

AUTUMN 2019



HELPING PEOPLE GET OUT ON THE WATER

Contents

- Chairman's Welcome
- In Good Hands
- Making the Difference
- Keeping us Moving
- Ahoy There!
- Shipmates Form

Wetwheels FACTS

1154

Total number of passengers



169

Total number of trips to date

115



Total number of wheelchair users

338

Total number of disabled non-wheelchair users

What our passengers say

Getting wet is all part of the fun
- Ray

100% fabulous, brilliant - Daniel

94 and I'm driving a boat. I've never driven one before
- Hazel

It was the best day I have had in years
- Lady from Eyecan

I have been on many trips both in the UK and abroad and I can say that Wetwheels is the best trip I have ever done
- Holidaymaker staying at Maison des Landes



Chairman's welcome

Welcome to the autumn newsletter telling you all about your charity, Wetwheels Jersey.

It has been another extremely busy year with nearly 1,200 people enjoying an exciting trip on board, with the boat sometimes in use three or four times a day.

We have worked hard to generate more funding for the charity, so that we can continue to offer our trips for free, and also so we can add to the equipment on board, increasing both the safety and the enjoyment of our passengers.

We would like to welcome Appleby on board as a sponsor, and you can read about our new partnership with them inside.

Congratulations to our Operations Director Dina Cook for a much-deserved accolade at this year's IoD Jersey Director of the Year Awards, where she was named Director of the Year for the Third Sector.

We continue to work closely with our friends at the Wetwheels Foundation in the UK, and with the founder of Wetwheels Geoff Holt, who remains in constant contact with us and supports our endeavours to offer a unique and free service to disabled and disadvantaged islanders. Our aim is to increase the number of people we take out to sea to over 1,400 passengers by 2021.

This year we have started to explore opportunities to broaden our service to cover Guernsey as part of our outreach programme. We have also worked closely with other charities, including Helping Wings and the RNLI, with whom we conducted our first emergency exercises in the summer, training our crews in the use of our new 'man overboard' equipment.

With the generosity of The Clarkson Trust, we were able to replace our engines this year and we are building a reserve fund so that when the time comes we can replace Wetwheels with a new vessel.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Board and our Trustees, can I thank you for your continued support and generosity. We are determined to continue to create life-changing opportunities to enjoy our beautiful maritime environment free of charge, and without you this simply would not be possible. If you have not already signed up to become a Shipmate, please complete the form on the back page and send it to Dina who will send you a welcome pack.

Brian Watt
Chairman, Wetwheels Jersey



NEW SPONSOR

APPLEBY

We are delighted to welcome on board Appleby as a key sponsor for our 2020 season.

James Gaudin, Partner at Appleby reflects on the firm's relationship with Wetwheels Jersey and the importance of building meaningful relationships with community partners across the island.



For Appleby, corporate social responsibility is more than a channel for promoting our brand. It's about engaging our colleagues and building strong relationships with local community groups to contribute to and support the communities in which we operate. In each of our locations, we have taken time to identify community partners

with whom we can make a positive, enduring impact and develop long-term relationships. We have worked with local organisations to select a range of projects providing support in education, sports development, the environment, the arts and for disadvantaged groups. Our clients and our colleagues expect corporate responsibility to be at the core of our business. That is our aim.

Appleby has been a supporter of Wetwheels Jersey since 2017 and whilst that includes offering financial support to the organisation, we have also been fortunate enough to see them at work. During 2017 we were privileged enough to join them aboard a number of sailings, seeing first hand their ability to both educate and inspire disabled and disadvantaged people in Jersey, whilst enjoying being at sea on a safe and reliable vessel.

Working with Wetwheels was an obvious choice for us as we believe that everybody has a right to access the sea and Wetwheels is a fantastic non-profit initiative that has shown that this is possible. The charity has made a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of disabled and disadvantaged people within our local community – providing a fun experience that many, possibly thought, they would never be able to enjoy.



Congratulations Dina!

Congratulations to our Operations Director Dina Cook, who was named this year's Director of the Year for the Third Sector at the Institute of Directors, Jersey Branch annual Director of the Year Awards.

Dina has been an integral and essential member of the Wetwheels team from the very beginning and it is no understatement to say that without Dina we simply would not be able to operate the boat.

As well as ensuring maintenance is kept up to date and that we always have a skipper and crew to take our customers out on the water, Dina is also responsible for fundraising, events and liaison with the Wetwheels Foundation in the UK.

At the time of writing Dina has been nominated for a national IoD award and will find out in October if she has won, at a special presentation lunch in London.

The entire Wetwheels team wishes her the very best of luck and wants to take this opportunity to thank her for her energy and dedication to our work.

Dina is sponsored by

O C O R I A N
T R U S T E E S



HELPING WINGS

A Very Successful Joint Venture - Sponsored by the Ravenscroft Group

3rd July saw Wetwheels team up with Helping Wings to give two groups of disabled or disadvantaged people a truly memorable day out. 20 guests, which were made up of members from Eye Can, Autism Jersey, St Ewolds, Les Amis and Jersey Mancap, were invited to take part. The original concept was to divide the group in two with half travelling to Guernsey on Wetwheels while the others took to the air courtesy of Helping Wings. After lunch in Guernsey the groups would swap passengers before returning to Jersey.

Unfortunately, as so often is the case, the weather conspired against us, by being too windy for Wetwheels to sail to Guernsey. During breakfast at The Aero Club in the presence of both charities' patron Sir Stephen Dalton, the plan was revised. One group took to the water on Wetwheels and were able to cruise round the sheltered waters of the South Coast. Each participant taking turns to steer the boat and show off their driving skills. The others spent the morning flying round Jersey before both groups returned to The Aero Club for a quickly devised lunch courtesy of The Ravenscroft Group, before changing their activity for the afternoon giving everyone a chance of both flying and sailing.

This innovative solution meant cancellation of the event was averted and our 20 guests enjoyed a great day of sailing and flying. It wasn't exactly as planned but that really didn't matter. Helping Wings and Wetwheels had had their first, and very successful, joint event.



RNLI EXERCISE

by Colin Masterman



Mid-July this season saw a gathering of skippers and volunteer crew aboard Wetwheels Jersey for a Sunday morning joint exercise with the RNLI Jersey All Weather Lifeboat. The aims of the morning were to practice transfers of casualties between one boat and another, using a rigid stretcher and hoisting casualties, retrieval of MOB and the experience of deploying and using a time expired life raft. Life rafts are cramped and claustrophobic by their very nature and it is good for crew to understand what being inside one feels like. The morning was also an excellent opportunity for crew to work together and share expertise, and bond as a team.

Volunteer crew and skippers of Wetwheels always want to ensure that their skills, and therefore the safety of their passengers, were well and truly rehearsed, should any emergency occur. This was the first of a series of joint exercises that Wetwheels wants to run in conjunction with various rescue services.

We also hope to work alongside The Jersey Lifeboat Association in the future with their All Weather Lifeboat. We also want to work alongside rescue RIBs.

The RNLI crew demonstrated how they stretch casualties and then transfer them from the casualty vessel to the All-Weather Lifeboat, either manually or using a hoist. Wetwheels has recently been fitted with a similar block and tackle system for assisting with the retrieval of a "man overboard" which in this instance was a dummy. Both crews took time to practise and refine the techniques for this, and the RNLI were able to offer simple but effective revisions and additions to Wetwheels' already good practice.

Finally, Wetwheels launched an expired life raft so that crew could experience what it is like to board, stay in, and alight from such a raft. Wetwheels often carries passengers who are wheelchair users, and this adds an extra dimension to the techniques that need to be thought through. Annually, Wetwheels aims to take over 1000 passengers to sea, who otherwise would not have access to the joys of boating. The youngest passenger was 2 whilst the oldest to date was a spirited 97 years old!

Wetwheels tries to ensure that beneficiaries are active participants, rather than simply passengers and that they have the opportunity to steer the vessel, learn seamanship, gain knowledge of the local maritime features and history and try their luck at fishing alongside their peers, friends and families. The experience is truly inclusive, helping to improve aspirations and increase confidence.

Wetwheels is always seeking additional skippers and crew members so that the demands of the role can be shared. Our crew members have a rich variety of experience and qualifications from RYA Day Skipper and First Aid, to Power Boat 2 and Survival At Sea. However, a background on the sea is a good starting point and a willingness to give some time to trips.

If anyone is interested in volunteering and has suitable boating background, details can be obtained from Dina Cook, Operations Director on 07797 919 006

GUERNSEY OUTREACH

As part of our commitment to the Channel Islands, and the licence given to us by the Wetwheels Foundation, we hope to be able to extend our services to Guernsey for the coming season.

Our plan is to visit Guernsey for a number of short stays during 2020 as part of our broader outreach programme.

This year we visited Guernsey three times to take out Paul Soper, with family and some friends who were visiting from Hungary. Paul was a keen sailor until an accident left him paralysed from the neck down. It's not his first trip out on Wetwheels Jersey, and his sister Viv penned the following poem to say thanks for a great day.

POEM by Viv Peto

*Please tell me that today was good.
Wind in our hair, life jackets strapped on.
The scary gangway is very steep,
but strong arms, and legs make it safe.
Is it raining? The boat gets rocky,
rolling movement fills your body.
The big spray water soaks us.
We look like Dracula, big black capes,
flapping, hooded over our eyes.
We are cold and wet. Eyes shut,
we are racing across the water.
We could be anywhere.
Our still bodies are rocking and rolling.
We are free, on the sea.
We lunch in the 'Caribbean'.
Some are swimming, shouting, laughter,
having fun.
We are separate, silent and still.
But the thrill is catching.*

*Our salty face and lips make the picnic
taste so good.
Please tell me that today was good.
Today is not like all my other days.
Today revives old memories, and makes new ones.
Yes, today was good.*

Big thank you to Dina, Richard and Wetwheels for the boat trip, Guernsey, 12th August 2019





AHOY THERE!

Now that you have read all about us why not come on board by signing up to our Shipmates Scheme?



Wetwheels Jersey is funded entirely from donations and the generosity of our sponsors and patrons. Our fundraising team are always looking for new ways to raise money so that we can continue to operate the boat to the highest standards and offer free trips to the hundreds of disabled or disadvantaged passengers we take out to sea every year.

For just £25 a year you could help make this happen.

Your donation will help to cover our running costs and build our reserves so that we can replace essential equipment when needed. In time Wetwheels Jersey herself will need to be replaced.

As a Shipmate we'll send you a joining pack,

including a unique Shipmates t-shirt, opportunities to volunteer and raise funds for us, our newsletter and for one lucky Shipmate each year, an opportunity to go out on the boat with family and friends.

Please complete the form below and send it with your cheque for £25 to:

**Wetwheels Jersey,
2nd Floor 3 Mulcaster Street,
St Helier JE2 3NJ** or email operations@wetwheels.je for other methods of signing up.



SHIPMATES FORM

NAME:	TELEPHONE:
ADDRESS:	MOBILE:
	EMAIL:
POSTCODE:	T-SHIRT SIZE: S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/>

Wetwheels Jersey is committed to ensuring your privacy is protected. You may choose to restrict the collection or use of your personal information at any time. If you would like a copy of our privacy statement please tick here

BANKERS ORDER (Please use block capitals)

To: The Manager: _____ Bank,

Sort Code:

		-			-		
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Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Please pay on (Date __ / __ / __) to

Bank: **Natwest Bank**
Sort code: **60-12-03**
Account: **Wetwheels Jersey Limited**
Account no.: **26920093**

the sum of £25 and a like sum on the same date each year, every year until you receive my written instructions to cancel.

Signed: _____

Date: __ / __ / __ A/C number _____