



Newsletter

October 2009



Making Dreams Come True

Dream-A-Way is a local registered Charity dedicated to providing holidays and outings to local people of all ages with disabilities and special needs.

Set up in 1993 with volunteers who receive no payment of any kind, we are very proud of the fact that 99p in every pound raised is used directly to help our special guests.

We have raised almost a million pounds and helped thousands of local people.

Visit our web site www.Dream-A-Way.co.uk to see what our new event plans are and come along to join in the fun, knowing that your participation is helping others less fortunate.

A Message From The Chairman



Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Friends of Dream-A-Way newsletter. 2009 is turning out to be an amazing year for Dream-A-Way having been chosen as the Lord Mayor's charity our fundraising has really taken off. During the summer we had numerous successful events including our second Dragon Boat Challenge and our 14th MITIE/Dream-A-Way Golf Classic at Woodbury Park.

This fundraising has enabled us to help even more people and we have just purchased our 8th luxury holiday home at Sandy Bay

The Dream-A-Way future is definitely bright with lots of fundraising events and outings for our special guests and their carers

Thank you for your support and I hope that you find our newsletter interesting and informative
Keep smiling

Jeff

Rotary Draw Tickets

If anyone still has Rotary draw tickets, please can you return them to Jeff by 5th November.

Please return ALL tickets (sold and unsold) plus any cheques (made payable to Dream-A-Way).

Annual General Meeting

The 2009 AGM was attended by The Lord Mayor of Exeter, Councillor John Winterbottom, his wife Joelle, along with the Trustees, Committee and over 50 'Friends of Dream-A-Way'.

This year the event was held in the historic Exeter Guildhall for the first time and we are indebted to Exeter City Council for their hospitality. Following the AGM we held a very enjoyable party at Exeter Timepiece, hosted by George Sloan and Rob Skinner, who also provided a free hog roast.

During the AGM Jeff Merrett, our chairman, spoke about another successful year and announced that we had raised the magnificent sum of £173,000 in 2008. We are hoping that later this year we will achieve our first £1million milestone.

Two new Ambassadors were elected during the AGM: the **BIDDULPH** family, and the **MONTGOMERY** family. This is the first time we have presented 'Family Awards' and they are in recognition of the support Dream-A-Way has received from both these families.

'Certificates Of Thanks' were presented by the Lord Mayor to **Shirley and Stuart HYDE, Anthony BURGESS, Ted MONEY, Glen WILSON and Sharyn BROWN. Barbara and Chris Quick** were also awarded certificates although unfortunately were not available to attend on the day.

Naming Ceremony

On Saturday 9th May 2009 a close group of Committee, friends and supporters of Dream-A-Way were gathered at Devon Cliffs Holiday Park, Sandy Bay in Exmouth, awaiting the arrival of Dream-A-Way Trustee Charlie Thomas.

This was to be the official opening ceremony of our seventh luxury holiday home, named in honour of Charlie in recognition of his efforts as a trustee over 16 years and one of three founding members of Dream-A-Way still with the charity.

We secretly arranged for Charlie to be chauffeured in style to the venue, thanks to local Limousine company, Hollywood Limos and when it arrived at Charlie's house there was a bit of confusion and Charlie attempted to turn his chauffeur away(!). He

was eventually convinced that the ride was in fact for him and it was a well deserved treat to start the day.

Charlie travelled to Devon Cliffs in a white 8-seater limo with partner Edie and members of the Dream-A-Way team. On arrival at the holiday park, Charlie was delivered right to the location of our latest new-for-2009 luxury holiday caravan, the Solstice model made by Willerby, where family and friends greeted him.



After speeches from Dream-A-Way Chairman Jeff Merrett MBE and our Patron Sir John Evans, Charlie said a few words of thanks himself and proceeded to name our seventh luxury holiday caravan "Charlie Thomas", and officially declare it open!

With three bedrooms plus a double sofa bed, the Solstice can sleep up to eight in comfort. It has a fully fitted kitchen with cooker, fridge and microwave etc, lounge and dining area, TV, DVD player and many other features.



Paul Adkins and the Bourne Leisure team at Devon Cliffs Holiday Park kindly laid on a buffet and celebratory drinks in the Owners Exclusive Lounge.

Charlie puts everyone before himself and having this van named after him will allow him in a small way, to continue to do so in the future.

Parties In The Park

We were delighted to be chosen as the charity for Bicton Park's series of summer concerts this year.

The three 'Party In The Park' events were a great success and enjoyed by many people, raising loads of money into the bargain. The weather kept fine and people poured into the wonderful surroundings of Bicton Park, with their picnics.

Our own Jeff Merret was the MC for the evenings, looking very smart and doing a great job as always.

Local band **Limited Company** got the party atmosphere started at the first event, their female vocalists hot-footing it back from X-Factor auditions in Cardiff, with a selection of songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Alongside them were tribute band **Abba Vision**, who really got the crowd up on their feet and singing along.

Max Hutton and BB's Big Band were the second event with many rat-pack favourites. Max crooned the night away and his versions of Oasis' 'Wonderwall' and Queen's 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love' were a real treat.

The final event was a classical **Proms In The Park** event, featuring the **South West Symphonic Wind Orchestra** and hosted by renowned conductors Guy Woolfenden OBE and Dr Laszlo Marosi. The concert featured vocal soloist Helen Evora and who could forget the fantastic voice of 10-year-old Hannah Jewell, who got a standing ovation for her performances.

Flags were waved throughout the evening which culminated in grand firework finale.



A big thank you must go all our volunteer helpers who sold draw tickets and helped with the bucket collections. Also sincere thanks are due to Valerie and Simon Lister, owner of Bicton Gardens, for supporting Dream-A-Way once again.

Midsummer Dream-A-Way Ball

On Sat 20th June over 200 guests joined the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor the Midsummer Night's Dream-A-Way Ball at Sandy Park.



The University of Exeter Jazz Band entertained them, along with Claude the comedy waiter, table magicians and the amazing Soul Agents kindly sponsored by Timepiece. An auction and silent auction took place along with a multi table casino sponsored by MITIE

Exeter School supported the evening by supplying some drama students to entertain the diners dressed as characters from A Midsummer Night's Dream



The evening was hugely successful and raised a magnificent total exceeding £11,000

Chairman Jeff Merrett said "We were honoured to have the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor of Exeter as our guests and remain indebted to MITIE and Timepiece, our main sponsors, all who supported this fantastic event"

2010 will see our "Caribbean" Ball taking place at Sandy Park on Sat 19th June 2010

Please see our web site for details soon

Golf Days

On Fri 11th September, over 100 golfers enjoyed a beautiful summer day at Woodbury Park Golf Club, competing in the 14th annual MITIE/Dream-A-Way Golf Classic

The winning team were Proform from Newton Abbot headed by their Managing Director Mark Harbron, with the MITIE Too team in second place captained by Derrick Sullivan

The superb prize table prepared by David Freeman featured golfing holidays in Andalucia.

The amazing international trick shot golfer Jeremy Dale, sponsored by Westex Forklifts, entertained all the golfers and guests and we are delighted to have booked him to return to Woodbury Park in 2010

Gill Freeman said "This was undoubtedly our best ever golf day and we are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and golfers"

The highlight of the auction were tickets to attend the US Masters at Augusta in April next year

Due to overwhelming support our golf day raised a staggering total exceeding £15,000

Jeff Merrett said "This was an amazing day and we are indebted to everyone at Woodbury Park for making everything so special"

Our fifteenth golf classic will take place at Woodbury Park on Friday 3rd Sep 2010

Summer Fundraising Events

We have had fantastic support throughout the summer with a whole host of events that have raised thousands of pounds for Dream-A-Way, which will enable us to help many more very special people.

The following are a few of the events that have taken place:

- **Summer of Rock 2009 at Exmouth Rugby Club**
- **Exeter Snooker Club & Pub Summer Ball**
- **Bicton Gardens Present Concerts In The Gardens, Proms In The Park Concert with the South West Symphonic Wind Orchestra**
- **Bucket Collections at Sainsburys, Alphington, Exeter**
- **Moose Fun Day at the Imperial, Exmouth**
- **Bicton Gardens Present Concerts In The Gardens, Featuring Max Hutton & BB's Big Band**
- **Crash Box & Classic Car Club - 36th Historic Vehicle Gathering - Powderham Castle**
- **Bicton Gardens Present Concerts In the Gardens with ABBA Vision and**
- **Annual Dream-A-Way Ladies Golf**
- **Mixed Netball Tournament - University Netball Courts, Exeter**
- **St Thomas Gospel Choir presents Motown Sing-along Concert**
- **Firewatch Golf Day at Dainton**

A great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has hosted or taken part in any of these events, it's been a fantastic summer.

Events Roundup Autumn/Winter 2009

Sunday 25th October 2009 11am – 4pm
Wedding Fair at Bicton House

Bicton College will host a wedding Fair at **Bicton House on Sunday 25th October**. Proceeds from this event will benefit Dream-A-Way.

Full info can be found on the [Bicton College website](#)



For further info please contact **Shirley Hill** at **Bicton College** on **01395 562311**

Wednesday 4th November 2009

Around The World With The Lord Mayor - The TWISTED OAK

An innovative fundraising idea in support of **Dream-A-Way**, the Lord Mayor's charity for 2009/2010. Guests are invited to join the Lord Mayor at restaurants around the Exeter area and enjoy cuisine from many different countries of the World. A percentage of the meal cost will be donated to **Dream-A-Way**.

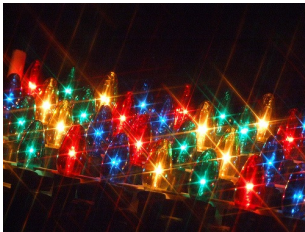
Continuing our series of meals at popular local restaurants:

This event will be held at The Twisted Oak, Little John's Cross, Exeter

The cost of this Three course traditional English meal (with a choice of 3 starters/main/dessert) is just £15 per person.

Tuesday 17th November 2009

Exeter City Centre Christmas Lights Switch-On & Bucket Collection (in aid of Dream-A-Way)



We will be holding a bucket collection on the evening of 17th November during the Exeter City Centre Christmas Lights switch on.

Volunteer Collectors Needed! If you are able to help please contact Jeff via the below:

For further info please contact Jeff on 07796 442144 or chairman@dream-a-way.co.uk

Sunday 6th December Run Santa Run!

We have a new event supported by the Lord Mayor and in association with The Iron Bridge Runner on. We are launching a "Santa Run" with 500 fun runners (only 1 mile) all dressed as Santa!

We need to supply some able bodied stewards for the day (approx 2 hours from 10 until 12 max). If you can help, please let Jeff know.

We do hope you will be able to join us at some of these events and know that you are helping to make a difference. For more details, see our website or email me at events@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

Sunday 6th December Exeter Police and Community Choir Christmas Concert

We have tickets available for our clients to attend this event. Please contact Jeff if you are interested.

Wednesday 9th December

WE Care Christmas trip to Bicton Gardens
Our annual Christmas Lunch for carers

Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th December Cinderella at the Princess Theatre Torquay

There will be two outings to the Princess Theatre Torquay to see this year's pantomime, Cinderella.

Tues 29th December departs from Apple Lane, Exeter at 12 noon.

Weds 30th December departs from Apple Lane at 17.00 for the evening performance.

5th, 6th and 7th January

ELTC Pantomime - Aladin

We have tickets available for this classic panto, at Exeter Barnfield Theatre. Oh-no-you haven't? Oh – YES – we do!

If you would like to go, please contact Jeff.

Coming soon ... Exeter Police and Hospital Players proudly present their version of **Cinderella** (with Chairman Jeff and new committee member Darren the Ugly Sisters) **Starts Monday 25th January until Sat 30th January 2010** ...tickets will be available shortly.

Dream-A-Way Dragon Boat Race Challenge 2009

Our second annual Dragon Boat Race Challenge was held on Exeter Quay on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August 2009.

The Lord Mayor of Exeter Councillor John Winterbottom and his wife Joelle officially opened the event.

14 teams consisting of 16 rowers and a drummer entered the event with each competing in three heats to determine the Semi Finalists.



This year's teams were:

- **Break-A-Ways**
- **Woodheads**

- Organic Development / TBX1
- John Gandys
- Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre Team 1
- Projuice Paraquatics
- On The Waterfront
- Dream-A-Way / Bath Travel
- Timepiece Nightclub
- St David's Dragon Slayers
- Mighty MITIE
- Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre Team 2
- Wessex Rugby Club
- The Glorious Grecians

Each entrant pledged to raise at least £50 in sponsorship. We are proud to say many exceeded this target with ease!

The best two times from the three heats were then added together and the top 4 went through to the Semi Finals.



The winners of the Semi Finals then went head to head for an exciting final.

Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre Teams 1 & 2, On The Waterfront and Mighty MITIE made it through to the Semi Finals.

The final was a close-run battle between Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre Team 1 and On The Waterfront, with the Haven Banks team winning by less than 0.3 of a second!

Draw Prizes

We often have prize draws at our events and they are always a good fund-raiser. If you have any items that would make good draw prizes, we can always make good use of them.

Dream-A-Way Needs Your Stories!

Have you had a Dream-A-Way holiday? Have you organised a fundraising event? We'd like to update our website with stories of success, so please send your pictures and brief details to info@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

Way.co.uk or post them to our secretary (details above).

How To Contact Dream-A-Way

Write To Us (including donations)

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

Phone Us

Chairman: 01392 823998 /
Jeff Merrett MBE 07796 442144

Fundraising : 07979 854203
Gill Freeman

Friends 01392 677585
Coordinator:
Denise Fardon

Email Us

General enquiries: info@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

General enquiries / Donations: secretary@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

Contact our Chairman, Jeff Merrett MBE: chairman@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

For fundraising enquiries - Gill: fundraising@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

For events: Gill or Jeff events@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

For Friends enquiries - Denise: friends@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

Holiday enquiries:
Please ensure you have read the information in the [holidays section](#) of our website holidays@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

Press stories: press@Dream-A-Way.co.uk

Website feedback: webmaster@Dream-A-Way.co.uk