

Chairman's Report 2015

Over the past year our staff have continued their excellent work in the day to day running of our business, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and our volunteers for all their efforts

It has also seen changes in the committee of Trustees with Mr. Bates and Ms Moss resigning due to health problems. In their place we welcomed Mr Simon Wesley , who has taken on the task of co-ordinating our fund-raising efforts.

On the financial front, this has been our first year without any funding from Derby City Council. We had no choice but to increase our charges from October last year, and at the moment we are close to breaking even. This is partly due to the continuing grant of £5,000 per annum from the NHS, but there is no guarantee that this will continue beyond next March. We need to get more people using the service, as this will increase income and publicity has been identified as a priority for the organisation.

The National Association of Shopmobility, to whom we were affiliated, ceased to exist in its own right but was taken over by the British Healthcare Trade Association, who are more active and are able to offer a greater range of support.

As many of you will probably know Sarah went on maternity leave in April, and we decided to reduce our opening hours. These will now revert to opening Monday to Saturday commencing October,

Fundraising is proving very difficult in the current economic climate with sponsors reducing their donations. However a contribution has been received from Rolls Royce and we will be applying to them again next year.

Our main gains have come from Simon negotiating with Eden Mobility. They are supplying a number of scooters on permanent loan in return for publicity on our literature and the scooters. They have also taken over the servicing on all our scooters at a reasonable rate, due to the retirement of our previous contact.

Several scooters have been withdrawn from service and where possible these have been sold.

A coffee morning was held at the Mayor's Parlour but this was not a success due to the inclement weather and only a small sum resulted.

Our staff continue with their efforts, running Tombola, and various competitions for which we are very grateful.

Work is ongoing on updating our leaflets and renewing our web site, to enable suitable space to advertise sponsors.

TC Harrison, the motability dealership in Derby have expressed interest in being included and we are in negotiation with them about donating two new scooters in return.

We are also looking to re-instate our regular newsletters and would ask for any information you wish to contribute.

Finally I would like to thank all my officers and Trustees for all their hard work and support throughout the year.