



long before its official opening in May.



cute an expert mid-air twist.

PEED AND THRILLS



Have scooters, will shop: (from left) the Mayors of Salisbury and Wilton, Councillors Paul Sample and Andy Thomson, with The Rev Charles Hatton, rector of St Thomas and Councillor David Croxall, chairman of the City Area Committee. Picture by courtesy of the Journal.

Licence to shop

Shopmobility - a wheel-chair hire service situated under Sainsbury's and opposite SIDs in Salisbury's Maltings - was officially opened on February 2.

Salisbury District Council has shown its commitment to the project, which has been in the planning stages for the past three years, by funding it indefinitely. It has also spent a substantial sum on two power-chairs, six electric scooters, eight manual wheel-chairs and office construction.

Shopmobility is open from 9.30am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays and from 9am to 1 pm on Saturdays. It costs just £1 to hire a wheelchair for a session, which can last up to six hours. There are 21 car parking spaces for clients adjacent to the welcoming, spacious



By Simon Watkinson

office, which has a wheel-chair-accessible loo and kitchen.

This will certainly be a haven for exhausted shoppers where they can relax with a coffee after a jaunt around the city. The wheelchair store has 20 power points for overnight charging.

With summer fast

approaching, tourists are bound to use Shopmobility and the office walls adorned with posters boasting Salisbury's ancient architecture, heritage and surrounding areas of outstanding natural beauty will certainly interest them.

"This is an essential service in Salisbury for anyone with a mobility problem and I'm not just referring to the 10,000 physically disabled people living in the area," said Lynn Young, manager of Salisbury's Shopmobility. "The service is also available for both the elderly and those who are temporarily disabled through illness or accident."

An escort service will operate when there are enough volunteers and Lynn Young and a qualified escort for the visually impaired will train them.

Liz Overthrow, Shopmobility's assistant manager, explained: "We need sponsors and donations to buy more equipment and we're in the process of forming a steering committee to co-ordinate fund-raising."

"There'll be a fund-raising campaign for a minibus so that we can transport scooters and powerchairs to surrounding towns."

For the person confined to a wheelchair, Shopmobility offers long-sought-after independence, the freedom to shop when and where they like. It makes inaccessible places, which are further away from the nearest parking spaces, accessible.

To book a Shopmobility wheelchair telephone Lynn Young or Liz Overthrow on 01722-328068.



Looking for sponsors: Shopmobility manager Lynn Young (sitting) and assistant Liz Overthrow.