



Newsletter - Winter 2016

Welcome

to the first issue of our quarterly newsletter. Our newsletters will tell you all about the latest news from Beach Wheelchairs and update you on all the goings on at the Beach Hut!

Winter opening

I know it sometimes feels like the rain started when the Beach Hut opened in July and hasn't stopped since! But Beach Wheelchairs are still available to hire every day during daylight hours from our Beach Hut down in North Berwick Harbour.

We have a child's beach wheelchair, two adult beach wheelchairs and a beach walker all available for hire free of charge. Call us to find out more details.

The COSLA Excellence Awards Finalist!

COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) Excellence Awards recognise innovative projects that are changing lives. We have been nominated in the category 'Local Matters' for our work with East Lothian Council establishing Beach Wheelchairs.

We are particularly delighted as the Awards are designed to '*recognize and prioritise projects that are demonstrating new solutions to tackling inequality, and in ways that can take root across Scotland*'. Our inclusion will spread the word of what we are doing and hopefully encourage other council areas to establish similar schemes.

We will present to a judging panel in February with the winners announced in March at a special Awards Ceremony. We'll let you know how we get on in our Spring Issue.

Postcard from last year



Artwork by Bonzo Art

Summer feels a long time ago....actually I think it might have been 2014....but I wanted to take a minute to think of some of the successes of last summer.

Getting the equipment purchased and in place and opening the Beach Hut for the first time took a huge amount of hard work and was a massive success. But the real success stories are of the individuals and families that we helped.

Since July 2015 we have had over 50 different hires of the



Please call us to book.



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beach wheelchairs. This isn't just 50 individuals benefiting from the service; rather its 50 families and groups of friends that have gained from being on the beach together. People getting together on the beach with their loved ones, having new experiences and making precious memories.



Charlie Kay from North Berwick on the beach with his sister Meredith and his cousins from Austria for the first time.

The feedback on the wheelchairs and the service provided has been fantastic. This would not have been possible were it not for our amazing team of volunteers.

Thank you!

Fundraising

We have had so many kind donations from individuals and groups and some great fundraising events and challenges. Thank you so much for all your fundraising efforts and support!

In December we had a fundraising dinner and disco at the Marine Hotel in North

Berwick. It was a fab night and we raised over £2,000!



Nicky Fox artist in residence!

Get Involved!

We rely on our volunteers and supporters. Would you like to help us hire out equipment at the Beach Hut? Do you have great marketing skills? Can you think of a novel fundraising activity? Whatever it is, if you think you have some time you can give we would love to hear from you.

Project Update

REGISTERED CHARITY

In December 2015 we became a registered charity. Previously we were a charity under the wing of North Berwick Community Centre (NBCC). NBCC looked after us brilliantly and allowed us to get up and running in super quick time. We are now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which means that we have an elected Board of Trustees that make decisions on behalf of the charity but we also have Members.

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone is welcome to become a member. Members will be

invited to Annual General Meetings at which they will have a say in how we operate, what we do and will be eligible to vote. There is no charge to be a member.

THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees were voted in at a General Meeting of the group in October.

Chair

Robin Black

Vice-Chair

Jackie Tagg

Treasurer

Elizabeth Tomlinson

Secretary

Alison Brown

Trustees

Bryony Capaldi

Phyllis Conway

Len Groom

Melanie Kay

If you are interested in the work of the Board you can find a copy of our Minutes on the website.

Contact Us

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Where to find us

Facebook

www.beachwheelchairs.org