



Where there's a wheel there's a way Summer 2019

Dear Members

As we move into our seventh season, we are hoping that the weather improves and we get a long stretch of warm sunshine and all our chairs will get out on to the beach.

Blankets for BeachAbility

Even if it does remain a bit chilly, the ladies of the Communicare Needlework Group and L'Hermitage have been busy over the winter and produced lots of beautiful and colourful blankets which will keep our users well protected from the sea breezes. Each year these ladies choose a charity – alternately local and international – to support and this year BeachAbility was lucky to be the chosen one. Thank you ladies, your hard work is much appreciated.



Hippocampe

Since BeachAbility started, some new models of beach wheelchairs have come onto the scene, notably the Hippocampe. This a low set chair can be pushed, pulled and even self-propelled depending on the firmness of the sand. We are looking forward to introducing this to our users especially children as it has a bit of a racing car look and feel. It is presently stored at Le Braye but can be moved to other locations given suitable notice.

Fundraising and Donations

We were able to purchase the Hippocampe as we had a very large one off donation. We also have a couple of sizeable recurrent donations which takes the pressure off our own fundraising efforts. This year we held a sellout Card Afternoon at Trinity which yielded some £1,800. We have decided not to hold our usual golf evening as it is apparent that golfers are extremely busy with a calendar packed with competitions. However, we are planning an alternative event later on in the year eg, bingo or a quiz night – so watch this space.

Summer worker

We are delighted that Alex will return to work with us again this year and her experience will be massively beneficial to all concerned. She will be with us from mid-June to the end of August.



Developments

As almost half our bookings are at St Brelade's Bay, we would like to store another chair there, but this would involve a larger shed. We also thought it would be wonderful to have a changing room facility there and at the moment we are having exploratory talks with other charities with similar needs and the appropriate authorities to determine if this is feasible.



Administrative Assistance

With work and family commitments increasing, the Committee would like to add another member to share the administrative and public relations load. So we are seeking someone with good computer skills to help us. With Jersey's very large charity sector, this is never an easy task and we believe that the personal approach usually works best. So if you know of anyone, possibly recently retired, who would like to become involved with a fun and very satisfying charity for a few hours a month, please ask them to contact us by phone (07797 935088) or email (beachability@hotmail.co.uk) where we can have a chat about what is involved.

Thank you all for your continuing support and telling your friends and family about our service and encouraging them to give it a try. Have a wonderful summer.

The BeachAbility Committee