



Where There's a Wheel There's A Way

Spring 2014

Dear Members,

After a very busy winter of planning and preparation the Committee is excited to report our news to all our BeachAbility friends and members and we feel that with our plans in place it will be a very different year to last year.

First of all we remember the very sad news that Sharon Gray, our Founder, who had battled long and hard against Motor Neurone Disease finally succumbed last November. The last BeachAbility event she attended was the afternoon tea at Jersey Pearl in October and although it was an enormous effort for her to come, come she did and we were all delighted to see her still smiling bravely. Her enthusiasm for BeachAbility never waned and she was always keen to hear about its progress.

Committee News

We welcome two new Committee members:

Patricia Parkin is our new Treasurer and already works in this capacity for Riding for the Disabled. Her husband Ian is an Accountant so we are very happy that this side of our operation has been beefed up.

Janet Wyatt is our new Supporter Co-ordinator and will be the first point of contact with beach wheelchair users. Janet will take our phone bookings and arrange for a supporter to meet

and greet users at the designated time and place. With up to five locations now in place this will be a more complex arrangement than last year.

Michelle Jeanne will sadly be leaving the Committee, but happily for Michelle and Lee they are expecting their first baby in October and think they will be fully occupied with Jeanne Junior. Michelle has undertaken our PR and publicity role and her input and experience will be greatly missed. If anyone would like to take on this role or knows of someone who could help please let us know.

Chair Donations

This time last year we just had Sharon's chair and now we have the funding in place for a further seven bringing our total to eight. These have been donated by one private donor, two 1 1 K residents, the Ladies of Variety, the Rotary Club of Jersey, the Association of Jersey Charities and a 'joint venture' with the Jersey Cheshire Home. We are incredibly grateful to all these donors who have expressed their support for our charity in such a generous fashion.

Of the new chairs, two will be for use by children and four will have a special mechanism that allows tilting for extra postural support.

We expect these to arrive on Island very soon.

Where you will find BeachAbility in 2014

St Ouen at Le Braye Café

St Aubin at La Frigate Café and at the
Gunsite

St Brelade opposite the disabled slip

St Clement at La Mare slip (awaiting
confirmation)

Contact

E-mail: beachability@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07797 935 088

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TTS

Three of our donors included funding for new storage sheds - But where should we locate them and could we get the necessary permissions? Chris Sampson, a senior manager at Transport and Technical Services, met with us in January and we came away thrilled with his 'can do, will do' attitude and he assigned manager Mick Johnson to help us in our quest.

We have been further supported by one of TTS private contracting companies who heard of what we were trying to do and spontaneously offered to lay the base for the shed at St Brelade – and what a lovely job they have done too. It's so rewarding and encouraging when this kind of serendipitous support presents itself.

TTS also arranged for disabled parking bays at le Braye following feedback from our members.

Thank you TTS!!

Publicity

With our chairs and sheds in place, our next major focus is to develop our marketing.

A financial bid to support our marketing to overseas visitors has been submitted to the Tourism Development Fund and we await a response.

Locally, we have given a series of talks to the public and continue to develop our links with other local associations that provide social support for the disabled and elderly. Our series of articles in Parish magazines have yielded interest and support.

An exciting venture will be working alongside Mike Graham who is managing the West Park Marine Lake project due to be completed in July. Mike is very keen to have us involved as he sees the West Park beach area to be a real hub of beach and sea activity. The support of Marcus Troy and his staff at La Frigate café will be invaluable.

If you know of any groups that you think may be interested in hearing more about BeachAbility or if you have other ideas of how we can spread our news we are open to all ideas – please let us know.

Beach Supporters

We welcome back those of you who helped launch BeachAbility last summer and say welcome to many new faces to our team of Beach Supporters.

A lively training session was held on 26th April and more will be held to help Supporters feel familiar with the new chairs and procedures for 2014.

Without your help to meet and greet our wheelchair users we could not function – you are the faces of BeachAbility. Thank you.

Members and Partners

We look forward to a busy summer and to your support at our forthcoming events.

Dates for Your Diary

- 22 May - Bridge Afternoon
2pm at Trinity Parish Hall. Tel 854199
- 22 June - First Birthday Breakfast
Sunday morning at Le Braye slip
- 12 July - JRA International Beach Rugby
St Brelade where we will be one of the sponsored charities
- 14 September - Golf day at Les Mielles

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