

Solihull Shopmobility

Issue 36

Registered Charity No. 1064688

October 2011

Charges to be Increased

The trustees have taken the reluctant decision to recommend an increase in the annual registration fee and in the cost of hiring scooters, with effect from January 2012. The decision will be approved at the annual meeting of members on 24th November.

The proposed increase is forced on us by a combination of our costs going up and a likely reduction in the grant from Solihull Council next year.

From 1st January 2012 the cost of registering or renewing membership will increase from £10 to £12. This is the first increase since 2007 and is in line with inflation over the period.

There will also be an increase in the cost of hiring scooters and powerchairs for the day from £1 to £1.50. The cost of hiring a wheelchair will remain the same at £1 a day.

With these price increases in place we expect to be able to continue to keep the 3 shops open for the same hours as at present.

Farewell to Sue Treadwell

Sue Treadwell, who died recently, was a founder member of Solihull Shopmobility.



Sue regularly used Redditch's Shopmobility and wished Solihull could have the same. She petitioned the Council and a steering committee was set up, with Sue a member.

The following years were busy: finding premises, sourcing information from other Shopmobilities, finding equipment suppliers and having tenders back, applying for Lottery funding, appointing staff and recruiting a band of volunteers. Finally Drury Lane opened in November 1997. Sue's work did not stop there, she was a trustee and helped to fundraise - running a craft stall, tin-shaking on Flag Days and selling her handmade greetings cards.

By now Touchwood was being built and the trustees were asked to run a branch of Shopmobility there. Again Sue was on hand, checking the part-built building for accessibility and car-parking facilities. At the official opening she was presented to the Queen as Shopmobility's representative. Sue stayed a trustee until a serious illness forced her resignation. She joined the band of volunteers working in Touchwood on Monday afternoons until the day she died.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Sue for all her hard work and sends the deepest sympathy to her family.

Donations in memory of Sue should go to the charity, The Restricted Growth Association.

Our opening times:

Drury Lane

Monday to Saturday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm
Ring 0121 711 8701 to book in advance

Chelmsley Wood

Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Ring 0121 704 6017 to book in advance

Touchwood

Monday to Saturday 9.30 am to 5.00 pm
Sunday 11.00 am to 4.00 pm
Ring 0121 711 4231 to book in advance

Secretary's Report



I start this letter with a plea for VOLUNTEERS.

To all those out there who have a few hours a week to spare - we need you!

As many of you will know, our excellent

service is supported by volunteers who work a few hours each week, with the paid worker, in each of our bases. They make an enormous contribution to the service you expect, and receive, from us. This year has seen some retirements from long serving volunteers and we are looking to fill the vacant slots with like minded people. For instance, we have a particular pressing need for a volunteer on a Saturday at Touchwood. Just a few hours, would be a great help to the staff who are stretched on that day in particular.

It is necessary to have two people available in our bases to give that 'extra' service that you have come to expect. Be it a drop off at the 'Ring and Ride', help with getting the wheelchairs and scooters ready for you, prompt answering of the telephone or, occasionally, a 'rescue' when the scooter misbehaves! This all requires extra man (or woman) power !

Volunteers generally commit to a few hours each week, working either a morning or afternoon with the regular staff member. It is a great way to meet people and feel valued. We are a friendly bunch and would urge you to get in touch with David Williams, manager on 0121 704 8754 if you are interested in joining in and making a contribution - part of a much appreciated and excellent service. I became a volunteer a few

years ago and really enjoy this different dimension to my life. I am still a volunteer, but am now also on the Trustee Board and additionally hold the position of Charity Secretary. So there are great opportunities if you wish to become more involved. I would urge you to get in touch **NOW** with David if you are interested.

As you will read in this Newsletter, our AGM is coming up on 24th November and there are two vacancies on the Trustee Board. We would particularly welcome applications from those with fundraising and marketing experience. Again, please contact David, if you are interested. We hope to see lots of you there.

Special Hire Terms

Members can hire a wheelchair for £3 a night with a £50 returnable deposit.

Non-members can hire an electric scooter or powerchair for £5 a day and a manual wheelchair for £3 a day.

Lastly, Christmas is fast approaching once again. Thank you for your fantastic support in buying our Christmas cards last year. Please take time to look at our new cards and support us once again with buying for friends and family. They are available now in our bases at Touchwood, Drury Lane and Chelmsley Wood. Together with the raffle tickets enclosed with this newsletter, they are an important part of our fundraising efforts and we would urge you not to forget us and to be as generous in your support as possible, in these difficult financial times.

Barbara Hunter

Have you got any old mobile phones lying around at home?



If you bring them to us at Shopmobility we can get £3 or more for each one from a charity called EMC.

Meet the New Staff in Chelmsley Wood

Our new staff have now been working at the Connect Office in Chelmsley Wood for several months.

Wendy Nelson (shown right) has lived in the area all her life. She previously worked for several years as a childminder.



Emma Moloney (shown right) has had a variety of jobs since leaving school. She lives in Chelmsley Wood.



There are always 2 staff on duty so 1 of them can come out to you with the equipment you need.



Shelly Willis (shown left) worked for Solihull Primary Care Trust for nearly 8 years before making the move to us.

Radar Keys



The price of a new key is £4.

Why not buy one when you next visit us?

A.M. MOBILITY

A.M. Mobility, 767-769 Old Lode Lane, Solihull, B92 8JE.
WEB: www.ammobility.co.uk EMAIL: enquiries@ammobility.co.uk



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MADE IN GERMANY

Prizes Galore for our Christmas Raffle

Local businesses have been very generous in offering us prizes for our Christmas Raffle:

- ◆ £100 in cash from AM Mobility
- ◆ £25 gift voucher from John Lewis
- ◆ £10 gift voucher from Touchwood
- ◆ £10 gift voucher from Sainsbury's
- ◆ A gateau from Druckers'
- ◆ A salad set of dishes from Lakeland
- ◆ A card holder from Gant
- ◆ Several boxes of chocolates
- ◆ A bottle of Italian Brut from Solihull School
- ◆ Bath oils etc. from our secretary, Barbara

The draw will take place on Monday 19th December at 9.00 am in our Drury Lane Shop. Good luck!

Car Park Tickets at Touchwood

Those of you who have come to Touchwood recently will have noticed a change in the way you get your tickets for 3 hours free parking.

Instead of getting your ticket from us when you leave, you now need to go to the Touchwood Customer Service Desk opposite to the lift.

Ask one of our staff or volunteers if you need advice on how the new system works.

Christmas Cards for sale

Solihull Shopmobility Christmas cards are now on sale from our shops.

The cards have 4 designs in each pack of 10.



Annual Meeting

We are holding our members' annual meeting at 5.00 pm on Thursday 24th November in the Council's Civic Suite. If you are a paid up customer, or a volunteer you are a member of the Charity.

The Annual Meeting will be presided over Cllr. Irene Chamberlain the Mayor of Solihull (shown right).



During the year the trustees meet every other month to make decisions on running the service. We need to elect a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and several trustees. If you would like to get more involved in running the Charity then please contact the manager David Williams on 0121 704 8754 and he will send you a trustee nomination form. Alternatively you can email David on Shopmobility@solihull.gov.uk and he will send you a form electronically.

After the meeting there will be a small raffle for members attending and a buffet.



TOUCHWOOD

