

## ICOD holds Welfare Reform Conference

ICOD, in conjunction with Inclusion Scotland, recently held a conference about the Government's green paper proposals to reform the Welfare System for disabled people, specifically Incapacity Benefit and the help available for those wishing to get back into work.

Many disabled people are concerned about these proposed changes, and ICOD felt that it was important that those in Government hear directly from disabled people these concerns.

Speakers at the event included David Cairns MP, Deputy Secretary of State for Scotland, Gregg Chamming from the Department of Work and Pensions, who played a key role in drafting the proposed reforms, and also Dr Jim Ward, a local GP and Chair of the Local



Health Care Co-operative.

In addition, the conference heard from Kathy McDade from ICOD and Bill Campbell from Inclusion Scotland, who both gave personal accounts of their experiences of being disabled and accessing employment.

The event also gave disabled people the chance to question the panel of speakers, and many came along to voice their concerns. Issues raised included the availability of other support (such as direct payments) to assist disabled people in

employment, the criteria and assessment methods (and amount of form filling) that would be involved, and also the concern that the proposals may lead to a two-tier system of disabled people, with additional assistance only given to those deemed "able to work", with others being "written off". The issues raised on the day have helped us put together a response to the governments proposals.

ICOD would like to thank all those who attended, and will keep our members up to date on the progress of the reforms.

# ICOD Receives Boost from Inverclyde council

Inverclyde Council, at a recent meeting of their grants Committee, awarded a grant of £13,110 to Inverclyde Council on Disability to help it continue to run its popular Shopmobility service.

Gordon Hendry, Treasurer of ICOD, said *"The council grant is very welcome and will be used to help us maintain and insure our scooters, promote the service and keep in touch with our membership through our quarterly magazine Linkability"*.

---

## ***Holiday Hints...***

It's nearly that time of year again when ICOD breathe a sigh of relief because Jim MacLeod is off on holiday! No but seriously, here are some handy hints to make sure your holiday goes as smoothly as possible....

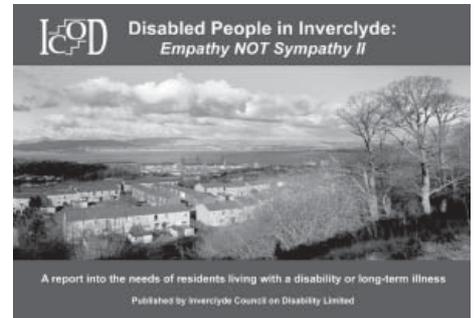
- If possible divide your medication between suitcases, so if one goes missing you will at least have some left. Keep a small supply with you when travelling to your destination.

## ***Empathy NOT Sympathy II*** ICOD Launches Local Research Document

As part of our ongoing programme of research into the needs of disabled people in Inverclyde, ICOD recently launched "Empathy NOT Sympathy II". The publication was launched after our recent Full Council Meeting on the 23rd of March.

This new book is the outcome of survey information gathered by interviewing disabled people in the former SIP Areas of Greenock and follows on from "Empathy NOT Sympathy", a survey of those in the former SIP areas of Port Glasgow.

Disabled people were asked about a variety of topics including: health services and care, benefits, education and



employment, socialising and accessing their communities. ICOD hope that the information contained in this new document will help the decision-makers in our community to plan and provide better services for disabled people in Inverclyde.

ICOD will be distributing a number of free copies to local organisations, and also hopes to sell copies to universities and others with an interest in disability studies.

---

- Don't forget Shopmobility have Manual Wheelchairs, Energy Efficient Scooters and Walkers which can be lent out, for a small charge on long-term hire. Call us on 732600 for more information.

- If you are going somewhere hot, or are going out for the day, make sure you have plenty sun

screen, bottled water and something to eat.

- If you do encounter problems whilst on holiday, alert the rep as soon as possible and gather as much evidence as you can (notes, photo and videos) and get the contact information of others who have experienced similar problems.

# Shopmobility Update

Welcome to the latest update of Shopmobility, it's been a busy few months, and we're proud to announce that we have now registered our 600th Service User with membership numbers continuing to climb. A big thank you to all of our service users for their continued support of our service.

## A 'Ton of Support

Inverclyde Shopmobility was proud to be invited along to view the new disabled facilities at Cappielow Park. Pictured below enjoying his day is lifelong Morton fan Mr Jim Mitchell along with Douglas Rae, Chairman of Morton Football Club.



Morton helps to Support Shopmobility and if you know of any organisation that would be willing to "care" for one of our

# Fingers Crossed!

A group of students who have been learning sign language with ICOD since August last year are about to be put to the test as their exams in British Sign Language are coming up shortly.

The students from various voluntary sector projects are hoping to put their skills into practice and provide better communication with deaf customers when they use their services.

One of the students said, "it is great but hard work and your hands can get tired but it is worth

learning".

The exam, which takes approximately half an hour to complete, is recorded on video and reviewed at a later date to establish whether or not the students are displaying all the signs and words correctly.



They will know their results soon, so **Fingers Crossed!** or not as the case should be!

scooters please give us a call on 01475 732700. Our other carers include; Inverclyde Taxis, ABC Central, Cullens Motors, The Freemasons of Renfrewshire West, St Andrews Garage, Oak Mall, Cardwell Garden Centre, Morrisons and Welsh Walker.

## Rambling on again...

Some of our service users, family and friends have enjoyed another ramble, this time organised by our newly formed social group. This time we rambled from the East Promenade at Largs, all the way out to Pencil Point, despite the weather conditions, every-

one commented on the enjoyable time, stopping for lunch in some of the eateries in Largs. More rambles and social events will be organised by the Social Group, anyone wishing to participate in future events can call the office on 01475 732700.

## And Finally...

Don't forget some of the other services Shopmobility can provide, including our new Visual Impairment Service, which can assist those with Visual Impairments to access shopping and local services within our community. Call us on 732600 for more details.



**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**

**King Kong**

(Subtitled and Audio  
Described)

Tuesday 20th May 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,  
**£800 ono** Tel **01475  
805264 or 07731418837**

**Blue Pride Scooter -**

4 Wheeler, excellent  
Condition, little use,  
complete with instructions  
**£500ono** Tel: Mr Mitchell  
**01475 892794**

**Pride Victory Scooter -**

Excellent Condition,  
complete with owners  
manual, charger, basket  
and crutch holder **£600  
ono** Tel **07714 336767**

# ICOD Take Dropped Kerbs Campaign to

Last December and January a group of Shopmobility users and friends stood guard over a number of town centre dropped kerb locations. They were doing this to highlight the fact that these kerbs require to be kept clear to allow wheelchair users and others to access their town centres safely and easily.

ICOD has taken the matter to the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee requesting it to ask Parliament to make it a Road Traffic Offence to

## Scottish Parliament



block dropped kerbs. Jim MacLeod, who attended the Committee in Dunfermline, said, "I am disappointed at not being given the chance to speak to the petition and am concerned that the matter may be lost sight of. The Committee has agreed to write to a number of interested parties, and I hope progress can be made, this is important for all disabled people in the country".

The matter has been scheduled for reconsideration at the Petitions Committee on 14th June when hopefully it will receive the attention it deserves.

ICOD will be watching closely, and would ask motorists to consider the needs of disabled people and others and **Don't Block our Way** by parking across dropped kerbs.

**LinkAbility is Published by Inverclyde Council on Disability Ltd, 10 Clyde Square, Greenock  
Tel: 01475 732700 TextPhone: 01475 732995 Fax: 01475 791622  
email: linkability.icod@ntlbusiness.com**

Although the Inverclyde Council on Disability makes every effort to ensure that all details within this publication are correct, we can accept no liability for any errors or omissions which may be contained within these pages. If you spot any errors, or would like to contribute to linkability please contact us at the numbers above.

We also supply Linkability in other formats such as audio tape and large print. If you would prefer a copy in a different format or language please contact us.



Inverclyde Council on Disability

is supported by



Inverclyde Alliance

and Inverclyde and council

