

GDA April Newsletter

If you would like a large print version of this Election Special please contact Karen on 07781 467316 or Ben at info@disabilityalliance.org.gg

Seventy candidates take part in GDA Speed Hustings

Beau Sejour was buzzing on the evening of 6th April as nearly 90% of the candidates for Election 2016 came to meet GDA members and find out more about our issues, including employment, information, education, autism and legislation. The evening followed a 'speed dating' format, with candidates moving from table to table at the sound of a bell. There was a lot of media interest, with Channel TV, Island FM and the Guernsey Press all watching and interviewing GDA members about their reaction.



Important Election Dates

22 April 2016	Last day to request a postal vote (if you don't want to vote in person).
26 April 2016	Last day to post your postal vote (if you have requested one). Must arrive by noon on Weds 27th April.
27 April 2016	Election Day from 8am to 8pm (or 10am to 8pm in St Sampsons).
1 May 2016	Successful candidates become deputies.

Election 2016 District (Parish) Hustings

13 April 2016	7pm	West	La Houguette School
14 April 2016	6:30pm	South East	Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre
18 April 2016	7pm	St Peter Port South	Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre
20 April 2016	7pm	St Sampsons	St Sampsons High
20 April 2016	7pm	Castel	Les Beaucamps High School
21 April 2016	7pm	West	Le Rondin School
22 April 2016	7pm	Vale	Scout Headquarters, Rue Mainguy
22 April 2016	7pm	St Peter Port North	Grammar School and Sixth Form Centre

This month's GDA meeting, monthly newsletter and printing is kindly sponsored by **Donate**.

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GDA Speed Hustings Update

Look out on email and Social Media next week for the GDA Speed Hustling video, photos and summary report of the event.

Candidates reaction

We received a lot of good comments from candidates about our Hustings.

- 1** "Extremely well organised evening - whether I am successful or not, it has certainly opened my eyes."
- 2** "I learned a great deal, but still have a lot to learn. In many ways, an inspiring evening".
- 3** "Thank you to GDA members for facing a barrage of eager candidates and explaining their experiences and demands so eloquently."
- 4** "Even better than the 2012 version!"

Members response

Thank you to the 37 GDA members that hosted the GDA Speed Hustings round tables and the 20 volunteers that ensured everything ran smoothly.

Members shared their voice and ensured that candidates heard about their points on topics such as: mental health, learning disability, MS, dementia, access, brain injury, autism and carers perspective.

Responses from the members about the candidates varied from "good listener" and "active engagement" to "lack of understanding" and "misinformed".

Practice polling

Access for All in partnership with the Home Department and Returning Officers (who run the polling stations on election day), ran a Practise Polling event for the public and our members so they could ask questions and practice casting their vote.

It was well received and gave the people running the stations a chance to think about how best to support voters with disabilities.

Polling Stations

To find out about how accessible the polling stations are please visit www.DisabledGo.com

Polling stations are open from 8am - 8pm except for St Sampson 10am - 8pm.

Vale

The Douzaine Room;
Island Scout Headquarters.

St Sampson

Chambre de la Douzaine;
Church School. 10am - 8pm

St Peter Port North

Beau Sejour Leisure Centre;
Princess Royal Centre for
Performing Arts.

St Peter Port South

The Constables' Office;
St Stephen's Community Centre.

South East

La Salle Paroissiale;
The Douzaine Room.

Castel

La Chambre de la Douzaine;
Cobo Community Centre.

West

St Saviours Community Centre;
Evangelical Church School Hall;
La Salle Paroissiale;
La Chambre de la Douzaine,
Forest.



Did you know?

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and are unable to use a telephone, you can contact the Emergency Services in Guernsey by texting 07839 102601 instead of calling 999.

You will receive a text back from the Emergency Services. Why not add this number to the contacts in your mobile phone.

Paralympian visit

The Guernsey Sailing Trust, Wooden Spoon and British Sonar Sailing Team successfully launched the accessible boat Invictus last week. This great event was finished off with a Dinner with key speakers from the Paralympian team. Steve, Hannah and John entertained us all Funds raised went to the Sailing Trust, Cheshire Home and GDA. Thank you.

Beach Wheelchair

Health Information
Guernsey has a beach wheelchair available for Hire. It costs £40 per week or part thereof.



For more details about hiring, please contact Dicky Parmar on 07781 135987 or bjpconstruct@gmail.com

New Member Charity



We are excited to announce the 36th GDA member, **Guernsey Disability Swimming LBG**. They have exclusive use of the Beau Sejour Swimming Pool on Thursdays, 6pm.

People of all ages are welcome, although a carer is needed to accompany children and vulnerable adults. If you would like more information, please contact Ruth on 264592.

Access for All project

Access for All will be speaking to the Liberation Day organisers to try to make May 9th as accessible as possible.



As with last year's event, Access for All will push for blue badge parking, seating, disabled access toilets, information, large print programs to improve the participation and enjoyment of islanders with disabilities, older people and anyone with access needs.

If you had any issues with access last year please let Richard Evans know by emailing chair@access.gg

Disability Officer update

We now have all but the Torteval Polling Station available for everyone to view on DisabledGo Guernsey. This is great news as it will give disabled people the information required to make an informed choice about which polling station they will be voting at.



At the practice polling event I was pleased to hear discussions about how we can make our polling stations more accessible. We will work with Access for All to support wherever possible.

Signpost.gg for disabled adults and carers: As you can imagine there is a lot of information to upload which I am working on. If there is anything you would like to know about please get in touch so that I can upload what you need. I am always at the GDA meetings or you can email me on caroline.mullins@gov.gg.

Diary Dates

Postal Vote Application Deadline

22nd April

Bike Week

25th - 29th April

Election 2016

27th April (8am - 8pm)
except St Sampsons (10am - 8pm)

Wear orange for MS day

27th April

NAS Sensory Sunday Drop-in

1st May, 2pm - 4pm, STYX

GDA Members Meeting

5th May, 7pm - 9pm

Les Rocquettes Hotel

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Election Factsheets

Access for All has put together two factsheets for Election 2016:

1. A Guide to Postal Voting which shows the different steps when voting by post.
2. A pictorial Guide to Accessible Voting in Guernsey, which shows the different steps of voting at a polling station.

They can be viewed at www.access.gg



Guernsey Mencap Open Garden

8th May
Grange Court

Liberation Day

9th May

Spring Luncheon (Mencap)

15th May
St Pierre Park

Lottys War (Captioned Performance)

4th June, 2.30pm
Performing Arts centre

Saffery Rotary Walk

11th June

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