

Newsletter

Autumn 2013



Successful Time At Devon County Show and a Royal Appointment

Dream-A-Way, is celebrating a big success as the Official Show Charity at the Devon County Show at Westpoint during May. This is also our 20th birthday year so the Trustees were delighted to be chosen as charity of the year



and then to receive a royal visit in addition was a huge bonus.

The Dream-A-Way Pavilion was the first to be visited by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall after she had officially opened the County Show. She was introduced to Dream-A-Way Chairman Jeff Merrett MBE and Trustee Gill Freeman. The Duchess then met two families who had previously been beneficiaries of holidays, and now support the charity by helping with fundraising. The Biddulph family are from Torquay and their daughters Nicole and Lauren presented the

Duchess with a bouquet, as did twins, Harriet and Grace of the Dunn family from Exeter. The Duchess appeared very pleased to meet the children, and also spoke to some of the Dream-A-Way committee members before continuing her tour of the showground. The Charity was supported by around 100 volunteers over the three days, who carried out a number of bucket collections. There was a tombola on the stand and the charity also benefitted from the Shoot Out Club World Record Skittles success held in the Ales from Devon marquee and from donations from a number of other organisations. Thanks to the amazing support from the Stewards and stockmans' suppers our final fundraising total exceeded £8,500!! Looking back over the three days of the Devon County show Jeff Merrett MBE said "It was a huge amount of work but well worth it. We had so much support from Ollie Allen and her team to guide us through everything. Local companies supported the tombola by providing us with over 2000 prizes. I am indebted to each of our willing volunteers, aged between 15 and 86 years, each of whom freely gave up their time to ensure that our superb pavilion became a great place to meet and to find out about the work of Dream-A-Way. The obvious highlight was to meet the Duchess. Two wonderful families were presented to the Duchess. She was very interested in the work of Dream-A-Way and made us all feel proud of the work we all do. Devon County Show 2013 was without doubt one of the highlights in the 20 year history of Dream-A-Way and I would like to thank everyone that supported us In any way"



Now Dream-A-Way are looking forward to many more exciting events throughout this their birthday year.

www.dream-a-way.org



The Art of a Bucket collector

Tis sadly becoming a dying art in these financial times, but I know that out there somewhere there are still the dedicated few who still practise this great art

The skills of the 'Bucket collector' are to be able to sit or stand for hours on end, holding the Dream-A-Way bucket with pride!

To be able to smile at sometimes the most difficult miserable people, until your jaw is permanently fixed in the jokers grin. Many 'bucket collectors' have developed a brilliant exercise programme to stretch the lips as wide as the Cheddar Gorge, making eating soup a now rather difficult task,

Uniforms are mainly provided in the form of a blue pinafore top, pretty standard gear, but the more experienced bucket collector has an extensive wardrobe of feather boas, elephant outfits, bunny girl, fairies, sailor girls, the mortician for the more formal occasion!??? Oh! and not forgetting the winter months zebra onesies and thermal vests.



It is not necessary to be of Olympic fitness, but a collector must of course be prepared to carry the weight of a vast monetary donation at any time. It is always advised to have a spare bucket in case of this happening.

Beverages are a definite part of the 'bucket collectors' tool kit, if the throat isn't kept lubricated constantly throughout their shift, words turn into squeaks which for the male collectors is not very becoming, but sometimes interpreters can be made available but to keep costings down nice hot tea is far preferable.

Training is not essential as the rules really easy and the skills are quickly learnt whilst in situ. We desperately need to keep this wonderful vocational art form continuing it is such a rewarding position, and long may the 'bucket collectors' collect!

Written with dedication and love by Angela.

If you feel you can help with our bucket collection please join our helpers' network. Information on the back page.

Dream-A-Way Dream Holidays

Our Luxury Caravan Holidays Hit the 10,000 Dwellers Mark

Dream-A-Way now owns 8 luxury caravans at Haven Holidays, Devon Cliffs, Sandy Bay, Exmouth and one at Ladram Bay. These luxury holiday homes are a far cry from the caravans some of us remember from our childhood. They all have double glazing, central heating, fitted kitchens and comfortable bedrooms. The cost of one of these caravans is in the region of £50,000 and Dream-A-Way is grateful to all supporters for their kind help in raising the much needed funds. Since we purchased our very first caravan in 1999 well over 10,000 disabled guests with their families and carers, have enjoyed



holidays in our caravans. In the coming few months the Trustees and Committee of Dream-A-Way will be planning to spend more of our funds on a new caravan at Sandy Bay to replace our oldest van. This will ensure we can continue to provide luxury holidays to local disabled people. Planning to purchase a caravan is a complex matter with a number of meetings and discussions to ensure we get it right. There are a large variety of designs of caravan available and we must ensure the one we choose is suitable for our clients. The location of the site on which the caravan is placed is also important and there are some fantastic views from most of our caravans. Each caravan has a ramp for easy access and a balcony with patio furniture so everyone can enjoy the Devonshire sunshine and the wonderful sea views.

Our Wonderful Holiday At Haven Holiday Park.

In July, The Kennedy family, along with Jamie's carer, spent a fantastic week at one of Dream-A-Way's luxury caravans at Sandy Bay Exmouth. Ellie and



Oliver assist Jamie on a daily basis and it had been a difficult eighteen months for the family. When Ellie and Oliver found out they were going on holiday, they were very excited and grateful. So much so, that they were packed and ready to go three weeks in advance. The weather was great, and the family had

a lovely day out in nearby Exmouth. The children had great fun joining in all the activities that the park has to offer. Jamie



said that the chance for Ellie and Oliver to spend a week just being children, hearing their laughter, seeing their smiles and having fun is something that she will always treasure.

The Dunn Family enjoyed a holiday in one of our Caravans

Firstly I would like to say a massive thank you to Dream-A-Way for providing my family with a weeks holiday in one of their luxury caravans.. We were overwhelmed by this gesture, as we hadn't been away as a family for



sometime! We all shared some beautiful moments and happy memories. The caravan had really easy access as did the club house, swimming pool, arcade and restaurants which was perfect for our daughter who has periventricula leukomalacia, cerebral palsy and is partially sighted. We enjoyed every moment of our holiday.... The cabaret, dancing and entertainment in the show bars, children's clubs and sports! We didn't once have to leave the site! Finally I would like to say how much appreciated the hard work and effort that goes into providing these holidays for families, children and adults living with a disability. And I would 100% recommend a Dream-A-Way caravan holiday. :-)

Many thanks again.

From, Anna and lee Dunn.



Dream-A-Way Future Events

WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 6.15pm KARTING @ RACEWORLD Only £140 per kart, up to 6 drivers more than 2 ½ hours of excitement ...book now!
IT'S BACK SO PLEASE DO YOUR VERY BEST TO SUPPORT

FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BALL @ SANDY PARK ...see Below for details

TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER HOSTED BY PALM FM Bowling evening @ AFM BOWL, Torquay (17 teams of 6 ...further details to follow)
**ANYONE FANCY JOINING A DREAM-A-WAY TEAM?*

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 6.15pm KARTING @ RACEWORLD Only £140 per kart, up to 6 drivers more than 2 ½ hours of excitement ...book now!

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 9am THE PIAZZA ON EXETER QUAY IRON BRIDGE RUNNER 5TH ANNUAL SANTA RUN with 5km run (Volunteer marshals required from 9am to 11am please ...names to JM)

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER BICTON PARK BOTANICAL GARDENS Christmas Lunch Coach leave from Sainsbury's Pinhoe at 1030 am ...helpers needed names to Gill

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 6.15pm KARTING @ RACEWORLD Only £140 per kart, up to 6 drivers more than 2 ½ hours of excitement ...book now!

TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 7PM PANTO AT BARNFIELD THEATRE ...NAMES TO Jeff Merrett

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2.30PM EXETER POLICE AND COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT @ HEAVITREE PARISH CHURCH
Helpers needed ..names to JM please

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER JACK IN THE BEANSTALK panto @ The Princess Theatre Torquay Coach Departs from Sainsbury Pinhoe at 11am for a 1pm show. £10 per adult £5 per under 16 years (limited availability for those not carers/clients £15 pp)

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER JACK IN THE BEANSTALK panto @ The Princess Theatre Torquay Coach Departs from Sainsbury Pinhoe at 12 noon for a 2pm show. £10 per adult £5 per under 16 years (limited availability for those not carers/clients £15 pp)

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER JACK IN THE BEANSTALK panto @ The Princess Theatre Torquay Coach Departs from Sainsbury Pinhoe at 12 noon for a 2pm show. £10 per adult £5 per under 16 years (limited availability for those not carers/clients £15 pp)

MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER JACK IN THE BEANSTALK panto @ The Princess Theatre Torquay Coach Departs from Sainsbury Pinhoe at 12 noon for a 2pm show. £10 per adult £5 per under 16 years (limited availability for those not carers/clients £15 pp)

2014 onwards

Charity of the Year for Princesshay (2014 and 2015)

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY 2014 JACK IN THE BEANSTALK panto @ The Princess Theatre Torquay Coach Departs from Sainsbury Pinhoe at 12 noon for a 2pm show. £10 per adult £5 per under 16 years (limited availability for those not carers/clients £15 pp)

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 3PM KICK OFF (EXETER CITY V PORTSMOUTH Help needed with our bucket collection ...names to Lez please

THURSDAY 3RD JULY 2014 LADIES GOLF DAY @ STOVER GOLF CLUB



Why not join Dream-A-Way and celebrate with us our twentieth birthday on the 4th October at Sandy Park from 7pm to Late. A fantastic Three Course Meal, Dance to our Live Band The Lateshift, Magicians, Fun Casino, Entertainment. Money cannot buy Auction. And much more.. Tickets are £45 per person. Contact Jeff on **07796442144** or email events@dream-a-way.org.

www.dream-a-way.org





Dream-A-Way Vice Presidents



When I was looking for a charity to support for my Mayoral Year 2009–10, I kept reading about Dream–A–Way in the Express and Echo. It seemed to tick all of the boxes for me–local, enthusiastic, and of course supporting people less fortunate than ourselves.

Upon meeting the team, I was impressed by the total commitment and professionalism of everyone, and also learned that no member of Dream–A–Way were paid expenses. An added bonus.

The year that I had with Dream–A–Way was simply superb. We had great fun and raised a considerable amount of money. It confirmed for me that I had chosen the right charity.

John and Joelle Winterbottom



PLEASE HELP Dream-A-Way Have proudly launched their Dream-A-Way Helpers Network.

To Help with Bucket collecting, Selling Draw Tickets, Caravan Cleaning, Recycling and Supporting Events. Its free to join and we need you!!Just download the application form from our website or alternatively ring Tina 07947 801303 or Julia 07891 088845



General enquiries: info@dream-a-way.org

General enquiries / Donations: secretary@dream-a-way.org

Contact our Chairman Jeff Merrett MBE: chairman@dream-a-way.org

For fundraising enquiries - Gill: fundraising@dream-a-way.org

Holiday enquiries: holidays@dream-a-way.org

Press stories/articles of interest: press@dream-a-way.org

Website enquiries/feedback: webmaster@dream-a-way.org

Write to us (including donations):

The Secretary - Dream-A-Way
2 Lisa Close
Heavitree
Exeter EX2 5JB

Phone Us:

Chairman - Jeff: 07796 442144



www.dream-a-way.org



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups