

If you would like a large print version of this newsletter please contact Karen on 07781 467316 or [info@disabilityalliance.org.gg](mailto:info@disabilityalliance.org.gg)

## GDA Update for May

After nearly 2 years the key project in the drive towards the ratification of the for UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities : progress of Disability Discrimination Legislation is about to start again! With a new project team, led by Ellen Pragnell and representation from Rob Platts and myself, we hope progress will finally take place. A lot has happened since the key States' resource left, including the Election and change in the Committee responsible for the Disability and Inclusion Strategy. Whilst there have been many consultations on Social Policy, the stalling of the legislation has been very frustrating for disabled islanders and the GDA. We look forward to a more progressive few months and year.

Last week we received an update on the Children Young Peoples' Plan (CYPP) - please see our [blog](#) for the slides and for more information contact myself or Debbie Aldous, Wigwam, the Children with Disabilities representative.

Our AGM is now booked for 3rd October, with an update on the Disability and Inclusion Strategy from the ESS committee (Deputies Michelle Le Clerc and Emilie Yerby) and Board (Ed Ashton and Ellen Pragnell). Please mark the date in your diary.

## Save the date - 6th June

GDA meeting 6th June - Rob Platts MBE

Les Cotils, 6:30pm drinks for 7pm start

### What has the GDA ever done for us?

The GDA meeting on 6th June takes its inspiration from the famous Monty Python "What have the Romans ever done for us" sketch.

Members and guests will be taken through an engaging, whistle-stop review of the reasons the GDA exists, whether the GDA is achieving its vision of improving the lives of thousands of islanders affected by disability and a candid assessment of the challenges which lie ahead

We strongly encourage members, member charities and anyone interested in Equality and Social Policy locally attend. All welcome



## St John Guernsey - News

St John Guernsey will be releasing an update on the Beach Wheelchair project soon. Looking good for accessibility to one of our beautiful beaches with some special wheels available to borrow on site. Massive thanks to Access for All for all their technical advice and guidance so far. We've not finished yet though so fingers crossed everyone. Watch out for the Wheels!

## Access for All Guernsey

Last week we met with Employment Social Security to review its Access at Edward T Wheadon House. Find out more on [www.access.gg](http://www.access.gg)



This month's GDA meeting, newsletter and printing is kindly sponsored by Donate, Keeping It Local. Thank you.

[www.facebook.com/Donate-Keeping-it-Local-880912118662974/](http://www.facebook.com/Donate-Keeping-it-Local-880912118662974/)

## Disability Champion Report

The Disability Champions team are still dealing with individual cases but trying to identify patterns of things not working so we can bring these to the attention of the relevant committees so they can look at policy changes pro-actively. It wouldn't make sense to change a policy for one story or one piece of anecdotal evidence but when you keep hearing the same thing over and over again it can be hard to ignore that policies aren't working as they are supposed to.

We're trying to get out to all the support groups and hear stories if you'd like us to attend please email me at [sarahhr@deputies.gov.gg](mailto:sarahhr@deputies.gov.gg) (Yes I got them to make a shorter email address so hopefully it'll be easier than typing out my full name.)

We've had a few cases recently where children coming into services on the cusp of 18 are falling into a no man's land between child and adult services. If you have similar experience please let us know.

Deputy Sarah Hansmann-Rouxel

Tel: 07911 765863

## Introducing Ellen Pragnell

Ellen Pragnell is the Senior Policy Officer – Disability Discrimination Legislation, The Office of the Committee for Employment & Social Security.

Ellen Pragnell has been seconded from her normal day job as Manager – Policy and Legislation to lead on the development of detailed policy proposals in respect of the introduction of disability discrimination legislation.

Ellen has spent the last 10 years of her career working on the development of social security policy and legislation.

Recent major developments that Ellen has taken a leading role in include the preparation of the legislative provisions that underpin the 'Progress to Work' initiative, and the development of detailed policy proposals and the legislation required to introduce the new parental benefits which came into effect on 1 January 2017.

You can contact Ellen on tel: 732513

Or email: [ellen.pragnell@gov.gg](mailto:ellen.pragnell@gov.gg)

## Disability Officer Update

[www.signpost.gg](http://www.signpost.gg) Guernsey's website providing information for disabled people about services, activities and support is regularly updated.

The aim of the website is to give you as much information as possible including contact details and referral criteria where required. If you cannot find the information you are searching for please complete the 'was this page helpful' box on each page. We will then be able to improve the website to meet your needs.

### Information about accessibility to venues in Guernsey

We have been working with DisabledGo since 2012 providing in-depth information to over 600 places so that disabled people and their carers, friends and family can find out about the accessibility of places they would like to visit. The free online guide <http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/guernsey/main-2>

has been updated with this year's guides which

include the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, further venues and some of our Tasty Walks.

The information in the guides will enable you to check whether accessible parking bays are available, how to get to an entrance, if a hearing loop is available, what side to transfer in an accessible toilet, whether there are tactile lift buttons, if staff have received disability awareness training, if somewhere plays background music, if flashing fire alarms are available and if there is a place to sit and rest.

Please visit DisabledGo Guernsey and let me know what you think – [disabilityofficer@gov.gg](mailto:disabilityofficer@gov.gg) or telephone Caroline on 01481 732557.



## The Deaf Society

Visit our blog to meet the new HOH committee in the Guernsey Hard of Hearing Association.

<http://disabilityalliance.org.gg/blog/2017/05/guernsey-hard-hearing-association-committee/>

## Quiz Success!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who came to the quiz, which raised £205.60. Thanks to Peter Hill-Smith and Andy Graham for everything.

## Cycling for Autism

Sunday 2th June 2017 9am-11am set-off  
Please sign up today on the website [here](#).

## Dementia Awareness Week

15 - 19 May 2017

If you would like to learn some easy tips on how



to make Guernsey dementia friendly and allow people to live well with Dementia, DFG are offering awareness sessions, after which you become a dementia friend; Monday 15th May at Styx Community Centre from 7.30 – 8.30pm, Wednesday 17th May at Styx from 3 – 4 pm, Thursday 18th May 2.30 -3.30 MIND Centre, Friday 19th May at Styx from 10.30 – 11.30am

Also sessions at Les Cotils Reading Room - 6.30 – 8pm, Tuesday 6th June 2017 (only 1 space left), Wednesday 14th June 2017 and 21st June 2017. Sessions last between 60-90 minutes.

There will be an information bus at St Peter's Food Hall from Monday to Friday for general information. Listen to JKT show on BBC Guernsey, or check out the Guernsey Press on 18th. Visit [www.dementiafriendly.org.gg](http://www.dementiafriendly.org.gg)

## Cystic Fibrosis Presentation

On 24th May the local CF group is excited to announce that Dr Keith Brownlee, Director of Impact, is visiting the island with CF UK staff for an en-lighting presentation. All welcome especially health professionals - link to [blog](#) and to book [here](#).

## Library Shared Reading Group

Further to a newspaper article in the Guernsey Press, we have had advice from Jodie Knight, Deputy Chief Librarian, at the Guille Allès Library.

"I think that the shared reading group is really inclusive and would definitely be suitable for people with a learning difficulty like dyslexia.

[www.library.gg](http://www.library.gg) and our blog [here](#).

## MIND Guernsey Adult Mental Health Course

MIND still have some spaces available on our 2-day Adult Mental Health First Aid course on 30th & 31st May at Les Cotils.

Please see the flier on the [blog](#) for further information. The cost is £275 per person.

Please contact Jo Cottell to book a place – [jo.cottell@guernseymind.org.gg](mailto:jo.cottell@guernseymind.org.gg)

## Association of Guernsey Charities AGM



2nd May the Association of Guernsey Charities AGM took place, Peter Rose stepped down as Chair (to Vice Chair) after 3 years in the role and Malcolm Woodhams was elected as the new chair.

Peter made an impassioned closing statement including the role of the 3rd sector and the States poor progress on the social compact, gift aid and payroll giving .

You can read his statement on our [blog](#) and also details of:

- 2017 grant applications, 4 times oversubscribed for the £220,000 and the need for a review
- 140 registered volunteers on the revamped [www.volunteer.gg](http://www.volunteer.gg) and [www.charity.org.gg](http://www.charity.org.gg) websites
- Online Giving application [www.giving.gg](http://www.giving.gg) which we are very grateful for
- Overseas Aid, the grant arrangements and much more ....

[www.disabilityalliance.org.gg](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg)

## Sitting Volleyball

Sitting volleyball is relatively new to the island, starting just 3 years ago. Players can be able-bodied or disabled, and compete equally well using their own strengths. No experience is necessary, so if you fancy finding out more, or giving it a try, please contact Jo Turville on:

Facebook: Sitting volleyball – Guernsey

Twitter: gvasitting

or Email: gvasitting@hotmail.co.uk

[www.guernseyvolleyball.com](http://www.guernseyvolleyball.com)



## Team news

We would like to welcome [Alan Bain](#), as the new Treasurer Elect for the GDA, to be officially appointed at the AGM on 3rd Oct.

We, at the GDA, would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Sue McCathie who has been a key volunteer for the GDA.



## Saffery Rotary Walk Update

The GDA and Access for All have been working with the Saffery Rotary Walk committee to provide access options for members, the last 2 legs and one from Admiral Park.



All are welcome. Please contact Karen for more information or check out our [blog](#)

[www.disabilityalliance.org.gg](http://www.disabilityalliance.org.gg)

## Save the Date

### Guernsey Disability Alliance AGM

Les Cotils, 6:30pm

With our Elections followed by updates and the chance for Q&A on the States Disability and Inclusion Strategy leaders (Politicians and civil servants)

## CYPP Slides

Please find the link to the Children and Young People's Plan on the blog [here](#)

<http://bit.ly/2rlaAVm>

## Forthcoming Events

14th – 20th May [Dementia Awareness Week](#)

24th May Cystic Fibrosis (CF) meeting with guest speakers from the UK

3rd June [Saffery Rotary Walk](#)

To register go to [www.safferyrotarywalk.com](http://www.safferyrotarywalk.com) or if you have access requirements contact Karen

6th June GDA Meeting, Les Cotils

17/18th June Set Sail Trust Sailing activities

25th June Autism Guernsey Cycle Ride

There will be no meetings in July and August

10th Sept MIND Fun Run KGV 9.30am

3rd Oct GDA Annual General Meeting  
Les Cotils 6.30pm

Nov CAE access course postponed until November (TBC)

1st – 3rd December – International Day of Persons with Disability celebrations (IDPwD)

## GDA Contacts

### Karen, Exec Director

[karen@gda.org.gg](mailto:karen@gda.org.gg)  
07781 467 316

### Facebook

Search: GuernseyDisabilityAlliance

### Robin, Chair

[chair@gda.org.gg](mailto:chair@gda.org.gg)

### Twitter

Search: GDA\_Disability

### Arrun, Vice Chair

[vicechair@gda.org.gg](mailto:vicechair@gda.org.gg)

### Website

[www.gda.org.gg](http://www.gda.org.gg)