



Beach Wheelchairs Newsletter

Autumn 2016

Beach Wheelchairs Awards

In the last few months we have been delighted to receive recognition for what we do at Beach Wheelchairs. We believe our project is special but we know we couldn't have got there without loads of individuals help. So thank you to all of you that support us in what we do and to all our customers for keeping the faith that the sun will still be out when they book their beach wheelchair!

CoSLA Award



We were really chuffed to be the Gold Award Winner in the CoSLA excellence awards 'Local Matters' category. It was great to be able to share our story with a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC046190

wider audience and meet Jackie Bird!

National Lottery Awards



Thank you to everyone that voted for us in the Lottery Awards. Although we missed out on the main prize we were really delighted to have made the shortlist in this competition and it made us appreciate how much people locally recognise the work all of our volunteers do.

We would like to thank everyone in East Lothian who voted for us. In particular the kids from Law Primary and the High School.

This photo shows Maria Termatt posing with our runners up plaque. Maria drove up from Bonchester Bridge in the Scottish Borders to use our beach wheelchair and had a great time. She particularly loved moving the footrest away to enjoy a paddle in the sea.

AGM

We would be delighted if you could join us on Thursday 1st December for our first Annual General Meeting. The AGM will start at 7.30pm in North Berwick Community Centre. This will be an opportunity to hear all about the work of Beach Wheelchairs, become a Member and vote on our Board to take us forward into next year.

We look forward to seeing you on the first ☺

Sharing our story

Beach Wheelchairs is working hard to spread the news and share our learning to encourage other areas to set up beach wheelchair hire schemes to open up beaches for wheelchair users in other parts of Scotland.

In August we had a visit from MSPs Kezia Dugdale and Iain Gray to find out about what we do and to look at our wheelchairs.



In September we had a fantastic day at Portobello prom with Portobello Beach Wheelchairs, a local community group which is wanting to improve access to the beach there. We are always delighted to hear from and support other groups and individuals if we can.

We are still open!

Autumn is well and truly here and Mel has finally packed away her shorts until next year but we are still available for hires. So the next time it's a bright, blustery day why not give us a call and book one of our beach wheelchairs.....just

remember the flask and the blankets!



The Hippocampe

The Hippocampe beach wheelchair is just one of our fleet of wheelchairs. The Hippocampe was designed to be low to the ground which makes it ideal for experiencing the sand and the sea at the beach. Something that kids in particular love. But the Hippocampe is also suitable for adults, although the low down design may make transferring more difficult.

The other thing we love about the Hippocampe is that as well as the lap strap we have a chest strap and an adjustable head rest. We also have an insert that can be used for additional support. Our trained volunteers are always happy to chat through the different wheelchairs we have available and what might suit your needs.

Feedback

We are grateful to our customers taking the time to fill in feedback forms after a hire. We have been able to make some improvements to the Nomad wheelchair, providing a better, bigger lap strap and we have resolved the issue with the wheels and the steering. This should make a better experience for everyone!

We also listen to your other comments about access ramps on to the beach, parking and toilets. Although these issues are less easily solved we are working with partners to seek solutions.

How to book

Beach Wheelchairs are available to hire every day during daylight hours from our Beach Hut in North Berwick Harbour.

Please call us in advance to book.

0300 111 2112



We have three beach wheelchairs and a beach walker all available for hire free of charge. And we have a fixed hoist to assist with transfers if required. Call us to find out more details.