

Spring 2008



Update

Reg. Charity No. 1065677

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I do believe that spring is just around the corner, the days are getting longer and there seems to be splashes of colour all over the borough due to the swathes of daffodils and crocuses all over the place. I hope that you have been able to get out and enjoy them too. Next time you're in town why not take a detour and go into Glebe Gardens (behind St. Michaels church) where there is a particularly good show. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter, please share it with you friends and family, they might like to support one of our events and maybe come with you. Speaking of going out don't forget that you can hire a manual wheelchair or travel scooter for days out and holidays. Please ask for further information.

With all good wishes from Anne



Invites you to a

Pamper Evening

Wednesday 30th April 7pm-9.30pm

Church Cottage, Church Street, Basingstoke, Ample free parking

Chat with a Beauty or Holistic Therapist

Enjoy a Mini Treatment - Book a Photographic Session

Learn about Improving your Image and Fitness

Treats and Yummy things to buy

£1 entry. Free goody bag for the first 50 ladies

Do you really want to miss out?

For more information speak to Anne or Lin on 01256 476066

All monies raised will go to the vehicle replacement fund.

Shopmobility, Church Street, Basingstoke RG21 7QQ

Tel: 01256 476066

Web Site www.shopmobilitybasingstoke.org



Assisted by
**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Do you think that we do a good job? If so would you please take a few moments to think of something nice to say about us and write it on the enclosed 'Tom Hillier' award entry form? This is an annual award organised by the National Federation of Shopmobility and is judged solely on the words of our Customers, so your thoughts really do count. You can hand the form back to us for a group mailing or post it to the address on the form. On the other hand if you think there is something we could improve on would you please tell ***us*** so that we can do something about it? Thank you.

You are Invited to an
Information Day for Older People
On
Wednesday 18th April
At
Age Concern Café, Church Cottage
(Behind St. Michael's Church)
10.30a.m. – 1.00p.m.

Information & advice for older people from a wide range of organisations.

Refreshments available

For more information speak to Tracy at Age Concern on 01256 423874

Mobile 'Phone Fundraiser

We have a new fundraising initiative. For every un-used mobile telephone we collect we can earn £3! So please ask your friends and family if they have any that they can donate to our campaign.

Can you or anyone you know collect them at a work place or social club? This would really help our success rate. The ones to benefit at the end of the day are you, our customers as all monies raised will go into the vehicle replacement fund.

Travel Tokens

This year's dark red travel tokens expire on March 31st so make sure that you have used all of yours by then. If you find some after this date please dispose of them as they will not be accepted anywhere. The new purple tokens come into operation on April 1st.

The silver National Travel Tokens are also accepted at Shopmobility Basingstoke.

This newsletter was generously sponsored by J Davy Basingstoke.

Hotel Recommendation!

Fancy a trip to Scotland? One of our customers would like to recommend 'The Experience Holiday Inn' hotel in Edinburgh. The customer who is a wheelchair user found the facilities for disabled people excellent and the staff very helpful and friendly. Breakfast is the only meal available but there are plenty of restaurants in the vicinity. There is a bus stop right outside the hotel with all buses low floor and fully accessible. An all day bus pass costs just £2.

The telephone number for the hotel is 01315 554122.

Shopmobility Trundle

For some excitement a little closer to home why not join us on our 'Annual Trundle' on **Sunday 18th May at 2p.m.**? For the un-initiated this is a fun afternoon for Shopmobility customers, their family and friends. In groups of 4-6 you will negotiate a 4-5 mile circular tour of Basingstoke on our scooters/wheelchairs (or yours if you prefer). Full maps and instructions are given and marshals are on hand at strategic points to offer assistance if necessary. The route will take you outside the main confines of the town centre and show you another side of the town.

There is a charge of £5 which includes tea and cakes on your return. Sponsorship can be collected if you wish but this is not essential. If you do collect sponsors your £5 entry fee can be deducted from your total raised. For more information and an entry form please speak to Anne or Lin.

Gift Wrapping Update

Just to update you on the gift wrapping service. We will once again be offering a Christmas Gift Wrapping Service in Festival Place in the run up to Christmas. It is anticipated that we will be situated outside Batemans Opticians from 15th December. So, while it is only April if you or someone would like to help out on the stall please come and speak to us.

Did you know that if you visit the Post Office at the top of town you can go straight to position 11 if you are using a scooter or wheelchair? This saves you trying to negotiate the barrier queuing system.

Christmas Fundraising

We had some very successful fundraising events over the Christmas period:

- The raffle raised £728. A big thank you to The Malls Shopping Centre for donating the television.
- The Barrel Organ Boys collected £666 while playing in The Malls
- The wishing wells in Festival Place shopping centre raised £2,500 after a generous contribution from the shopping centre

A big thank you to everyone who was able to support any of these initiatives

Gift Aid

As a charity we are able to claim back tax on donations made by a tax payer. This rate has changed to 28% in the pound. This means that for every £5.00 donated by a tax payer we can claim an extra £1.40. We do need you to complete a small form to say that you are a tax payer but it is certainly worth doing. If you are making a donation to Shopmobility and you are a taxpayer please ask about gift-aiding it. As they say, "every little helps".

Shopmobility on Tour

Shopmobility will be going on tour for the third year this summer. A selection of our equipment will be taken to a variety of events in and around the area for customers new and old to use. Obviously we are limited as to what we can take so please do book in advance if you are planning to attend. We are currently booked to attend the following events:

Sunday 11th May Transport Festival - War Memorial Park

7th - 8th June Basingstoke Kite Festival - Down Grange

Sunday 6th July Alton Agricultural Show - Alton

1st - 3rd August Balloons over Basingstoke - War Memorial Park

More events may be added to the list so please ask, but don't forget you can hire a manual wheelchair or travel scooter to take out and about. Please ask for more information.

Take Control of Your Driving

Do you wonder if your driving is still up to scratch? Hampshire County Council have designed a course to assist older people to continue driving safely for as long as possible, not stopping people from driving. There is no test, there is an informal, confidential assessment. This is followed by a de-brief with tips and suggestions to follow up if appropriate. A number of our customers have found this useful. Would you? For more information speak to the road safety officer on: 01962 874600 or pick up a leaflet at Shopmobility.

Support Group

Do you have good days and bad days? Maybe suffer with anxiety or depression?

Higher Ground is an open group where you can let off steam, relax and unwind in a safe environment. They meet at The United Reformed Church on Tuesdays 7-9p.m. For more information ring Brett on 01256 336279 or 07858 392387.

That's all for this time, I hope that you've found the contents of this newsletter useful. Please feel free to give any suggestions or contributions for future newsletters to Anne or Lin.