



Christmas 2006



Newsletter



Seasons Greetings and a happy New Year from all at Shopmobility Manchester!

We've Moved...

After a few false starts we finally moved into our brand new premises, late September. Based in the Arndale's £70 million new extension, our 'state of the art' shop is simply fantastic.

We are extending services on offer to our customers in the New Year, to include an extensive information services with access to the Internet and a dedicated phone line, as well as Sylvia's famous brews for those wishing to take a pit stop before hitting the shops.

Our new address is L18 New Arkwright Way, Arndale Centre, Manchester. M4 3AJ our telephone number remains the same 0161 839 4060.

Getting to our new shop couldn't be easier; by car, park in the Arndale Car park on levels 3 & 5 then take lifts J & K to the ground floor where Shopmobility can be found on the right of the main corridor. By bus and tram, from the Shudehill Interchange enter the Arndale from the Withy Grove entrance, Next to the service entrance, or, on foot from the Arndale's Winter Gardens, up the side of Sports Direct.



Inside your Newsletter....

1. New Premises
2. Labour Party Conference
3. AGM and Other Events.
4. Friends of Shopmobility
5. Late Night Opening.
6. Meet & Greet Service
7. It's All Change in the Arndale.
8. Thank You Volunteers.
9. Just the Question.
10. GMPTE Information.
11. Points of Interest
12. June's Postbag.

Supported by



Charity No 1061952

Shopmobility Gets Cherie's Vote



Adhiambo Ashall and Cherie Blair

Sunday September 24th saw a buzz of excitement as the doors of the GMex opened and the public applauded the official opening of the Labour Party Conference.

Volunteers were on-hand throughout the five days of the conference to support delegates and Cherie Blair kindly dropped by to speak to volunteers and thank them for all their hard work.

"Everyone introduced themselves as they were passing, Beverly Hughes MP was very interested in what we do at Shopmobility Manchester and I got to meet Tony Blair in person" said Audrey Sutton.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for Shopmobility Manchester to raise its profile with over 55 delegates using the service, 16 delegates took advantage of our 'meet and greet' service and 6 delegates signed up as new members.

Carol Linforth, Assistant General Secretary for Labour Party Conferences and Events wrote: 'Thank you to you and your team for all your hard work and professionalism. Manchester was a huge success. I have received a lot of positive feedback from everyone involved and I look forward to working with you again in the future'

Events Diary

AGM 2006

Everyone who attended the AGM on May 15th agreed that it was a great day. A range of stalls and other attractions were provided by, Manchester Advice, Manchester Leisure, Disabled Living, GMPT, Manchester Recycling and Environmental and Abraham Moss College who provided a range of holistic therapies. A Big thank you to you all.

Michael Le Vell, better known as Kevin Webster of Coronation Street was the star of the day, chatting to all members before presenting our Lottery grant cheque.

Other Successful events have included:

Manchester City Council's, Valuing Older People's Fair held at Manchester's Town Hall. Noreen Phillips and Maura Jordon were on hand to deal with the significant number of enquiries about Shopmobility and its services.

The Community Transport Exhibition - GMex where we provided a stand and service to exhibitors and visitors alike.

One City Expo – City Of Manchester Stadium. What a great day out! Over 40 voluntary organisations from across the city including ourselves took part.

This lively and fun event featured still walkers, entertainment, alternative Morris Dancer's, Belly Dancing lessons and a compare that would give Keith Chegwin a run for his money any day.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, even the children, of which there were many. The event really achieved its aim - a celebration of the range and diversity of the voluntary sector organisation that work across, and for the people of, Manchester.

Friends of Shopmobility

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help raise the profile of shopmobility through a friends of group. If you would like to know more about how you could get involved give us a call

Donations – Thank you to all our customers who have donated over £1,000 in the last 9 months. This money has been put towards the cost of repairs and maintenance to equipment.

Late Night Opening.

Can you believe Christmas is only a few weeks away? The leaves haven't even finished falling. Well here's your chance to make the most of the mild weather, why not visit the Manchester Xmas markets, the new Arndale or pop down and see the lights of the city. You could even drink a hot chocolate whilst watching the ice skaters on Piccadilly Gardens. There's so much to see and do.

To help you to make the most of what's on offer across the city, Shopmobility Manchester is open till 7:00pm every Thursday over the Xmas period. So call 0161 839 4060 and book now!

Christmas and New Year Opening Times:

Christmas Eve	11:00am – 3:00pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	11:00am – 4:00pm
New Years Eve	11:00am – 3:00pm
New Years Day	Closed

Please note that our opening times on Christmas and New Years Eve's are 3:00pm. This is due to both being a Sunday and the Arndale's reduced trading hours.

Meet and Greet Service

This is just a reminder to all of our members about our Volunteer Escort Services.

If you find it is becoming more difficult for you to get to our shop, maybe the distance from the bus, tram, taxi, and car is becoming too much of a challenge?

Please do not, let that stop you from coming into the city.

When you next call please ask for one of our Volunteers to meet you with your scooter or wheelchair.

New Stores Opening....

There are new shops opening in the Arndale on a weekly basis. The UK's largest ALDI store Opens Thursday 7th December on the site of the old Littlewoods. Why not come down and take a look!

Shopmobility would like to thank Susan Carson for all her hard work and support following her decision to Resign from the management committee due to ill Health. We all wish you well for the future.

Thank you to all our Volunteers

Volunteers are a valuable resource; they provide their time, commitment and hard work for free.

Shopmobility Volunteers have:

- **Helped recruit over 4,260 members**
- **Taken over 9,460 bookings**
- **Provided over 3,000 meet and greets across the city.**
- **Donate 100's of hours of their time each year**

Without these people we wouldn't be here.



A few of our wonderful volunteers with Michael Le Vell

Since May 06 six new volunteers have joined Shopmobility but we still need more. If you are interested in volunteering with Shopmobility or know someone who is, call Adrien Wright Tel: 0161 839 4060

Just the Question?

Shopmobility has been described by our members as a "Life Saver, Excellent, Efficient, Amazing, Brilliant, Helpful and Friendly" great comments are always good to hear.

We want to know how we can improve the services we offer and to help us do this we have included a short questionnaire with this Newsletter. It will only take a few minutes to complete and is free to return.

All returned questionnaires will be entered into our Xmas raffle free of charge. You could win £50 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers



Transport Information

Please remember that there will be a reduced service across the holiday period with no services running Christmas Day.

BBC to Help with Digital Switchover

The Queen's Speech of November 15th announced that the Department for Work and Pensions – DWP and the BBC will work together to ensure that every household with at least one resident over 75, registered blind, disabled or in receipt of benefits will receive assistance with the planned switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting due to start in 2007.

The BBC and the Government are working together to agree the finer detail of how the scheme will operate in practice, which will be free to most. Further details will be published shortly.

Shopmobility on the BBC

Those of you who listen to BBC Radio Manchester will no doubt have heard some of the extensive coverage that we have recently received. An advert was broadcast over a two-week period which aimed to raise awareness of Shopmobility. We were also featured live with Becky Want on the Saturday morning Retail Therapy Programme. I would like to thank Paul Holloway, Linda Kaye and Catherine Bailey for all their help.

Millennium Talking Magazine

The Millennium Talking Magazine produces a Free monthly Newsletter for blind and partially sighted people. The Newsletter carries information about specialist equipment, interview, comedy, and music and there's always a raffle prize to be won too. The project also provides an advice service.

If you would like anymore information or are interested in receiving a copy of the Magazine Tel: Eric Mooney on 0161 683 4476

The Independence Group

The Independence Group meets every Wednesday at the Salvation Army, Brunswick Street, Stretford in Manchester. Members can take part in a variety of activities including Arts & Crafts, bingo and exercise in the Gym. Or you could just have a chat over a cup of tea.

On the 1st Wednesday of each month the group organises day trips. The group also provides a meet and greet service. If you would like further information Tel: Renu 0161 980 0699

**Would you like to see your group mentioned here?
Call Adrien Wright Tel: 0161 839 4060**

The Expert Patient Programme

The EPP is a six-week course for anyone living with a long-term health condition. The course aims to help you take more control of your health by learning new skills to manage your condition better on a daily basis.

There is a strong emphasis on participants setting practical, achievable goals which are monitored each week. The aim of the EPP is to give participants the confidence to responsibility for their own care, whilst also encouraging them to work in partnership with health and social care professionals

Courses are free and are starting all over the Manchester area from January 07.

For more information and to find a course in your area visit www.expertpatient.nhs.uk or call shopmobility and we'll send you details of local courses.



JUNE'S POSTBAG

Hello again, a very warm welcome to all our new and existing members. Have you seen the new Shopmobility yet? It's fantastic! If you haven't been in for a while, you don't know what you're missing. Car parking is situated immediately above with a lift direct to the door. You can be dropped off right outside or easily get in from the station at Shudehill and not forgetting the meet & greet service, how easy can it be!

The new Arndale is terrific, easy access, new shops and the market, it's all you could wish for, I'm not exaggerating, it's a great day out.

If you haven't been in for a while, why not come on down and see for your self.

We'd like to make the postbag a regular feature where you can share News and tips that you think will be of interest to other Members. I promise to answer all letters and of course don't forget your poetry is always welcome.

Cheerio for now - June Latham

Shopmobility Manchester is open
Monday-Saturday 9.30am – 5.30pm.
Sundays and Bank Holidays 11pm – 5pm.
Telephone : 0161 839 4060