

## The newsletter of Age Concern Thurrock

**This month Age Concern Thurrock is launching its campaign to increase awareness and safety among the growing number of mobility scooter users in our borough.**

Most people choose to use a

- **Class 2 scooter:** These are only suitable for riding on pavements or footpaths and have a top speed of 4 miles (6 kilometres) an hour. This is the maximum speed allowed on the pavement. It is, of course, faster than a normal walking speed so it is wise to go slower when pedestrians are around.

- **Class 3 scooters** are larger and heavier. They are suitable for riding on roads, although this is not always wise given the speed of the other traffic nowadays. Class 3 vehicles have a switch to limit the top speed to 4 miles an hour on pavements or footpaths.

A class 3 scooter is not legally defined as a motor vehicle and the user does not have to have a driving licence or take a driving test. But the scooter must be registered with the DVLA, licensed in the disabled taxation class and display a free disabled tax disc. There is no fee to pay for this and the scooter does not need registration plates. However you must renew your tax disc each year.



Age Concern Thurrock has a supply of booklets full of good help and advice for mobility scooter users 'The Highway Code for Mobility Scooter Users'. It is written in plain English with lots of information to encourage safe and enjoyable use of your mobility scooter. Please contact us if you would like a free copy. We regret that we are unable to post multiple copies of these due to the high cost of postage.

We also have a useful information sheet of things to bear in mind for those considering buying a mobility scooter. Call us for one on 01375 389872.

### **Insurance for Mobility Scooters**

There is currently a lot of confusion surrounding the requirements over mobility scooter insurance. Under current legislation there are no legal requirements for a user of a mobility scooter to hold valid insurance. The DVLA makes the following comments with reference to mobility scooter insurance:

*"Although it is not a legal requirement, it is strongly advised to have insurance. Suitable schemes are not too expensive and are available to cover your personal safety, other people's safety and the value of the vehicle."*

It is recommended by the DVLA that insurance is taken to cover both third parties and the scooter itself.

**Third party insurance** will cover accidental damage against other people and their property.

**Full insurance** can also cover the scooter itself if damaged. Mobility scooters can be expensive and it will be worthwhile to cover the cost of repairing or replacing the scooter.