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GDA Executive Director Update by Karen Blanchford

Happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone had a chance to get some rest over the break. What an exciting start to 2017 - our founder Rob Platts is awarded an MBE for his services to disabled islanders. We were all so very excited for Rob, he has worked tirelessly for Equality for the last 8 years + for MS society, GDA and more widely. Please join us in congratulating him on his Award.



We were very privileged to welcome Professor Anna Lawson to the island, as our guest speaker in January's meeting. Anna is an esteemed academic in the field of Human Rights, Equality and Disability she shared her knowledge and experience with us on 12th January.

Professor Anna Lawson Visit to the Channel Islands

The Channel Islands were fortunate to receive esteemed academic Professor Lawson to our shores. Anna spent Wednesday in Jersey running a seminar and meetings with politicians and groups before moving to Guernsey for a full day with the Equality Working Group and open meeting Thursday night (74 attendees)



Prof Lawson gave a clear overview of the history of Human Rights, Equality and Non-Discrimination, showing the difference between civil and political rights, compared to economic, social and cultural rights.

Guernsey can learn from disability equality law in other countries and look at laws relevant to the island and implement them accordingly and as relevant.

Please go to our News Blog for a video of the event, her slides and references <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/2017/01/professor-anna-lawson-presentation/>.

Rob Platts MBE

Congratulations from all our members to our founder Rob Platts on his MBE for services to disabled people in Guernsey. Such exciting news for such amazing commitment and dedication over the last 8 years and more. Please join us in wishing Rob our congratulations. Please find a copy of the press articles and media interviews on our news blog [here](#).



This month's GDA meeting, newsletter and printing is kindly sponsored by Donate, Keeping It Local. Thank you.
www.facebook.com/Donate-Keeping-it-Local-880912118662974/



States Disability Officer update - Caroline

The December States Disability and Inclusion Strategy highlight report (no 2) is available on our GDA news blog here. The next board meeting is 24th January with the 3rd report following in the next week.

<http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/2016/12/states-disability-inclusion-strategy-project-highlight-report-2/>

Association of Guernsey Charities Update

Following the decision in last year's budget not to introduce Gift Aid & Payroll Giving, we are discussing a further review of Gift Aid & Payroll Giving with the Third Sector Development Group. The AGC's view is that charity finances in the Bailiwick, generally, are so stretched that full, unrestricted Gift Aid and Payroll Giving is essential, bringing the Bailiwick in line with the practices which have existed elsewhere for many years.

Charities and groups - please submit applications for the Lottery Grant before the end of January. Application forms in the link here.

Finally, Peter Rose's time as Chair of the AGC comes to an end at the next AGM in April and the AGC is looking for nominations to replace him. Please pass on the names of people who might be interested in putting their name forward to:

chairman@charity.org.gg.

Guernsey Sporting Achievement Awards - 12th January 2017

The Guernsey Sports Commission hosted the Sporting Achievement awards at Beau Sejour. with guests speaker, The Bailiff, Sir Richard Collas. The Para-Sport Athlete award winners were: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson Trophy - Jon Burrows, for Seated Volleyball and The Ferbrache & Farrell LLP Trophy - Oscar Webber (featured right), rugby. Congratulations to Jon & Oscar and all nominees!

An informal open event for service users of Health & Social Care services. Find out more here at: www.gov.gg and Facebook.

Do you receive a Health and Social Care Service?
Would you be interested in being involved in student nurse interviews or student nurse education?

This welcome and information event will be held on **Tuesday 31st January 2017** from **5.30-6.30pm** at the **Institute of Health and Social Care Studies**

Follow the signs for the first floor of the new part of the building.
Contact Us
Tel: (01481) 207227
Email: esmc.reid@gov.gg
www.gov.gg/theinstitute
www.facebook.com/theinstitute



Health & Social Care and Education routinely recruit student nurses and associate practitioners to undertake a 2-3 year university programme delivered locally by the Institute in partnership with Middlesex University. Each potential candidate is interviewed by a panel of nursing and teaching staff and service users of HSC. If you would like to consider participating in these interviews or teaching, then please come along to this informal event. The session will be providing information about the recruitment process and teaching opportunities and if you wish to continue we will then offer further dates for interview training.

A better life through learning

Disability Champion's Team Update

Did you know that in 2016 the disability champions team worked with over 25 cases. The team consists of Deputy Sarah Hansmann-Rouxel - States' Champion for Disabled People, Arrun Wilkie past champion and GDA Vice Chair), Tracey Wheatley.

Contact the team:

1. If you need help resolving an issue with the States (relating to your disability).
2. To help me represent the views of disabled islanders and carers in States debates.

Find the team here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/disabilitychampions/>

Contact Sarah on

Sarah.HansmannRouxel@deputies.gov.gg or 07911 765863



DisabledGo REMINDER for people to use

Did you know you can find out if venues, restaurants, cafes, are accessible in Guernsey by logging onto DisabledGo

<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/guernsey/main-2>

They state: Good, clear information on accessibility enables people to plan their journeys in advance, and to know that they will be able to move around with dignity and without discomfort.

This Access Guide provides a great resource covering local venues for many aspects of Island life, as well as helpful information on local businesses.

The Access Guide can be used in conjunction with the Guernsey Tourism site, VisitGuernsey.com, to discover even more of what Guernsey has to offer.

Driveability - GDRA

We are delighted to announce that a second specialist driving advisor,



Maxine Armstrong has joined the team. Her dual qualification as an Occupational Therapist / Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency Approved Driving Instructor and her friendly caring nature continues our ethos of supporting drivers with medical conditions to return to driving safely, or continue driving safely for as long as possible.

<http://www.guernseydriveability.org.gg/>

http://www.charity.org.gg/AGC_Charity_Page?id=199

Disability Access Day 10-12th March 2017

Disabled Access Day 2017 will take place between 10th and 12th March 2017.



<https://www.disabledaccessday.com>

Accessible Sport and Activities Campaign

GDA is teaming up with On Screen Creations, Guernsey Sports Commission, its member groups to deliver a campaign on sports and activities being accessible.



Summary

We want to bring down barriers for disabled islanders taking a full and active part in society. In this campaign we focus on sport and leisure activities, to increase access and choice, to raise awareness, acceptance and increase participation. This in turn will increase physical and mental well-being.

Objectives

1. Raise awareness of all the opportunities available to islanders with disabilities
2. Increase participation in sports and activities
3. Empower clubs to be more accessible (physical access, customer service, information and communication), allow them to make reasonable adjustments (changes) that could increase participation

We will be building a list of local clubs and groups and filming many of them for a video campaign to be launched in the week leading up to disabled access day 10th March. To get involved email karen@gda.org.gg

Watch this space for more information.

Access for All - Richard Evans

We are looking forward to a busy 2017. The team is expecting to be working on even more projects than it did last year. To help us we are looking for more volunteers. What we need are willing people to act as 'user testers'. What we mean is when an area or building or information etc has been built/developed/produced we would like people to do a test and let us know how accessible it is. Would you like to help? If so contact hello@access.gg

Saffery Rotary Walk 2017

Thank you to Saffery Rotary Walk - 20th Anniversary for supporting the GDA and so many member charities and groups.

Register now for the early bird rate (closes 30th January).

<http://www.safferyrotarywalk.com/registration-opens-for-20th-saffery-rotary-walk/>

The walk takes place on Saturday 3rd June 2017.

www.safferyrotarywalk.com

07781 168889 (voicemail service)

info@safferyrotarywalk.com

<http://www.safferyrotarywalk.com/charities/>



Forthcoming Events 2017

31st Jan Institute of Health and Social Care Studies 5.30-6.30pm
www.gov.gg/theinstitute

www.facebook.com/theinstitutegg

31st Jan Association of Guernsey Charities closing date for applications for grants - link here

5th Feb Co-op Helping Funds applications closes.
<http://www.channelislands.coop/your-society/giving/helping-hands/>

8th Feb Individuals members meeting, 7pm
Rosaire Court

Autism Guernsey

NEW! FREE TEENAGE DROP-IN DEN

Autism Guernsey will be holding a weekly teenage drop-in den on Wednesdays,

4.15pm-5.15pm, in the

Roswell Room at the Guille Alles Library. They

welcome young people with autism aged

14-18 years by membership only. If you

would like to join, please contact our office on office@autismguernsey.org.gg or Tel:

245272.

<http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/2017/01/teenage-drop-in-den-guille-alles-library/>



Jersey on Disability

Jersey have released their Disability Strategy for consultation, you can view it at:

<https://www.gov.je/News/2017/Pages/DisabilityStrategy.aspx>

This February meeting will be chaired by Sam Le Huray, and gives disabled islanders and carers a chance to raise issues affecting them. Karen, Caroline - Disability Officer, Sarah - Disability Champion & others will be on hand to answer members' queries.

10th-12th March Disability Access Day

<http://www.disabledaccessday.com/>

16th March ALL members meeting chaired by Access for All Le Grand Courtil, St Martin's 7-9 pm

April No members meeting in April

3rd June Saffery Rotary Walk

GDA Contacts

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