

Save OUR Scooters



The Save our Scooters campaign stepped up again this month with over 800 signatures of support being handed to the Provost.

Volunteers had given freely of their time to ask the Inverclyde public for its support and they were not disappointed with the response that was gathered in only two days.

A letter to the council leader was also handed in requesting the Council to consider ways in which it could support the service. Jessie Duncan, Chairperson of ICOD commented ***“ICOD recognises that there are many difficult***



Service Users Johanna Stewart and Brian McIntyre present Provost Ciano Rebechhi with over 800 letters of support for Inverclyde Shopmobility

issues facing the Inverclyde but disabled people must not be overlooked in the process at this time.

A bid to the community fund will be submitted this month but the chances of success are limited as Shopmobility is no longer seen as a priority. Inverclyde is also no longer a fair share area thus losing out to other areas in Scotland that the Big Lottery fund seeks to assist.

We will keep persevering in our efforts to retain what has become a well used and respected service by all.”

Shopmobility Users Survey enclosed with this issue - see inside for details. Please return this to us!

Wha's Like Us?

ICOD attends historic Parliament Opening

Inverclyde Council on Disability were invited to attend the grand opening of the Scottish Parliament on 9th October of this year.

Mr and Mrs Jim MacLeod (yes Jim spares no expense on his honeymoon trips, no seriously congratulations go to them on their wedding on 10th Sept) and Gordon Hendry attended this historical event.

The pageantry of this event and Jim and Sylvia's wedding was matched insofar as Royal dignitaries also made their way to this special occasion by horse and carriage.

Our three reps took part in the procession down the Royal Mile and the ceremony itself and met many national figures, in fact Gordon spoke with the Duke of Edinburgh and helped him to



locate the Queen who had gone walk about meeting members of the assembled company.

Naturally being acutely aware of Disability issues these were always in mind as our adventurers took in their surroundings. Although impressive, as a brand new

building, one would think that all access issues would have been addressed but several difficulties were encountered.

Needless to say ICOD has been in contact with those at the Parliament and eagerly awaits a response.

Buddy Up in Larkfield!

Sharon McCafferty tells us about a new initiative in the Larkfield Area

The Buddy Scheme is a new initiative to help reduce the fear of crime in Larkfield. This is a pilot Scheme and we are keen to develop it in other areas of Inverclyde.

The scheme will provide volunteer Buddies to escort people on foot to places in the community of Larkfield. It may be that someone fears going

out alone at night or doesn't get out much due to their fear of crime.

The aim of this scheme is to encourage people to participate in their community. We are looking to hear from anyone who might benefit from this service.

Also, if you would like to volunteer then please contact:

Sharon McCafferty, the Buddy Scheme Enabler, at Larkfield Housing Association on 630930 between 9am-4pm.

ICOD joins Health Group

ICOD has been invited to join Inverclyde Councils Health Working Group. Following Argyll and Clyde Health board's meeting on the 8th November, they are starting again to engage with many interested parties in Inverclyde about the future of our local health services. There will be opportunities for many community organisations to air their views. ICOD is delighted to be on the Council working group, to ensure that the voice of disabled people is heard at this crucial time.

**Shopmobility Users - Your views are important to us!
Remember to complete and return your survey!**

International Day of Disabled People 2004

The 3rd of December is the International Day of the Disabled Person, and to mark the occasion, ICOD members and staff embarked on an awareness raising exercise aimed at local shops and businesses.

Many premises were visited, in an effort to inform them of their responsibilities to their disabled customers under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Guide booklets from the Disability Rights Commission were handed out, and these illustrated the simple and practical ways that businesses can make reasonable adjustments, and enhance the services they provide to



Gordon Hendry, ICOD Director, delivering the message to the manager of R S McColls

disabled people.

Gordon Hendry, ICOD Director said ***“In the main, the exercise was well received, as many businesses are struggling to come to terms with what is expected of them under the***

DDA. It often does not cost a fortune to enhance their services for disabled people.”

ICOD has already had a number of enquires following the day, and would encourage shops and businesses to contact it for more information and assistance.

Shopmobility Update

Membership Continues to Grow

Shopmobility is delighted to announce that we now have 462 members, an increase of over 60 in the past 3 months.

Donated Equipment

Shopmobility would like to thank all those who have donated equipment to us. In the past 3 months this has included a powered chair and a manual wheelchair.

Shopmobility Users Survey

If you are a Shopmobility member, you will find our latest service questionnaire included with this magazine. We are always looking for ways to improve the services we provide, and by completing the survey you can help us to do this. As well as helping to shape our services, your views will also be included in our application to the Community Fund for the continuation of **Your** service.

Please use the stamped, addressed envelope included to return the questionnaire to us.



Shopmobility Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

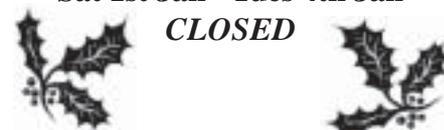
Tues 21st - Thurs 23rd December
10.00am - 5.30pm

Fri 24th Dec
8.30am-12.30pm

Sat 25th-Tues 28th Dec
CLOSED

Friday 31st Dec
8.30am-12.30pm

Sat 1st Jan - Tues 4th Jan
CLOSED



Please remember to return your shopmobility questionnaire as soon as possible!



Subtitled and Audio Described Cinema Screenings

Polar Express



Late on Christmas Eve night, a boy lies in bed hoping to witness Santa's sleigh. When to his surprise, a steam engine appears outside his window. The conductor invites him on

board to take an extraordinary journey to the North Pole...

This film is subtitled at the following cinemas:

Clydebank UCI

Tel: 0141 951 1949

Tuesday 18th Jan, 6.30pm

East Kilbride UCI

Tel: 01355 249 622

Thursday 20th Jan 6.30pm

Glasgow Renfield St. Odeon

Tel: 0141 332 3413

Thurs 3rd Feb

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.

Manual Wheelchair - Pristine Condition, Swiss-made, small self-propelling wheelchair, cost £1600, will sell for £600 contact Mr. Grant on **01475 792834**

Thyssen Stairlift - As new, only 3 months use cost £1800, will accept £400 ono, contact Marilyn on **01475 800127**

Powered Wheelchair - Sunrise Medical (older model) Sold as Seen will sell for £350 contact Alec on **01475 787751**

Your Letters...

Dear Editor,

Neither I nor any of my family is disabled but I should like to strongly support the reader who wrote the letter in your current news-sheet.

I travel quite regularly to the USA and, in particular, to Texas where respect for the law and for more vulnerable citizens is not generally very strong. There, every shopping mall has disabled parking places near to entrances and it is extremely rare to find a vehicle parked without an official disabled sticker.

My American friends tell me that this is because the police routinely hand out "tickets" for

violations - no excuses are accepted.

One point that I would, however, make is that the number of disabled spaces provided in this country is very obviously well in excess of demand since I have rarely seen more than about 30% of such places filled by registered disabled people.

Whilst I do not accept that this is a valid excuse for able-bodied people to use such spaces, I suspect that this encourages the lazy and selfish to use them.

POLITICIANS PLEASE NOTE.

George Kennedy



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