



Where There's a Wheel There's A Way

Autumn 2013

Dear Members,

After a rather chilly launch at the end of June, the sun came out and we had a glorious and very busy July and August loaning out the beach chair at le Braye. With the publicity we had through various articles in the JEP and contacts we had made with the Maison des Landes, Hospice, Cheshire Home, and Jersey Tourism the bookings kept coming through and our volunteers were kept busy meeting and greeting our users.

We proved to be quite the attraction down at Le Braye as people watched in fascination as this new vehicle hit the sands of St Ouen. We were also pleasantly surprised at the support which emerged not only from Jolyon and Annie Baker and their wonderful staff at the Le Braye café, but also, Bobby, the deckchair hirer, the lifeguards and of course the public who were always ready to lend a hand in pushing the chair up the slip.

One of our worries was that we would not have enough volunteers but we managed, and we hope to have more in place next summer, especially as we expand our number of venues.

Fundraising

A big thank you to Adam Beeby who, as part of the **Round the Rock - Ultra Marathon** on 3rd August, pushed his son in one of

BeachAbility's beach chairs from the slipway at Big Verns to La Braye and managed to raise a massive £1,801 for the charity.

Adam who was placed 45th out of 113 entrants said *"Running with the chair was difficult through the tidal puddles, I'd been running for about 7 hours by this time and was very determined to complete the challenge. The charity is a fantastic resource, we have taken our son out in one of the BeachAbility chairs before and he thought it was great. I wanted to support the charity in their efforts in supplying more chairs to the Island."*

We want to thank Adam for all his fundraising and awareness efforts and for choosing BeachAbility as a charity to raise money for. The money donated will support BeachAbility efforts to establish chairs in other bays and make this service available to more people on the Island.

Unsolicited donations from company dress down days have been coming in at a steady rate and the sponsorship from Adam Beeby's ultra marathon run (see above) was a fantastic boost. Also. The BeachAbility golf day at Les Mielles yielded a wonderful £880. Our thanks to all who supported us on that wintry Sunday in September. Although we don't technically charge for the use of the beach chair we do encourage donations, and overall our users have been very generous.

Dates for Your Diary

Future fundraisers include a **Christmas Concert** with the Songsmiths in the Village Hall, L'Hermitage, Beaumont on 4th December and a **Race Night** in February. Any offers of/or suggestions for raffle prizes for the Christmas Concert would be gratefully received.

Five Bay Challenge

Our aim of 5 chairs in 5 bays is still our goal and we are hopeful that we will have this in place by next summer. We have a second chair on order, a promise of a third and strong leads for others which we will be actively following up in the coming months. We have to firm up on chair locations but we do have a number of options in mind.

In the Community

As well as general press publicity, we tried to get the chair out and about to see and be seen. In association with Holiday for Heroes we took the chair to St Brelade's Bay for the **Beach Rugby competition** and made some useful contacts there. We also attended the **Jersey Cheshire Home 30th Birthday lunch** at Ouaisne and appeared on a Channel Television clip which was a great publicity boost.

Supporters: Your Invitation

We are enormously grateful to our busy band of supporters who have helped us out so willingly this summer. It was such a new experience to us all and there were a few occasions when we had to wing it a bit – but needless to say they managed magnificently well. We will be holding a little **Thank-you Tea Party** for them on **Wednesday 23 October at 3pm** at Jersey Pearl when we hope Sharon Gray, our founder will be able to join us. By the way everyone is welcome – just let me know if **you** would like to join us.

Contact

E-mail: beachability@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07797 935 088

Beach chair Users

Meeting the users of our first summer in operation has been hugely rewarding. Several local charities accepted our invitation to bring their members to le Braye and go for a spin on the beach followed by a cup of tea at the café. The chair proved very popular with visitors staying at Maison des Landes, several of whom had discovered information about BeachAbility from the Tourism web site. Many individual Islanders and visitors were repeat users over the summer. Seeing the smile on people's faces and hearing the enthusiasm in their voices when they returned, has confirmed for us the value in what we are trying to achieve. We would like to share with you a couple of remarks made by BeachAbility chair users:

A Jersey family "We have probably never spent this time on the beach as a family. Thank you so much. It has opened up something else for us to do"

A patient from hospice "We went as a family to watch the sunset and had a perfect evening"

A member of Headway "I had forgotten the sensation of being on the beach-exhilarating"

Joined up Working

BeachAbility is a small contributor to the many Island initiatives that aim to improve the quality of life for people with a disability. We are strengthening our working relationships with a few local charities to share ideas and resources and have become part of the newly created Jersey Disability Partnership. We are also responding to comments from our chair users over issues of access and parking, taking these up with the appropriate States department to allow the greatest ease to access our chairs.

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