



MobilityMatters

LATEST NEWS FOR SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME MEMBERS

Health and Beauty Boots

Magazine Spring 2023



A huge thank you to Kate, a volunteer at Hillingdon (Uxbridge) ShopMobility, for being the most perfect model. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to arrange and organise with help from Ann Frye to get ShopMobilityUK featured in the BOOTS Spring 2023 magazine.



April 2023

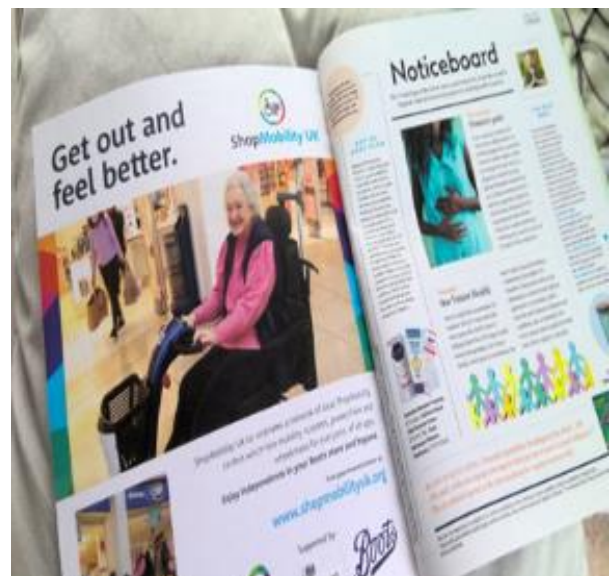
Welcome to the latest issue of your membership newsletter.

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Please welcome the following new members

Hastings

Carlisle

Guildford





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Lowestoft ShopMobility



A "Scootsafe Day" in Lowestoft

As Chairman of Lowestoft Shopmobility, I have been working with our MP, Peter Aldous, with the Police and East Suffolk Council, as we are very concerned that people in the town who ride on pavement mobility scooters are not sticking to the rules and there will be a serious accident before long. There have been two accidents already, as well as someone being found three times over the limit for alcohol, yet driving a mobility scooter.

So, on Friday 10th March, we decided to hold a "Scootsafe Day" in the centre of Lowestoft, giving out flyers which tell people the rules (see a copy of the flyer attached). We have held three of these days over the years, the last one being in 2016, so we have waited a long time to do a fourth, but the situation around the town has now got so bad that we felt compelled to do something.



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What are the problems?

It is mainly the speed at which scooter users go around the town. Scooters which go at 8 mph to go on the road should limit their speed in the pedestrian areas. They should be going at 4mph. All the scooters and powerchairs at Shopmobility are limited to 4mph. The Police and PCSO's are aware of people speeding, but do not have the resources to "police" it. If someone hits a child or toddler going at 8 mph, they would be seriously hurt, or even killed!

As a Disabled Person's Organisation, Lowestoft Shopmobility is also concerned that many people using pavement scooters are not disabled at all! The rules on GOV. say quite clearly that users should be "people who have trouble walking because of an injury, physical disability or medical condition." The only time others can drive them is to take them for repair or to deliver them. People buy them online or in shops which do not check on this. When there are any problems, people with disabilities get the blame.

Many people also do not have insurance, which they should have in case of accidents. People should not drive a scooter under the influence of alcohol, drugs and even some medications. They should not carry other adults, children or pets, yet they can be seen doing this on a weekly basis. They should not drive in cycle lanes, but again, each time we go along the sea-front here, it is evident that people do not know the rules.



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Unfortunately, we could not have chosen a worse day for our “Scootsafe Day”. It rained, it snowed, the wind blew and it was exceptionally cold! We had a gazebo lent to us, but it was so windy that we could not put it up! You can see in the photograph how we are all suffering the terrible weather. Not only was it awful for us, but it also meant that hardly any scooter users were about!

We had plenty of support from Peter Aldous M.P., Waveney Disability Forum, East Suffolk Communities Team, Disability Advice North East Suffolk, the Police, Freedom Mobility and the local press. All in all, it was not a successful day, so we have decided to repeat this in the Summer months, when hopefully it will get the message out to more people.

Margaret Oldham M.B.E.



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Updated Price List

MK Battery

We are pleased to be able to advise that MK Battery International Ltd has agreed to sell to all member schemes batteries at trade prices. These are the batteries usually in Electric Mobility

22 amp	£39.11
26 amp	£41.63
35 amp	£53.27
45 amp	£70.77
50 amp	£90.23
75 amp	£115.32

The price rises for the batteries on W/C 1.5.23

Electric Mobility

We are pleased to advise Electric Mobility will contribute £35.00 per unit for each of its mobility scooter or powered wheelchairs purchased from new by ShopMobility members in **2023**.

This will be paid by credit note or direct payment as an effective extra discount in exchange for proof of purchase and product serial numbers. This way it doesn't detract from each ShopMobility member, negotiating their very best deal with their local electric mobility dealer, ensuring continuity of local support. To claim this support ShopMobility members should email

Jonathan.hearth@electricmobility.co.uk or Andrew.hearn@electricmobility.co.uk
Please send with proof of purchase and serial numbers and clarification whether a credit note or direct payment is preferred.

equipment when originally sold. To benefit from this please contact Edward Trevor via email edward@shopmobility.org.ie who will confirm your membership with MK.

The order and payment are your responsibility.

The prices change if the USD increases or decreases by 5%

When you confirm your membership to MKBatteries or to Edward give him your postcode so they/he can check for free delivery.



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Good News Story

“SEDCAT has made a real difference to our lives”

Jeffrey was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease 6 years ago and his symptoms have gotten progressively worse over the past 8 months and it has become increasingly difficult to carry out everyday activities.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological condition that affects an estimated 6 million people worldwide. It is a complex disease that can manifest in a variety of ways, but the most common symptoms include tremors, stiffness, and problems with balance and coordination. As the disease progresses, it can also lead to difficulties with speech, cognition, and other functions. For those caring for a loved one with Parkinson's disease, the challenges can be significant.

One of the biggest challenges of caring for someone with Parkinson's is the physical demands of the disease. As the condition progresses, individuals may require more and more assistance with daily tasks such as bathing, dressing, and eating. In addition, the tremors and stiffness associated with Parkinson's can make movement difficult, which can lead to falls and other injuries. Caregivers may need to help with mobility aids such as walkers or wheelchairs, and may also need to assist with physical therapy exercises to help maintain strength and flexibility.

Another challenge of caring for someone with Parkinson's is managing medications. There are a variety of medications used to manage the symptoms of Parkinson's, and finding the right combination and dosage can be a complex process. Caregivers may need to help with administering medications on a strict schedule and keeping track of potential side effects or interactions with other medications.

Communication can also be a challenge when caring for someone with Parkinson's. As the disease progresses, individuals may experience difficulty with speech, including slurred or quiet speech, or difficulty finding the right words. This can make it challenging to



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communicate effectively, and may require caregivers to develop new communication strategies, such as using gestures or writing things down.

Caring for someone with Parkinson's can also take a toll on the caregiver's own emotional and physical well-being. The demands of caregiving can be stressful and overwhelming, and may require significant time and energy.

Jeffrey is still able to drive although now, can no longer walk and has to make use of a wheelchair or mobility scooter to get around. His loving wife has been there to support him all the way through however is finding it increasingly difficult to lift the wheelchair in and out of the car to get him to his many physio and hospital appointments.

“SEDCAT has made a real difference to our lives, I don't have the strength anymore to lift a wheelchair in and out of our car, SEDCAT has given me peace of mind in knowing I can get my darling husband to his vital medical appointments. When we go shopping at Castlepoint we use their handy mobility scooters so we can shop with ease” Doreen.





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Pop in and Chat

Thank you to those that joined me in the last meeting. It really is lovely to put a face to the name and get to know what you're all up to.

The next meetings will be:

May 11th 2023 Time 10-11

June 9th 2023 Time 2-3

July 11th 2023 Time 2-3

Topics To Include:

- who to contact for funds
- insurance including overnight
- local Shopmobility Centres and joint approaches.

Please email me for a TEAMS invite. It is not just for Managers it would be lovely to meet your volunteers too. See you soon! 😊

A Gentle Reminder

When paying your invoice to help us know who you are.....
"Please quote your membership number and/or the invoice number on your bank payment" Thank you 😊



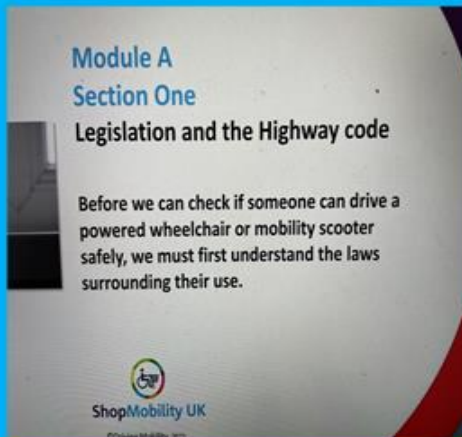
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MOODLE TRAINING

Online platform training ready to use.
Read below for more information.

Free training email me for your login
shopmobility@drivingmobility.org.uk



Moodle Training What's it all about?

We now have available a Moodle online course for powered wheelchair and mobility scooter training (PWMS). The course is ideal for staff and volunteers who need a basic knowledge of PWMS. It is free to members and if anyone is interested, they should let me know so that you can be given logon details to sign up and take part.

The course can be carried out in your own time and normally takes just a couple of hours. It is not formally marked but there is a series of tests between modules so that individuals can see their progress.

Feedback from those Centres that have used Moodle has been really positive.



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Hubs Mobility Advice Service

ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL SUPPORT

We have been very fortunate in that we have recently attracted a three-year grant from the Department for Transport (DfT), which will assist enormously with the underlying costs of running ShopMobility UK. This is as a part of the DfT initiative you may have read about in the press, called the *Hubs Mobility Service*. The idea is that the Hubs (15 of them spread across the country) will refer their users to their local ShopMobility UK scheme, leading to more business for all of us - and in the other direction we will inform all our users, through dishing out a small leaflet, of the initiative and how to contact their local Hub which will provide information, advice, and services in terms of managing personal mobility.

It is really important that we can share with the DfT how many people we make contact with through the Hubs Mobility Service so if your ShopMobility has leaflets to give out, don't forget to let us know as soon as you need a refill.

Contact details are in the dispenser.



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ShopMobility UK

Customer Satisfaction Survey Tom Hillier Award nominations 2023

We are looking for a **2023** winner for the Tom Hillier award and it could be the Shopmobility Centre that you use.

Tom Hillier was the founder of National Federation of Shopmobility (NFSUK). He died in January 1991 and his former colleagues wanted to keep his name alive through this Award. Grace Hillier his wife is delighted to be part of this award and the recognition and importance it represents.

Is Shopmobility in your area particularly helpful and effective? Has the Centre provided a new service during the past year? If you have found that your visit to your Shopmobility was a pleasant and enjoyable experience, why not nominate your Centre for the Tom Hillier Award?

We are looking for something special in our winning Centre. Just tell us how you feel and what makes your visit to your Shopmobility so exceptional.

It does not matter whether your Centre is 20 years old or brand new; they still have the chance to win. The winning Centre has the chance to collect their award at the Driving Mobility Conference Dinner and Presentation evening and be recognised for their efforts.

Your details will not be used for any purpose other than to verify the authenticity of your nomination.

Please complete the satisfaction survey below and hand it into your Centre. Alternatively, you can post it directly to Driving Mobility The Old Carriage Works, Moresk Road, Truro, TR1 1DG or go online and send in your nomination at www.shopmobilityuk.org by May 22nd 2023.



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NAME OF SHOPMOBILITY
.....

	YES	NO	N/A
Is it easy to book?			
Is the Centre well presented?			
Is the service you receive to a good standard?			
	YES	NO	N/A
Are the staff knowledgeable?			
Are the staff helpful and courteous?			
Is the paperwork easy to fill out?			
Is there a good range of equipment ?			
Are the terms and conditions explained in detail?			
Do you use this ShopMobility scheme regularly?			

My visits to this Shopmobility stand out because: (please let us know what makes your Shopmobility stand out from the rest. Do the staff go above and beyond).

.....

All our Centres are friendly and helpful but what puts this one above the rest?

.....



shopmobility@drivingmobility.org.uk
shopmobilityuk.org 07984 740 271



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Does this Centre help in the community, do you have a particular difficulty that they have helped you overcome so you can still use the service, or have they supported you in something outside of hiring mobility equipment? If you have a story that sets this ShopMobility apart from the rest, tell us here.

.....

Please give your Shopmobility a star rating between 1- 5, 5 Stars being highest rating.



Your name..... Signature

Your email..... Your address.....

.....





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ShopMobility UK

Important Notice Change of Membership Fees

The ShopMobility UK Board met on 25th November and agreed that in view of the current challenging circumstances facing Shopmobility Centres across the country, going into the new year, membership fees will be set at £50 p.a. and £15 for Satellite Centres.

The new fees will begin from 1st December 2022. The fees will be reviewed annually.

Please contact Project Manager

Lisa Deacon shopmobility@drivingmobility.org.uk if you have any queries.

Keep the stories, videos, photos coming in.

Best Wishes

Lisa x