



## Welcome to our 2019 Winter Newsletter

Firstly, we are sorry this is the first newsletter you have received in a long while, but we have had another busy year.

Now that the season is coming to an end it has given us time to look back at what we have been up to...

After totting up the numbers we have actually managed to get over 1,700 passengers out on the water this year! This makes it our busiest yet since launching back in 2011.

With visits to the Gosport Marine Festival, Poole, Eastbourne, Cowes, Yarmouth and the Southampton Boat Show as well as all the trips we have run from Portsmouth we have run a grand total of 223 trips.

So what else have we been up to? Well we have successfully run another Harbour Breezes project, done some fundraising, set up a new Instagram account, won an award and been shortlisted for another!



**1,768 Total Passengers**



**611 disabled people of whom 316 were wheelchair users**



## Harbour Breezes Project

We had another great year with our Harbour Breezes project, which gave us the opportunity to offer 3 trips to people living with Dementia from local care homes.

Thank you so much to the Pargiter Trust who along with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund provided the funding for us to run the project again this year.

We managed to provide trips for residents from some local care homes like Langdale Nursing Home, St Vincents Care Homes, Regency Nursing Home, as well as groups from Kitbags and Beret, Saturday Club and Alzheimers Society who also support veterans with dementia, amongst others.



*!The idea of having 3 trips as apposed to just one really did make a difference. Looking at one individual with respect to this, they really enjoyed the 1st experience, however they were unable to re-call the trip a few days later.*

*Whilst on the 2nd trip, they were able to re-call the previous trip and told their family all about it. Whilst on the 3rd trip and about to take the wheel "off to the IOW" they said, "this is exactly where we were last time, but slightly closer to the shore" They were spot on!*

*This person had spent a lot of their younger years onthe water and the*

*Wetwheels experience brought all those happy memories flooding back. This person and their wife had a fantastic experience and are so grateful for the opportunity they were given.*

**Cliff Cropley, Dementia Support Worker, Alzheimers Society**

## New Instagram Page

For all you 'Insta's' out there we have a new Instagram account.

<https://www.instagram.com/wetwheelssolent/>



Don't forget you can also keep up to date with what's going on on our Facebook page and we have a brand new website coming soon too!





## A massive thank you ..

to all those people who have supported us this year

As well as all the Grant Making Trusts who have very kindly supported us over the year and all the people who have very generously given us donations. We organised two fundraising events this year.

Firstly was our sponsored abseil which took place on Sunday 9th June. It was a great day where we saw 37 brave people dangle from the tower and we had great weather for it as well.

This event was organised jointly with Wetwheels Hamble and we are delighted to say we raising a massive grand total of £17,000!



Secondly, we had our annual Geoff Holt MBE Charity Golf Day which was held a bit later this year on Tuesday 8th October. Our brave golfers survived a bit of rain and helped us raise just over £3,500!

Stay tuned as our 2020 golf day date will be announced shortly.



But if dangling from the tower or playing golf are not your thing there are plenty of other things you could do to support us. Just get in touch to find out how....!





## Special Moments



### Community Award

Back in January at the Shaping Portsmouth Conference we were delighted to be presented with their Community Award.

Shaping Portsmouth said ..

*"They are an outstanding social enterprise doing some truly innovative and meaningful work with those most vulnerable in our society, including their award-winning Harbour Breezes project which focuses on getting people living with dementia out on the water"*



### Finalist - The Beautiful South Tourism Awards

A couple of weeks ago we were also delighted to be told that we had made it through to the final four of the Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Awards category within The Beautiful South Tourism Awards. Being a finalist is a great achievement in itself as there is a lot of tough competition out there and we will find out how well we have done on 10th December... so wish us luck!

Being accessible AND inclusive is a tough category. We believed we were already inclusive, as we provide the opportunity for **all** disabled people to access the sea not just as passengers but as active participants along **WITH** their family and friends. on our specially built accessible powerboats.

But to enable our Wetwheels experience to be truly accessible didn't just mean our boat, we had to rely on where we were based too and the facilities available. So we feel so lucky to be based at Gunwharf Quays which have wonderful toilet facilities including changing places facilities. These special toilets include hoists and somewhere to lay flat so those who can't use traditional disabled loos have dignity when using the toilet and it is easier on their parents/carers too. With some of our passengers having to travel a distance to get to us, this means they can make themselves comfortable before joining us.



**Making our Wetwheels experience totally accessible and Inclusive!**



## And finally....

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to doing it all again in 2020!

We will leave you with some lovely photos from some of our trips.....



# Merry Christmas!

from us all at Wetwheels Solent

