



Mobility Matters

The Quarterly Newsletter from Exeter CTA
Winter/Spring 2008



Thank You for Your Support...



We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for ExeAccess in The People's Millions and helped us to win £85,000 to run an accessible vehicle with specially trained drivers who care.

ITV Westcountry's presenter Alexis Bowater came into Exeter Community Transport Association's centre in Paris Street to surprise us with the good news and presented the team with a bottle of champagne to help with the shock.

ExeAccess will help people who have difficulty in using standard vehicles by having a wheelchair accessible car along with staff trained to help you to take part in the activities that matter to you by running trips that you want to take, rather than having to work to a set schedule with buses and organised transport.

We are delighted that we now have the opportunity to reach people to help them to take part in the activities

that matter to them.

Exeter Community Transport Association's thanks go out to everyone who voted and the local organisations which helped to get the word out about the project.

We are currently in the process of purchasing the vehicles and hiring the staff who will drive the project forward and the service is due to start in April of this year.

We always need volunteers to help operate the services and help people to get to where they want to go. If you or anyone you know can help us, please call Kay or Debs on 01392 494001

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Do you have any ideas for projects or services that will help you to live a fuller life?

We are always looking for new ways to support independent mobility.

What's On With ECTA... ***Call us on 01392 494001 for more info***

February:

Saturday 23:

Holiday on Ice

This event is now sold out - if you have any ideas for future Ring&Ride events, please do let us know.

Friday 29:

Awareness Day

Guildhall Shopping Centre 09.30am - 4.30pm See article for more information. Do drop by!

March:

Saturday 1:

Shopmobility Open Day

Exeter Shopmobility Centre 10am - 4pm. Do drop in!

Saturday 22:

Exeter Street Collection

Our volunteers will be collecting money in Exeter City Centre! Please give generously.



Every Thursday in Exeter:

Farmers Market: at South St/Fore St: 9am-2pm

Here to help....

We are delighted to have received funding for our City Sights project

The Sobell Foundation has chosen to part-fund the project, which will employ a co-ordinator to oversee volunteer sighted guides to enable blind and partially sighted people to enjoy

the city.

The Sobell Foundation have provided £15,000 over two years, towards the running costs of the project and The Norman Family Charitable Trust have funded the project with a further £1,000.

We are continuing to fundraise for this project

and are now starting to recruit volunteers to enable us to offer the service which will offer a lifeline to visually impaired people wishing to visit Exeter City Centre.

If you are able to help in any way, please call Debs on 01392 494001.

A Driving Force in Funding...

Help the Aged's Community Support Programme has provided funding of £7,000 to assist with our Shopmobility Shuttle service, enabling people to get to our services and taking our services to people.

We will operate a shuttle service from your home to Exeter Shopmobility Centre (and back

again!) and the staff will also work in conjunction with the Mobility Motivator Project in taking the services to the people, where they are most needed.

The funding will contribute towards the salary and IT requirements of the project.

We hope to start the project, in conjunction with ExeAccess, in April.



Make a difference - Volunteer with Exeter Community Transport Association

We are pleased to welcome our newest volunteer, Abbie, who has joined us through Action for Employment (A4E). The scheme offers a 13-week placement for people to try out a new working experience through voluntary work. Our existing volunteer, Mark, also joined us through A4E and enjoyed working with us so much that he has decided to continue to volunteer for us on an ongoing basis.

We have a number of volunteer opportunities, here at ECTA, if you, or anyone you know, would like to spend their time meeting people and making a real difference to the lives of people with any kind of limited mobility.

Mobility Awareness Day...

In conjunction with the National Federation of Shopmobility's Awareness Days, Exeter CTA will be holding an awareness day on Friday 29th February in Guildhall Shopping Centre.

We will be holding a number of activities during the day at The Guildhall Shopping Centre (just outside WH Smith) from 9am - 4.30pm

From 10.30am - 11.30am The Beacon Wheel Chair Dancers will be putting on a display and encouraging members of the public to join in

From 11.30am - 13.30pm The Exeter Otters Wheel Chair Basket Ball Team will be showing off their skills

From 13.30pm onwards, there will be a chance for the general public to try out our scooters and to ask questions if they wish.

On Saturday 1st March, Shopmobility will



hold an open day, during which you will be able to visit the centre and try out the scooters, seeing the training which a new user would receive when registering to use the service.

We will be open from 10am until 4pm so please do drop in and meet our volunteers and staff and get a feel for the work that we do to help people with any kind of mobility impairment to enjoy the freedom of access that so many able-bodied people can take for granted.

Keeping ECTA Running... We have secured a number of places in the 2008 Great West Run and we are now appealing for people to run for us. We have 12 places in this year's race and are asking people to run and raise sponsorship for Exeter Community Transport Association. Again, we are also appealing for two teams of 4 - 5 people to push our wheelchair users around the 13.1 mile course. Anyone who would like to support us in this popular event should call Debs on 01392 494 001.



Other Fundraising Updates!

We are delighted to tell you of our fundraising successes over the last few months...

In December, our Manager, Kay Yendall, was delighted to be asked to attend the Stan Hacking Concert Band's Christmas Spectacular and enjoy the evening, which was an enchanting set of holiday music, songs from the musicals and sing-a-long carols from the 80-strong band. The ever popular concert was a sell out and everyone enjoyed a magical, Christmas, evening out. The band has a strong following and a wonderful community spirit to the shows. Stan presented Kay with a cheque for £1,000 for the organisation and a wonderful evening was had by all.



We are delighted to have received £700 from Exeter Dispensary & Aid in Sickness and £500 from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation towards the running costs of our Shopmobility vehicles. Maintenance and electricity for our scooters and wheelchairs exceeds £7,000 each year and we are constantly trying to raise funds to keep these operational as well as to buy new vehicles to replace old, worn out, scooters and chairs.

Exeter Community Transport Association have received salary funding to provide help and to give advice on the services available to people with impaired mobility and to offer physical assistance with getting to where you want to go.

Our helpful and friendly staff are on hand to give you information about how we can help you to lead a full and independent life and will work in conjunction with our Shopmobility, Ring&Ride, ExeAccess and TaxiCard services to help you to enjoy the finer things in life.

Exeter CTA have recently received £3,000 from the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and £1,000 from Alexandra Rose Day to help to fund this service.

The Gemini Radio Charitable Trust gave Exeter Community Transport Association funding of £1999.96 to purchase new computers with which we will be able to run a more efficient booking service and we will all enjoy learning new skills with new equipment.

We have received £520.42 from DRTP to provide fleeces and polo shirts for our staff and volunteers - and we're very grateful for the extra warmth, especially in these cold winter months!

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Finally, we would like to remind you that we can reclaim gift aid on donations from UK tax payers. People who have given through our online donation service have their gift aid reclaimed automatically and this has brought in £35 on sponsorships made in August.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported us, please keep giving generously to help keep us on the move.