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GDA Executive Director Update by Karen Blanchford

Well another month has passed us by and we are already planning out to Easter. Where does the time go! Our February members' meeting was a small affair, just how we like them so that everyone has the chance to comment and have their voice heard. Key points will follow here. In March we will focus on Access as it is Disabled Access Day 10th March and Olly and I have been busy on the Accessible Activities project; meeting 100's of disabled islanders, finding out what they love about the sport or club they attend and how we can get more people involved. More about this below.

This month we have also been involved in assisting in the Cubs' disability badge which has been great fun. In January I presented to 220 States leaders on Disability and Customer Service with Caroline & Ed. We used a new cut of the Hidden Disabilities campaign to highlight some of the issues members face, you can view these on <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/2017/01/gda-states-leadership-forum/>.

Lastly, well done to the Election2016 team who were short-listed for the Achievement Awards. They were a fantastic example of a team who has embraced disability and access and ensured our voices were heard during that key project. Well done Mark and Nikejshia.

GDA Members meeting - 8th February

Many thanks to Peter Hill-Smith for chairing the meeting at Rosaire Court on 8th February. Many points were discussed such as transport issues, the Disability Highlight report, the Business Disability Forum, Transport Strategy, and plans for a Quiz on 4th May at Rosaire Court. Minutes to follow which will be posted on our blog. The next meeting to be held on 16th March at Le Grand Courtil, chaired by Access for All. Please note: there will be no meeting in April.

NEW 'We All Matter Eh! Campaign': Accessible Activities

WAME is currently filming, interviewing and photographing disabled islanders involved in accessible sports and activities. By showcasing over 15 accessible clubs we hope to increase participation for adults and children with disabilities, assist the exposure and encourage other clubs to become more accessible. We have visited and heard from: Seated yoga, judo, football, swimming, sitting volleyball, specials gym, Guernsey Sports for the Disabled and paragliding. This weekend we finish with wheel chair dancing and walking football and have photos and content from sailing and MIND walking. How can you help? Let us know if you take part in any sport or club we haven't showcased yet. Please share on social media and talk to others about the project. The campaign will hit the media the week of 6th March in time for Disabled Access Day 10th March. <http://matter.gg/accessible-sports/>



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/



Access-Ability News

Learners on the Access course have been working hard

developing the Delancey Community Kitchen Garden within Delancey Park.

They have developed their practical horticulture skills, and taken part in Health and Nutrition classes.

The students have developed their interpersonal skills by talking to students and lecturers from other courses in collaboration projects.

The garden has been transformed into a space appropriate for young children and their families to use and includes a blackboard for children to draw on and sand tyres to play in. The next task the learners in Access have, is to create instruments from recycled objects for the children to play with.

Access-Ability have supported the Delancey Community Kitchen Garden and the learners at the College who have LDD for the last 5 years. Some learners have gained interests in gardening as a career and attended work placements at local garden centres and at 'Grow'.

Although the garden is now part of the Edible Guernsey portfolio of projects, the Access-Ability charity still plays a keen role in supporting young people with LDD to participate in the gardening projects and work placements where they may require PPE or equipment.

The garden is a space open to the whole community, but we welcome all young people and their families to use the garden whenever they want. The produce grown in the gardening is available to all, for free. All we ask is that you help by pulling a few weeds or giving some time to develop the garden.



Business Disability Forum

This has been created to see how the States of Guernsey are disability aware. They would like to see it from a customer's point of view. Please get in touch with Caroline Mullins. They need small focus groups or one-to-one on 20th, 21st and 22nd March. The questions they are looking for are for example 'what barriers are you dealing with in the States?'. They would be grateful for anything to help with interacting with the States eg Beau Sejour or filling out tax returns. Please call 732512. Keep an eye on the blog for more information.

We need your feedback!

ESSC (Employment and Social Security Committee) would welcome your feedback on the new Signpost.gg website for disabled adults and carers:

<http://www.signpost.gg/adults-homepage>

The 3rd Disability and Inclusion Highlight Report in <http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog>
Please provide feedback to Caroline Mullins, States Disability Officer.

www.signpost.gg

The second phase of Signpost.gg, designed to provide information about support, services and activities for disabled people and carers, has been launched.

Phase one of the website was launched in 2016 and users welcomed the new resource, saying it is very easy to use, provides clear information and contact details all in one place.

Signpost.gg has now been developed further to provide information about support, services and activities for disabled people and carers in Guernsey.



10th - 12th March 2017

**DISABLED
ACCESS
DAY**

Contact Sheet

In our on-going quest for producing our Contacts Sheet for all members, please go to our blog here and see if there are any amendments or suggestions for new contacts, and if there are any gaps.

We'd love to hear from you. Email: info@disabilityalliance.org.gg

<http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/2016/10/contact-points-questions/>

Access for All

In 2016 Access for All co-ordinated a two day course with CAE (Centre of Accessible Environments UK) to be run in Guernsey for all parties interested in Access. The plan is to run it again 14/15th June 2017. We would recommend that any company or group consider the on-island course to increase capability and network. Parties may be planners, building control, architects, builders, surveyors, charities involved with disability and access. For anyone who attended the 2016 course a half day practical session and lunch is planned for 16th June 9-1.30pm. For more information email places@access.gg



<http://cae.org.uk/training/our-training-courses/>

Access auditing and the Equality Act

Two day course: This course covers the following areas:

Access awareness, Design guidance, The Equality Act 2010, Access auditing, Design appraisals and Access strategies.

Guernsey Arts Commission Lantern Parade

GAC are delivering lantern making workshops for the Lantern Parade taking place 25th March. The parade starts at Cambridge Park, going through St Peter Port, and finishing at Albert Pier. We have a couple of slots available for the artist to deliver lantern making workshops with specific groups. Another option is group leaders can book onto a public workshop and GAC will provide the materials to take away to make lanterns with their group. Both workshops are offered for free.

To book onto a public workshop:

<http://www.arts.gg/register-for-a-lantern-making-workshop> or call tel: 709747 E-mail: info@arts.gg

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

This is a service run in the UK called My Guide. It is a volunteer led service matching a trained sighted guide volunteer with a person living with sight loss locally.



The person may be lacking in confidence or want to learn some local routes to get out independently. We are looking to introduce this service onto Guernsey and we will be holding a Guide Dogs showcase in collaboration with the Guernsey Blind Association in April. We want to reach as many people living with sight loss as we can. The showcase discusses all of our services and we will be offering a training session to friends and family and volunteers on the techniques of sighted guiding. If you know of anyone who might be interested in taking part?

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Loucaides, My Guide Ambassador, Hampshire, Southampton Mobility Team
Tel: 0345 1430227 ext: 6537,
Mob: 07468 711818

Age Concern Guernsey E brochure

Please click on the logo above or picture to access the new Guernsey Age Concern brochure featuring 1, 2, 3. Please share the brochure from their website.



Mind Guernsey

Are you a business owner, employer, line manager or a HR practitioner? Understanding the relationship between the workplace and our well-being is important not only for the health of your staff but also the health of your business. Guernsey Mind is one of the speakers at the Employers Event on 16th March. Please come to this forthcoming event organised by Employment & Social Security (ESS).



Forthcoming Events 2017

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| 21st Feb | ITV Diversity Panel meeting (Karen on holiday 22-24th Feb) | 23rd March | Disability & Inclusion strategy board meeting |
| 28th Feb | Pancake Day fundraiser for Guernsey Cheshire Home at the Town Church | 28th March | Cubs 3rd Guernsey session on Disability Badge on Access |
| 28th Feb | CYPP Included & respected meeting with Youth Commission | 31st March - 21st April | Karen on holiday (in Australia) |
| 3rd March | World Hearing Day | April | No GDA meeting |
| 6th March | Launch of the Accessible Activities campaign (matter.gg link) | 2nd April | World Autism Awareness Day |
| 10th March | Disabled Access Day | 25th April – 1st May | Multiple Sclerosis MS Day |
| 10th March | Access meeting of CAE trained islanders (12-1.30pm) Nouvelle Maritaine | 4th May | GDA fundraising quiz – open to all (up to 40 people) Rosaire Court 7-9pm please register by emailing Info@disabilityalliance.org.gg |
| 13th March | Equality Working Group meeting | 8th-12th May | Brain Injury Awareness week |
| 13th March | The Hub Decider Skills 7-8.30pm Performing Arts Centre | 12th May | Hats for Headway |
| https://twitter.com/TheHUBgsy/status/826088960657080320 | | 14th – 20th May | Dementia Awareness Week |
| 14th March | GDA presenting at College of FE on their Equality, Diversity and Rights module | 24th May | Cystic Fibrosis (CF) meeting with guest speakers from the UK, all welcome especially health professionals. Harry Bound Room, Les Cotils 7-9pm. |
| 16th March | Occupational Health and Well-being event by ESC, MIND | 3rd June | Saffery Rotary Walk |
| 16th March | GDA members meeting for all – run by Access for All – Grand Courtil, St Martins 7-9pm | To register go to www.safferyrotarywalk.com or if you have access requirements contact Karen | |
| 21st March | World Down Syndrome Day | 14 & 15th June | CAE Access course |
| 21st March | BDF (Business Disability Forum – States review) meeting with GDA members to be confirmed | 16th June | Follow up practical CAE access session |
| | | 1st – 3rd December | International Day of Persons with Disability celebrations (IDPwD) |

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