

## Future Secure!

**ICOD has been successful in securing a cocktail of funding that will allow us to develop, deliver and improve services and activities for disabled people in Inverclyde...**

Nearly **£445,000** has been secured for ICOD services over the next three years.

Kathy McDade, Chair of ICOD Ltd said:

***“this is a great achievement for us to secure this funding in the light of the current financial climate and extreme competition from many other worthwhile groups across Scotland.”***

The **Big Lottery** is our major funder with **£284,394** provided to allow ICOD to continue to develop services for the Inverclyde community such as learning opportunities in Information Technology for learners with a variety of impairments (the ABC Project), social and leisure opportunities and the continuing awareness

raising of disability issues. Issues such as access to housing, our towns, shops and leisure facilities and access to mental health services and support for those in need.

Our ABC project is being funded for it's first year thanks to a grant of **£37,777** from the **Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)**. ICOD was one of only 286 organisations in the UK to successfully bid for EHRC funding.

Aside from the Big Lottery and EHRC, **Inverclyde Council** Grants to Voluntary Organisations has committed **£30,000** over 3 years to help fund some overheads of our premises at Clyde Square and **Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland** have committed **£28,000** to allow us to continue to



**ICOD Treasurer Brian McIntyre with local Lloyds TSB Manager Liz Harkins, celebrating the contribution of £28,000 from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland towards our Shopmobility Services.**

employ a part time Shopmobility Worker. Tender bids worth **£61,413** with **Inverclyde Alliance** have also recently been confirmed.

**continued on page 2...**

**ICOD is 21  
this year!**

**See page 2  
for our  
Birthday  
Plans**

**...continued from front page**

Alliance funding will secure our Shopmobility service for the next 18 months, and also bring additionality to our ABC Project, providing for a part-time worker to assist people to gain Basic Skills (IT) qualifications and develop their employability.

Funding has also been secured from the **Robertson Foundation** allowing us to purchase two new scooters, which with the agreed commitment of the Local Country Park, will be available for those visiting the newly refurbished Greenock Cut.

We would also like to thank the following organisations who continue to care for our fleet of Shopmobility Scooters:  
St Andrews Garage, Amey,

Stepwell Inn, Larkfield Housing Association, Welsh Walker, Renfrewshire Freemasons, Cardwell Garden Centre. We have also recently welcomed Inverclyde Leisure as a new sponsor.

The organisation is looking forward to the next 3 years, and at our recent planning day it worked out a programme of work to be undertaken which is sure to benefit our local community.

We are extremely pleased that our services are widely recognised and that most of the funding raised is coming into the local economy, securing not just services but jobs and opportunities for local people.

**See the centre pages for information on our planned activities.**

**ICOD welcomes new member of staff**



We are delighted to announce that we have recruited **Sally Wright** (above), formerly from Second Chance Learning as our new ABC Project Worker.

Sally brings with her a wealth of experience of community learning, and will be assisting learners with a range of impairments to improve their IT skills, and also helping to raise awareness and promote accessible learning opportunities across Inverclyde.



**ICOD Celebrates 21 Years**

ICOD is delighted to be celebrating our 21st Birthday. This has seen the organisation grow from a small group of volunteers operating from home to a

larger and more vibrant organisation, employing staff and providing services from our town centre base.

To celebrate this milestone we are holding a Birthday Bash at Greenock Town Hall on Wednesday 19th November, 7.30pm. The event will include 3 course Birthday Dinner, Disco with DJ Stevie Walker and Prize Draw Raffle. We will also be acknowledging

21years of involvement with the organisation by founding member Jessie Duncan.

Tickets for the evening will be £15 and are available from the ICOD Office. The event will help to raise monies for a charity of the Provosts Choice.

**Please come along to meet old friends and new!**

## ***ICOD Ltd AGM brings new faces to our board***

We held our AGM on Tuesday 19th August, and members enjoyed an interesting talk by Wendy Metcalfe, the new editor of the Greenock Telegraph.

We were also delighted to welcome three new faces to our board of directors, these are:



**Hamish MacLeod**



**Robert Galloway**



**Madeline Quigg**

Other members of our board elected for a further year are:

Johanna Stewart, Peter Savino, Connie Sission, Carol Reid, Tracey Rew, John Webb, Jim MacLeod

and Sylvia MacLeod.

Also continuing are our Chairperson - Kathy McDade, Vice-Chair - Joan McDougall, Company Secretary - Gordon Hendry and Treasurer - Brian McIntyre. We also have representation on the board from Inverclyde Council from Cllr. Charlie McCallum and Cllr. Jim Grieve.

Constitutionally, the ICOD Ltd board is always a majority of disabled people, ensuring that our services are shaped and managed by and for disabled people in Inverclyde.

**Find out how you can get involved and help ICOD on the centre pages**

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## **Halloween 2008**

Are we still being haunted by inaccessibility?

A joint event will be held on 31st October with Inclusion Scotland looking at Homes for Life, access to accessible information, mental health support, services and transport.

Among those taking part are Neil Graham Director of Environment and Community Protection, Inverclyde Council, Karen

## **Inclusion Scotland**

Neary, Chief Executive of River Clyde Homes, John Moody from the Scottish Recovery Network + the usual suspects from ICOD and Inclusion Scotland.

The event is being held at the Pirie Hall, Old West Kirk, Campbell Street, Greenock from 9.30am until 3pm, with a soup and sandwich lunch provided between 12.15-1pm.

The hall is accessible for

wheelchair users, with accessible toilet provision, and a hearing loop will be provided.

Anyone interested in coming along can book a place by contacting Inclusion Scotland by Tel: 0141 887 7090, email: [information@inclusion-scotland.org.uk](mailto:information@inclusion-scotland.org.uk)



# Help us create a more

# Accessible Inverclyde

## Learning

ICOD has been working for some time now in partnership with Inverclyde Libraries, Adult Literacies Team and Lead Scotland to deliver accessible IT Learning opportunities for disabled people.

Our ABC (Access for Beginners to Computing) project can provide one to one support, small group

tuition and a range of accessible software and equipment to assist people develop their skills.

The ABC project currently operates from the Central Library in Greenock, and we also hope to promote and develop accessible learning with other community providers in Inverclyde.

ICOD also delivers British Sign Language Courses at



beginners and level 1 and we have courses starting at Craigend Resource Centre shortly (see page 6 for more information)

## Access and Awareness

ICOD currently helps to promote awareness of disability issues and improve access for disabled people in a number of ways.

We deliver disability awareness training to local organisations and businesses, as well as giving talks to every primary 7 class in Inverclyde.

ICOD also help organisations and

businesses become more accessible through providing access advice and reports, and we also promote accessible services by producing useful guides (opposite).

Our training, talks and access advice are delivered by our staff and volunteers. We would be happy to hear from anyone wishing to help out, and full training is available to build your skills and confidence.



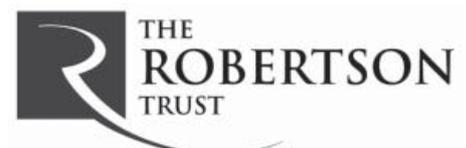
**Can you help us build on the success of our Accessible Eateries Guide?**



**Our activities are funded by:**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



If you would like more information about the services available, or would like help out in our activities please contact our office on tel: 01475 732700, textphone: 01475 732995 or email: enquiries@icod.org.uk

## Social & Leisure

ICOD will be building on the work of our social group to develop and provide accessible leisure activities for disabled people.

Our social group have previously helped to plan our scooter rambles, and are currently working on our birthday party in November (see page 2). We hope to develop our activities further to include

theatre and museum visits and healthy living activities.

If you would like to be kept informed of our programme of events, please contact the office.

We are also looking for more people to volunteer as part of our social group, helping to plan and shape our activities. If you are interested in helping out, please get in touch!



**We have recently had a scooter ramble at Greenock Cut, and thanks to funding from the Robertson Trust hope to make scooters available there from next Spring**

## Shopmobility



Our Shopmobility service has been established since 2002, and over 800 people have now registered with us.

We are able to provide a range of mobility equipment on a daily basis to help people access Greenock town centre and surrounding areas. In addition some equipment can be hired out to take away on holiday etc.

We also provide a guiding service for people with visual impairments, helping with daily tasks such as

shopping.

We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to volunteer with us, helping to deliver these valued services. Our volunteers help to register and train new clients, look after our equipment, run the service at weekends and help out when we provide equipment at community events.

## ICOD Sign Language Activities

As part of our Learning activities funded by the Big Lottery, ICOD will be providing a range of activities to help increase the number of people able to use British Sign Language.

In conjunction with Craigend Resource Centre, we will be providing Beginners and Level 1 courses, and also facilitating a BSL user group, to help people retain and develop their skills.

A 10 week **Beginners course** will start on **Monday 6th October** at **Craigend Resource Centre, 6.30pm - 9pm.** Our level 1 course will start at the same day and times at Craigend in January.

Our **BSL user group** will also have it's first meeting on **Wednesday 22nd October, 6pm-9pm.**

Anyone interested in our courses on the BSL user group can contact David Goldthorp at the ICOD office on tel: **01475 732700**, textphone: **01475 732995**, or email [david.goldthorp@icod.org.uk](mailto:david.goldthorp@icod.org.uk)

## Visitors to ICOD

September saw a number of important visitors to ICOD.

First to arrive was Douglas Guest from Equality and Human Rights Commission who was popping in to familiarise himself with the popular ABC Project. Douglas was able to review the success to date and meet with the new Project Leader Sally Wright. Classes will recommence in October. Any one wishing to attend can contact Sally at 712330 or pop in to the Central Library.



Claire Jefcoate, the new Manager of the Oakmall, also popped in to meet the team. Claire is well aware of the good work and value of Shopmobility Schemes having worked closely with our friends in Motherwell. We share her enthusiasm and are keen to work together in the future.

The Care Commission arrived on the 23rd to carry out its third annual inspection of ICOD services we await the outcome of the result with baited breath.

**Equalities and Human Rights Commission**

## Mental Health Awareness Week

Members of ICOD and Shopmobility are taking part in a combined walk/scooter ramble with others to mark the commencement of Mental Health Awareness Week 5th-13th October.

The walk will take place on Sunday 5th October along the cycle path between Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm. Transport will leave the ICOD offices at 10.45am

Kathy McDade said, "Many are aware of the links between physical and

mental health issues and it is appropriate that we recognise and support all the many people affected by them".

To find out more about the ramble contact the ICOD office on tel: **01475 732700**, email: [enquiries@icod.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@icod.org.uk) or textphone: **01475 732995**

Details of other activities happening during Mental Health awareness week are available on the back page.

# Postcard Campaign Launch

ICOD will shortly be commencing a postcard campaign to raise awareness of issues faced by disabled people in their daily lives.

The postcard will allow disabled people to raise issues with service providers by filling in a postcard, commenting on the difficulties experienced. A copy can also be given to ICOD to take the issue forward and help the service provider identify solutions.

*“Its just one of those disabled people moaning again’ is often an attitude we face,”* said Gordon Hendry, secretary of ICOD. “We are keen to



assist service providers address our needs and not dismiss them. Disabled people are a fairly sizeable proportion of the community and we need to access services and live like everyone else.”

“We hope that local disabled people will help us to raise awareness by

using these postcards, they only take a few minutes to fill in, and will help us get our message across to local organisations and businesses”.

Post cards will be available soon from the office and you can contact 732700 for further information.

## Eyes opened on Doors Open Day

Not only were doors open on Saturday 12th September for people to visit places of interest in Inverclyde but eyes were opened to the fact that Disabled people were able to participate in many of the events.

Electric Scooters were provided at the local history walks in the Greenock Cemetery and those taking part thoroughly enjoyed

learning more about our local history and being part of the group undertaking the tour.

Others took part in the guided walks at the Greenock Cut and admired the restoration works that had been undertaken. Syd Tildsley, a former Glenpark Harrier, was really please to see the cut again. “I did a bit of running in my time before my disability stopped me and I used to come up here to train. Its just brilliant that others will have the opportunity to revisit



**Shopmobility Service users Isa Wells and Sid Tilsley enjoying a day out at the Greenock Cut as part of Doors Open Day.**

this place that will hold many childhood and family memories for them when some scooters are based here”.

## Events Listings

### ICOD Events

**Monday 6th October,  
6.30-9pm**

**ICOD Beginners Sign**

**Language Course** starts at  
Craigend Resource Centre,  
see page 6 for more details

**Wednesday 22nd  
October, 6pm-9pm**

**ICOD sign language**

**practice group** at Craigend  
Resource Centre, see page 6  
for more details

**Friday 31st October,  
10am - 3pm**

**Inclusion Scotland**

**Roadshow**, see page 3 for  
more details

**Wednesday 19th  
November, 7pm-1am**

**ICOD Birthday Party -**

Come along and help us  
celebrate 21 years of

Inverclyde Council on  
Disability!

see page 2 for more info.

### Mental Health Awareness Week, 6th-11th October

For further information  
contact **Inverclyde**

**Community Care Forum**  
on **01475 728628**

**Sunday 5th October -**

**10.30am** - Scooter Ramble  
to Kilmacolm, see page 6 for  
more info

**Monday 6th October -**

**2pm** - A stroll in the Battery  
Park

**Wednesday 8th**

**October, 12pm** - Football  
at Greenock Sports Centre

**Thursday 9th October,**

**10am-4pm** - Inverclyde  
People's Day for Alcohol and  
Drugs Awareness at  
Greenock Town Hall

**Thursday 9th October,**

**10.30am, Express by  
Holiday Inn** - Argyll and  
Clyde United in Mental  
Health AGM

There will also be  
Information Stalls throughout  
the week at Tescos and  
Inverclyde Libraries.

## *Shopmobility Update*

Shopmobility is delighted  
to have broken through the  
800 barrier, having now  
registered 809 people  
since we started 6 years  
ago!

We will be providing an  
outreach service at the  
Greenock Cut from next  
Spring, with mobility  
equipment available from  
Cornalees Visitor Centre  
to help people enjoy the  
fresh air and scenery.  
Many thanks to the  
Robertson Trust for their  
contribution of £3,000  
towards this new  
equipment.

We continue to provide  
our guiding service for  
people with a visual  
impairment, and recently  
we have been assisting a  
guide dog user familiarise  
his new dog with the area.

**LinkAbility is Published by Inverclyde Council on Disability Ltd, 10 Clyde Square, Greenock**

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