

New VIP Service from ICOD

Staff, directors and volunteers of Inverclyde Council on Disability have recently participated in a training exercise to allow them to more fully understand the difficulties affecting the daily lives of **V**isually **I**mpaired **P**eople. The event involved using various goggles and blindfolds to simulate a number of visual impairments and learning about guiding techniques. This was followed by a practical exercise in walking through the Oak Mall shopping centre and using steps and escalators.

One of the participants said "it was a really scary at first having to place my complete trust in someone else to help me about the shops, I did not appreciate how difficult it is for visually impaired people to go about their daily business".

The event took place in advance of the new ICOD guiding service scheduled to begin in May and the service will be run along the same lines as Shopmobility with advanced booking required.

ICOD is delighted to have on board two Social Care students to help provide the service that will be a welcome addition to the area.

Brian McIntyre a director of ICOD said "*its great to see new services being developed even against a*



Training in the Oak Mall for our forthcoming Guiding Service

background of funding uncertainty. We hope that service will prove worthwhile in the area. We will give out more details when our funding position has been clarified".

Anyone interested in using this new service can contact the ICOD offices for more information on 01475 732700 or email enquiries.icod@ntlbusiness.com

Scooting off...

The popular and effervescent Shopmobility co-ordinator Tracy Corrigan is leaving at the end of the month to take up a position with Kincaid Mobility in Glasgow. Tracy who has been with us for over 2 years said this was a great opportunity to continue to work with people with disabilities albeit in a slightly different role. Tracy said "I have enjoyed my time here delivering and developing the Shopmobility services and meeting and making new friends in Inverclyde. This is a really great area, the project is in good

hands and I wish it well for the future. The uncertainty regarding the continued funding of project did play a part in my decision and I hope that money can be secured to keep the service alive for those who require it". Jessie Duncan said "It has been great to work with Tracy and her enthusiasm and bubbly personality will be missed by service users and colleagues alike. We appreciate her reasons for leaving as she has her future and her family to consider. Like Tracy we wait and hope that the service can continue".



Tracy Corrigan, Shopmobility Co-ordinator, Scooting off to pastures new



Holidays 2005

Top Five Tips

for a hassle-free
accessible holiday

1. Don't rely on a brochure saying accommodation is accessible, make a list of your requirements and contact the owners direct to make sure they have the access you need before you book.
2. If Travelling by train in the UK, you can phone to check and arrange access for your journey. For Scottish stations you can call First Scotrail on 0845 605 7021 or textphone 0845 602 0346.
3. If you need mobility equipment when on holiday, call Inverclyde Shopmobility on 732600 who can hire transportable scooters, or help you to find the nearest shopmobility to your resort.
4. If you use a wheelchair or other equipment, give it a thorough check over before you go, remember to take any spares or replacements with you as they may be difficult to find when you get there.
5. If you need medication while you are on holiday be sure to take an adequate supply. Also take a list of your medication and a note of your doctors details should you require treatment. If you use syringes you should also notify the travel company and airline as sharp items are not allowed on flights.

Useful Weblinks

Global Access - reviews and information on resorts around the world. <http://www.geocities.com/Paris/1502/index.html>

Lonely Planet Discussion Boards - There is a specific topic for Travellers with Disabilities. <http://thorntree.lonelyplanet.com>

ICOD Secure Tender Success from Inverclyde Council

Inverclyde Council on Disability has just recently fought off competition and won a tender with Inverclyde Council to carry out access audits on several of its premises to ascertain suitability under the Disability Discrimination Act.

The contract will be a much-needed boost to funds for the organisation. Over the next two/three months trained and experienced members of ICOD will help the Council achieve its in making Inverclyde more accessible to the public.

Given the nature and age of many of the buildings the task cannot be taken lightly and full marks should go to the Council for starting the process.

Jim MacLeod said
"notwithstanding the technical



knowledge required for this task we as disabled people can bring our experiences to the fore when carrying out the work".

More good news for ICOD is that housing providers have asked for its services to provide disability awareness training for their staff and a training organisation has requested our input for its students undertaking Social Care courses.

The experience of disabled people has been invaluable in securing work, which in turn will help to secure the future of the organisation.

**Anyone wishing more
information about these
services can obtain
information by phoning
ICOD at 732700.**



The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card

Get yourself (and a carer) in the movies!



The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card is a national scheme which allows a free ticket for people who may need someone to accompany them to the cinema.

If you are in receipt of attendance or disability living allowance, a registered blind person or hold a disabled persons railcard you can apply for a card from the Cinema Exhibitors Association. To apply you can obtain an application form from

your local cinema and send this off along with proof of your railcard/benefits and a passport photograph. A £5 administration fee is also required.

Forms can also be downloaded from www.ceacard.co.uk or we can print one for you at the ICOD offices. The Waterfront Cinema in Greenock is part of the scheme, Showcase Cinemas in Paisley and also UCI, UGC and Odeon Cinemas.

Ramble on with ICOD!

As part of our new funding from Inverclyde Alliance, ICOD will shortly be planning a series of Scooter Rambles with Phoenix Health and other community groups. These will involve both disabled and non-disabled people enjoying the company, fresh air and scenery of Inverclyde in the Summer months. This will compliment the Walking back to Health programme currently organised by Phoenix Health. This is an excellent opportunity for scooter users to reach other parts of Inverclyde other than just our town centres.

News In Brief

New Travel Pass Scheme Planned for Scotland

The Scottish Executive has announced plans to revamp the travel pass scheme for elderly and disabled people. Instead of the current 16 local schemes, a national scheme will be introduced in 2006, allowing free travel for pass holders across the whole of Scotland. Pass holders will also be able to travel at any time of day, rather than at off-peak hours under the existing schemes. ICOD will keep its members updated on the development of the new scheme.

Scotland World Champions Again

Last September the reigning Scottish World Wheelchair Curling champions visited Inverclyde and participated in a competition with non-disabled curlers and duly won the trophy. This showed exactly what those who are wheelchair users could achieve and they continued to be successful when in January, at Braehead Ice Rink they retained their world championship trophy. Congratulations to them once again! Anyone interested in taking up the sport should contact ICOD for details.



Special Olympics Glasgow 2005 *Appeal for Volunteers*

Glasgow is hosting the Special Olympic Games from Friday 1st July to Saturday 9th July 2005. The games are expected to attract over 2500 participating athletes, as well as almost 1000 coaches and 3000 families, friend and supporters.

The organisers have appealed for volunteers to make these the best games ever, and are still looking for 300 volunteers to help out in a variety of ways.

Ceremony/Entertainment

Assistants will help direct spectators to their seats, supporting athletes in the "march on" and help with evening entertainment events.

Accommodation Assistants will act as support to the residency staff and the 4000 athletes staying in Glasgow during the games.

Delegation Assistant Leaders will be the main link between the Regional Team and the Games' Management Group. They will be assigned to a team from the time of arrival until departure.

Information Desk Assistants will help to update notice boards, give directions, distribute results, programmes and timetables and general information about the games.

Sports Event Volunteers will help to escort athletes to the arena and medal presentations etc.

Volunteers should be over 16 (or 18 in some cases), and will be subject to an enhanced disclosure check.

For further details of these opportunities and an application form please call **0141 287 5637**

Shopmobility Update

New Equipment Available

Shopmobility now has 2 walking frames available for either daily or long-term hire use. Each walker also doubles as a handy seat and also has a basket to store small items of shopping.

Free Accessible Days Out Guide

Thanks to 2 scooters being donated by Kincaid Mobility, we now have 3 portable scooters available for long-term hire use. The first 10 customers to hire these scooters will also receive a free copy of "The smooth ride guide" from Gowrings Mobility. This is a directory of accessible places to visit throughout the UK.

Membership Survey

Thanks to all members who returned the recent Questionnaire about our service, it's still not too late to return yours if you still have it! If you requested information with your returned questionnaire and forgot to include your address please contact us.

Funding

We are now awaiting the outcome of funding applications to The Big Lottery and Inverclyde Council. We expect to hear from the Council in April and from the Big Lottery in May and hopefully Shopmobility will continue to grow in Inverclyde. We have plans to continue the Summer service in Gourock and Port Glasgow, based in the Health Centres. Watch this space!

We now have 4 8 2 Shopmo Members



**Subtitled and Audio
Described Cinema
Screenings**

The Aviator

Glasgow Film Theatre

Tuesday 29th March 3.15pm -
Audio Described

Wednesday 30th March 5.30pm
Audio Described and Subtitled

Thursday 31st March 7.40pm
Audio Described

Telephone: **0141 332 8128**
email: **info@gft.org.uk**
www.gft.org.uk

Events Listings

ICOD Events

Full Council Meeting

31st March 2005
Craigend Resource Centre
7pm-9pm

This gives our members an update on what ICOD has been doing, and we have Janice Boyd, Access Officer with Inverclyde Council as our Guest Speaker. If you require transport please contact us.

Other Events

**Independent Living Scotland
Exhibition**

6th-7th April 2005
SECC Glasgow
10am-4.30pm

Scotland's leading exhibition for people of all ages with a disability, over 100 exhibitors, national and regional associations and charities. For your free ticket call **0870 429 4372** or visit **www.independentlivingevents.co.uk**

**ICOD Services for
2005-8**

Inverclyde Council on Disability have secured funding through Inverclyde Alliance to continue some of our existing services and also to develop exciting new activities.

We will continue to provide Information and Advice to Disabled People and their Carers, along with developing our membership and network of disabled people.

New services include Scooter Rambles (see page 3 for more info), providing Disability Awareness and Sign Language training to voluntary sector

groups and providing a "Hearing Hiring Service" making loop systems available to ensure hard of hearing people can participate in meetings and events.

We will also endeavour to source funding to continue our programme of research into the needs of disabled people in Inverclyde. The information the research produces helps to shape our services and those of other organisations in our community.



A big thanks to the Freemasons of Renfrewshire West for their support in sponsoring one of our shopmobility scooters. Without the generous support of organisations such as the Freemasons we would not be able to maintain our expanding fleet of much needed equipment.

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

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is supported by



and

