



Beach Wheelchairs Newsletter

Winter 2017

Wintery Tales and the Year Ahead

Hippocampe in -25°C

In December our Hippocampe wheelchair went on a really special trip to an exceptionally cold Lapland! The trip was organised by Fight Against Cancer Edinburgh (FACE) a local charity that supports families affected by cancer.



John from FACE said 'Over the years, as a group we have struggled with wheelchairs in the snow, however this year with the beach wheelchairs we managed with ease to get the kids into areas which otherwise would not have been accessible. A hearty thank you to North Berwick Beach Wheelchairs'

Santa at the Beach Hut

I hope some of you may have made it along to our Christmas event at the Beach Hut. This was a great success with a massive turnout – a great way to finish off our year!

Thank you so much to Rotary and FACE for supporting this event and all our regular volunteers. Santa and chief Elf Mel enjoyed themselves so much I think we'll need to make it an annual event!



Santa is seen here posing with Rosie Hamilton and Lois MacLean from Law High

School who have been attending our Board meetings and volunteering with us – they are definitely on the 'Nice List' ☺

Christmas Day Hires

Christmas day was a bit wild but some brave souls still went on the beach for their traditional Xmas stroll. Below is a photo of local girls Eliza and Nina with their dad.



AGM

Beach Wheelchairs had its first AGM on Thursday 1st December. This was a chance for us to share our

Annual Report and the successes of the past year.

Phyllis Conway stepped down from the Board at this meeting and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her input from the start up of the group to the charity it is today.

We are delighted that the rest of the Board remain in place with the addition of Karen Sinclair as our new Treasurer. This means that Robin Black will continue as Chair of the group, Alison Brown stays on as Secretary and Melanie Kay has stepped up as our new Vice Chair.

Volunteers

Beach Wheelchairs are looking for more volunteers. Volunteers unlock the Beach Hut and greet customers and complete the paperwork for loaning out equipment. Full Training and initial shadowing is given and someone is always available at the end of a phone if problems arise.

We are looking for individuals that can be available to help one afternoon a week or fortnight. This is a rewarding role that allows you to help someone get back onto the beach, sometimes for the first time in years or as a family.

For more information about volunteering please contact us on:
info@beachwheelchairs.org.

Portobello

Plans for a Portobello Beach Wheelchair hire scheme are gaining momentum. The project is now officially part of the Beach Wheelchairs charity. Funding applications are being written and the search for a base is moving forward. If you would like to be involved with the Portobello project please drop us a line: info@portobellobeachwheelchairs.co.uk



Disabled Access Day



The 12th March sees the third annual Disabled Access Day. This special day is organised by Euan's Guide and is all about highlighting the fantastic access that already exists in places.

The Beach Hut will be open between 2pm and 4pm for individuals to drop by and

have a look at what we do, have a go in our wheelchairs if they'd like and warm up with a tea or coffee. We are also hoping to organise some special guests so keep a look on our Facebook page for the latest news.

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.