



Where There's a Wheel There's A Way

Autumn 2014



Dear Members,

We are delighted to report on a very busy second summer season with terrific weather to help us along. As you probably all know through our successful funding efforts we now have a fleet of seven chairs with two more on order. The chairs are presently housed in four storage units and we will have another two in place by next summer. We celebrated these achievements at our first birthday beach tea party in July with the full fleet of seven chairs on display. We were delighted that over seventy guests attended including many of our donors and sponsors and I think they agreed that we had come a long way in our first year of operations.

Pam Evans taking part in the Collas Crill Island Walk

Storage Units

Our carpenter, Jim Hardey, was kept busy during the spring with our orders for storage units. Jim has developed a great understanding of our needs and has modified our original design to incorporate more shelves, headroom and double doors.

Chair Users

The majority of this summer's demand came in July and August and mostly from Islanders. Thirty six new users tried out the chairs and in total around 73 outings were made out of four sites.

We have offered training to those who use the chairs on a regular basis in order that they can be more spontaneous in their decision to go the beach without the need of supporters.

People tell us that it is years since they were on the beach and they have loved being with their friends, taking part in birthday parties and school trips, paddling, walking their dogs and all the memories the experience has brought back. "Amazing", "brilliant" "exhilarating" describe their feelings of being near to the sea. One visitor recently summed up his afternoon as saying "It made my day; no in fact it made my holiday".



Figure 1

BeachAbility Supporters

A BIG thank you to our supporters who meet and greet wheelchair users. We have received such complementary feedback on your warmth and enthusiasm which is a big factor in making people come back and use the chair again, you are so important to the success of BeachAbility and very much appreciated. Suggestions and feedback from the supporters training and your experience over the summer help to take our service forward.

Expansion

Our two most recent chairs have been funded by a high value resident and a joint contribution from JEC and the Chefs Tenants of Grouville.

Our attempts to construct a storage unit at La Mare slip resulted in us having to gain retrospective planning permission on all our sites. The good news is that we shall have dedicated storage in 2015 for West Park and St Clement.

We would like to thank Marcus Troy of La Fregate café for housing one of our chairs over this summer.

Tourism

We were delighted to be awarded a substantial grant from the Tourism Development Fund which will enable us to very proactively promote ourselves off Island and enrol professional PR services to support our marketing.

Publicity

Did you hear us on BBC radio Jersey?

Did you see us on Channel TV?

This coverage and our concerted efforts to feature in Parish and Island magazines have generated new users, interest and income.

Look out for us next on You Tube!

Wanted!

Blankets and cushions

To enhance the comfort of our users

Donated items to Suzie 857817 or
Margaret 873790

Committee News

At the Annual General Meeting which was held on 27 September the following Committee was elected:

Chairman	Margaret Le Herissier
Secretary	Suzie MacLagan
Treasurer	Patricia Parkin
Officer General	Janet Wyatt
Officer General	Jane Osborne

Welcome to Jane— another golfing friend of Sharon's and an active beach supporter.

Good luck to Michelle who is coming off committee to have her baby. Michelle has been key to all our PR activity to date and we thank her and wish her well.

Thank you for your recent Generous Fundraising

Grouville Parish Church
St Peters Co-op staff
Grouville Chefs Tenants
Mrs Cragy and friends
Collas Crill
Waitrose
Madeleine Fortescue
JEC
Golfers of Les Mielles Golf Event
PWC and Jersey Rugby Beach Rugby