



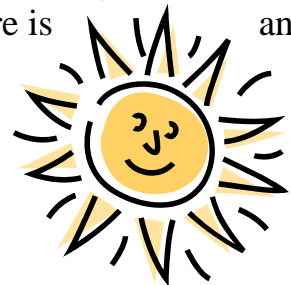
Spring 2010

Update

Reg. Charity 1065677

The newsletter for Shopmobility Basingstoke

Hello Well, although it's still cold I do believe that spring is on its way. When you are next in town why not take a peep in Glebe Gardens (behind the church), you'll see a glorious show of crocuses. Their colours are sure to brighten your day. Now I'm going to do something I seldom do, have a grumble. In the last newsletter I reminded everyone that Shopmobility Basingstoke is a charity relying heavily on fundraising events to keep the service running. We had a whole host of events in the run up to Christmas and not one of them was well supported by our customers. The autumn newsletter was mailed out to almost 2,000 customers yet only 12 attended the Christmas Fayre at Old Basing, only 80 tickets were sold guessing how many lights on the Christmas tree and a similar number for guessing the name of the clown. 120 calendars were sold and very few people helped with the collection. I know that there will always be good reasons as to why some people can't attend an event but I urge you all to remember that these events are held to keep the customer charges as low as possible. Please have a close look at this newsletter and see if there is an event you can support. Maybe your friends and/or family would like to come with you to boost numbers or instead of you if you can't make it. Also if you have an idea for an event which you think would appeal more to our customers please come and talk to me. I'm always open to ideas. Grumbles over, take care and enjoy the nice weather when it arrives!



Best wishes from Anne

We will be operating our '**On Tour**' service again this summer, taking equipment to The Transport Festival on 9th May, Alton Agricultural Show on 4th July, Balloons Over Basingstoke on 6th-8th August and Alresford Agricultural Show on 4th September. Equipment will need to be booked in advance. Basingstoke events will be run just as we do in the office. At the agricultural shows you will be asked to book for the morning, the afternoon or the whole day. This will make it possible for more people to benefit from using the service. For more information or to make a booking please telephone the Shopmobility office on 01256 476066 and ask to speak to Lin or Anne.



Shopmobility Directories are on sale in the office priced at £3.

***How well do you know Basingstoke?
Do you just go around the shopping centre?***

Why not join us on our 'Annual Trundle' on **Sunday 23rd 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 of the shopping centres and show you another side of the town. There is a charge of £5 per person to include 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.

Or you might prefer one of our 'Escorted Trundles'. A maximum of 8 customers can go on each one. There are no maps or instructions as you are led by a member of Shopmobility staff (with another bringing up the rear!) You can choose from:

A 2 course Lunch at Oliver's – Thursday 29th April 11.30a.m. start, £10

Tea at Milestones – Tuesday 22nd June 2.00p.m. start, £6

Bring Your Own Picnic & Parks Tour – Monday 12th July 11.00a.m. start, £3

A 2 course Lunch at Oliver's – Friday 24th September 11.30a.m. start, £10

Places must be booked in advance. You can only book one escorted trundle at a time and bookings can be made up to 2 weeks prior to the event. For more information or to book a place speak to Anne or Lin on 01256 476066.

If you want a day out under your own steam, The Hawk Conservancy at Andover has scooters available. Equipment is free of charge but they do ask for a donation. It is advisable to book them in advance. For more information visit their web site www.hawkconservancy.org or ring them on 01264 773859



Travel Tokens

Just a reminder that the current turquoise travel tokens from Basingstoke and Deane expire on 31st March 2010. We will not be able to accept them after this date. Neither are we able to accept the new tokens before April 1st 2010. If you or anyone you know has any left over tokens we are able to take them as a donation.

We also accept Hart Travel Tokens and the silver National Travel Tokens.

***Quickie Breezy wheelchair for sale. 22" seat 19 stone capacity £395.
Ex-Shopmobility stock speak to Anne or Lin for more info.***



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF

Shopmobility

has an annual award for affiliated Shopmobility schemes.

This is the **Tom Hillier** award and is given to the scheme displaying something special, something above and beyond what you would expect of them. It is judged by Toms widow Grace who reads all the nominations personally. Do you think we that we are worthy of the award? If you do then please complete the enclosed nomination form and either send it directly to the address on the form or return it to us and we will send any we receive in together.

On the other side of the coin if you don't think that we deserve it please contact me directly so that I can do something about it. Ring Anne on 01256 350142, email me anne@shopmmobilitybasingstoke.org or write to me.

The Department for Transport is consulting with members of the public at the moment as to use of scooters and powered wheelchairs. There is concern about the number being used and the safe use of them. I shall be replying on behalf of Shopmobility. If you would like to read the documents from the Department for Transport and/or reply to the consultation please ring Tony Deere 01079442046 or you can view them on line at www.dft.gov.uk/consultations



New Vehicles

One of our main aims at Shopmobility Basingstoke is not to turn any customer away due to unavailable vehicle by type or quantity. So I hope you will be pleased to know that we have just bought 3 new 'Toms' together with a large 3 wheeled scooter. We have also bought an extra large wheelchair with a 24" seat.

Remember, your Shopmobility Basingstoke registration now covers you for 11 other local schemes under the **Wessex Network**. If you've lost the information please ask in the office or have a look on our web site www.shopmobilitybasingstoke.org Your re-registration is paid at your 'home scheme', this is defined as the scheme where you registered first, the scheme in your home town or the one you use most.



Bag a Bra Campaign

We have joined forces with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance to collect used, wearable bras. They will benefit from receiving the money gained from selling them on to street traders in Africa. They will then be sold on cheaply to African women who cannot normally afford them. Wearing a bra to an African woman is a sign of status; they are less likely to be attacked as they are seen to be from a good background. So many people benefit from this campaign: those rescued by the air ambulance, African women and African street traders who are able to earn a living. Please help us by bringing in any suitable bras to the office and we will pass them on.

***Due to lack of take up Gift Tokens will not be sold after March 31st 2010.
Those already sold will be honoured.***



Customer Charges As you know we work hard to keep our charges low but from time to time we do need to make an increase. An increase was scheduled for January but this has been held off until April 1st 2010. The annual individual registration fee will rise to £5 and the group registration fee to £15 but the daily hire fee will remain the same.

Travel Tokens

Just a reminder that the current turquoise travel tokens from Basingstoke and Deane expire on 31st March 2010. We will not be able to accept them after this date. Neither are we able to accept the new tokens before April 1st 2010. If you or anyone you know has any left over tokens we are able to take them as a donation.

We also accept Hart travel tokens and the silver National Travel Tokens.



We have a whole host of information available at Shopmobility. There is a designated corner in the waiting area. Information available includes: holidays, care at home, blue badges, other Shopmobility schemes, aids for easier living, etc. Some are leaflets which you can take away, others are books which you are welcome to browse. If the information you need isn't there we usually know where to find it so do please ask.

Dates for your Diary

2 nd April Good Friday	open as usual
4 th April Easter Sunday	Closed
5 th April Easter Monday	Closed
28 th April 11a.m. – 2p.m.	Age Concern Information Day Church Cottage
29 th April 11a.m.	Escorted Trundle & lunch at Oliver's
9 th May	Shopmobility 'On Tour' at The Transport Festival War Memorial Park
23 rd May 2p.m.	Annual Trundle
2 nd June	Volunteer and Charities Day Festival Place
22 nd June 2.30p.m.	Escorted Trundle and Tea at Milestones Museum
4 th July	Shopmobility 'On Tour' at Alton Show
12 th July 11.30a.m.	Escorted Trundle with a picnic in the park
6 th - 8 th August	Shopmobility 'On Tour' at Balloons over Basingstoke
TBA	Summer collection in The Malls Shopping Centre
4 th September	Shopmobility 'On Tour' at Alresford Show
13 th September	Shopmobility Annual General Meeting 6p.m. TBC
24 th September 11a.m.	Escorted Trundle & lunch at Oliver's
8 th October	Fire Walking at Down Grange – more info to follow!

I hope that you've found this newsletter both interesting and useful. Do you have any information which you think others would find useful? I am always happy to include them in future editions. Maybe you've had a successful outing/holiday that you would like others to know about?