easy either as many people,



albeit well intentioned, cannot verbalise what they actually see and find it difficult to give you the information you need.

My saviour was found in 21st century technology in the form of a GPS (Global Positioning System) and learning how to use it. I reviewed a couple systems before settling upon the Wayfinder. It's unobtrusive and has a mobile phone with it with Symbian and Talx software that enables the device to talk to you. As a result Kirkie, my dog, and I are getting about well. Operating the device is quite straightforward, after it has been set up and you've programmed in your destination and its postcode, you will be directed there by way of

left and right turns until arrival. It might not go exactly to your destination due to signal interference but it will get you fairly close.

I am also able to programme in regular destinations such as the post office and my nearest bus stop. For example the Wayfinder will alert when you are approaching your bus stop giving you time to prepare yourself to alight the bus.

Using a mobile for the first time has been marvellous and I am sure that technology will only continue to improve and help others like me to enjoy a better quality of life.

If you want to know more about this or any other systems to help you get about, contact your local Social Work office who may be able to help.

Shopmobility Update

Open Meeting

There will be an open meeting for shopmobility members on Wednesday 14th December at 2pm at the Wellpark Mid Kirk at Cathcart Square. All shopmobility users are welcome, please telephone the office if you would like to come along.

Rambling On...

Some shopmobility users, their family and friends have recently enjoyed one of our scooter rambles. The latest ramble was from Port

Glasgow to Kilmacolm, with over 20 people coming along to enjoy the fresh air, countryside and a tasty Sunday lunch after. The rambles are funded by Inverclyde Alliance, and ICOD Ltd. will be planning more for Spring and Summer next year.

Shopmo Survey

Shopmobility users will shortly be receiving our annual survey. The responses from this help us to shape the shopmobility service to better meet the needs of our members. Please remember to fill this in and return it to the ICOD office.



Two of our usual suspects enjoying the ramble to Kilmacolm

Extended opening hours

Shopmobility will be open later on Thursdays during December, see below for our opening hours over the festive season.

Are you, or do you know someone who...

- is living in a cold or damp home
- is struggling with their fuel bills
- is at risk of, or has had falls or accidents in their home
- is a victim of crime, or who has a fear of crime
- is worried about home security
- is unable or unwilling to use their central heating system or other appliances
- has a difficulty with household budgeting and "making ends meet".



Invest can help Inverclyde residents who fall into these categories, especially if they are at risk of losing their home, becoming ill, require medical treatment or may be unable to be discharged from hospital because of their home circumstances.

Invest can provide:-

- FREE home energy efficiency advice
- FREE home safety advice
- FREE home security advice

You can contact Invest free on **0800 783 2871**

Shopmobility Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

We will be opening late to 6pm on the following Thursdays: 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of December.

Other than the restrictions below, we are open as normal, Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm

Saturday 24th Dec
10am-1pm (last booking 12pm)

Sun 25th-Tuesday 27th Dec
CLOSED

Friday 31st Dec
10am-1pm (last booking 12pm)

Sun 1st Jan - Tues 3rd Jan
CLOSED

Shopmobility Members - Please remember to return your shopmobility questionnaire as soon as possible!



**Subtitled and Audio
Described Cinema
Screenings**



**Harry Potter and the
Goblet of Fire (12A)**

(Subtitled)

-Edinburgh UCI

Mon 19th Dec

-Clydebank UCI

Wed 21st Dec

-East Kilbride UCI

Fri 23rd Dec

For times, call UCI

information on

minicom:**18001 0808**

1560 609

Clydebank UCI tel: **0141**

951 1949

www.uci.co.uk

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

**Mrs Henderson
Presents (12A)**

(Subtitled and Audio
Described)

Thurs 1st Dec 4pm

Mon 5th Dec 1.45pm

Wed 7th Dec 8.40pm

Herbie: Fully Loaded (U)

(Subtitled and Audio
Described)

Sat 3rd Dec 11.30am

Nanny McPhee

(Subtitled and Audio
Described)

Tues 27th Dec 11.30am

**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.

Blue Auriga Scooter -
Nearly New Condition,
Barely used, reluctant sale,
Tel **01475 805264** or
07731418837

ICOD welcomes new staff member

**Joanna Morrison
(centre), our new
Admin/Information
Worker, with the rest
of the team.**

**She joins from
Quarriers where she
worked with people
with epilepsy.**



**The Board
and Staff of ICOD
Ltd. would like to
wish all our readers
the compliments of
the season**



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