

Chief Barker's Annual Report | 2023

Variety has been facing challenging times this year with the ever-rising costs of food and fuel bills which is affecting so many people. Also, Christmas is such a difficult time for so many people and we are humbled to think of the small part we played to help so many families. Variety at Work has been kept very busy as you could imagine, especially with the primary school uniforms which are so expensive and a lot of families find it so difficult to meet these costs. This will come up later in my report.

Patronages

Variety is honoured to have His Excellency Admiral Jerry Kyd CBE BSc PGDi, the Lt. Governor of Jersey and his wife Dr Karen Kyd as Patrons as well as our Bailiff, Sir Timothy Le Cocq, who has been our Patron since 2020. I am delighted that Lady Le Cocq has now also agreed to be a Patron.

The Bailiff, Sir Timothy has given the following statement:



"It is an honour to be a Patron for Variety, Jersey's Children's Charity. This Charity was first started in 1968 and is renowned for the wonderful work that they do for children in Jersey. To keep the anonymity of all they help, the Charity cannot actively promote what they do however, what I can say on their behalf is they do so with hearts of gold."

Variety Staff

Unfortunately this year, we said goodbye to Carole who had been our Secretary for over 15 years. Carole retired due to health issues and all of us at Variety want to wish her well and hope that she makes a full recovery. We welcomed Tracy Curtis in September as a part time Secretary and she has fitted in so well and seems to have become very involved with Variety already. Sonia is our other Secretary who has been with us for over 26 years and is the backbone of Variety she has put in many extra hours this year to help us through difficult times. This year we decided to employ a part time Fundraiser and we welcomed Kim Noble in March. Kim has taken Variety very much to her heart and works over and above what she is paid for. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful staff who all are very committed to Variety. A huge thank you for all your assistance this year.

Let me tell you of some of the events that we have held:

Grand Raffle

Elder Statesman Andy Le Marquand promoted this and along with the Fundraiser and the ladies we were selling tickets every weekend in town. The Fundraiser organised for the selling of tickets in so many places and events and Andy had the brilliant idea to sell the tickets through various outlets throughout the Island and remarkably approximately £74,000 was made for Variety after all the expenses had been paid out. Well done Andy for taking on this, what an achievement. The Grand Raffle was drawn by the Bailiff at the Christmas Lunch at St Brelade's Bay Hotel. The winner of the first prize, didn't want publicity but it has made a huge difference to their lives.

Golf Day

At the beginning of October, the Annual Golf Day was held, Andrew Videgrain took over the reigns on the day as Elder Statesman Chris Robin was away. There were 22 teams and approximately £10,000 was made, what a fantastic achievement, well done to all who helped. The success of the day would not be possible without Hawk Group sponsoring the event each year, so a huge thanks must go to Bob and Robert Morton. The date for next year has already been fixed for Friday, 4th October, 2024.

Children's Parties

This year we decided to bring back the Summer Party, this was so popular and it was held at the Ambassador Hotel where 96 children attended. DJ Lummy was so popular and had the children dancing and the very popular Hoops and Glitter provided the entertainment along with glitter face-painting. The children really enjoyed a superb buffet lunch followed by delicious Jersey Ice Cream kindly donated by Barker Stuart Young, Spiral Ice. Thank you to Alison from Alisons Hallmark Jersey for sponsoring the balloons. The Christmas party was held at the Hotel de Normandie, to whom we are so grateful for sponsoring this again. Over 50 deserving children attended, they had a fantastic time, again DJ Lummy provided the disco music and the big build-up was waiting for Father Christmas to arrive, the excitement was wonderful and the children all received presents from Santa, thanks to the Jersey Christmas Appeal and Bambola Jersey. There were some very happy and tired children at the end of the party, it was a great start to Christmas. A huge Thank You to Jeanette Pinel for again taking on the organisation and for all the help from the Ladies of Variety and not forgetting Father Christmas!



Funfair

Approximately 200 invitations were given out to take children to the Funfair, this is all thanks to James Cole and his wife who organised for the Funfair to be open just for the children 2 hours before they actually opened to the public. All the people working at the fair gave their time free to give the children the most memorable time. A lot of these children wouldn't normally be able to attend because of the crowds, loud music and lights. Before the children went home they were treated to burgers or hot dogs, thanks to the generous sponsorship from the Rotary Club of Jersey. Here are just a few comments from parents:

"Great memories made with the whole family that we will treasure forever"

"Please pass on a massive heartfelt thanks to Variety for organising such a fantastic event".

Ladies of Variety

The Ladies of Variety are such hardworking ladies and can always be relied upon to help at various events, especially the raffle ticket selling. Mary Moody is still in the chair as their President, she does an excellent job and she has a good committee to support her. They hold successful monthly lunches and continue to raise excellent money, special thanks to Eileen Le Cuirot at Crème, as she makes an amazing amount of money selling good second hand jewellery.

Margaret Farley

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Margaret sadly passed away at the end of the year. Margaret was a former Lady President and was an inspiration to me, she was a great mentor. She was a very generous lady and for many years she sponsored the Christmas Lunch. RIP dear Margaret.

Variety at Work

Final figures for the year - 547 families with 898 children - amounting to £121,289

The Chairmen are Glen Hamel and



Chris Robin and they have to make a lot of difficult decisions throughout the year, it was decided not to supply white goods or large items as it was thought necessary that we should continue to support the disadvantaged families with food, clothing and primary school uniforms and shoes. This year the requests for school uniforms increased. I have had several conversations with the Minister of Education in relation to the costs of the uniforms as they are causing a lot of concern for many families. Again Variety has had a lot of media attention over this on the radio, tv and in the JEP, which has helped to raise the profile of the charity. The latest news on this is that it is being taken seriously and being looked at for 2024. Variety also provided many items to Womens Refuge who we work very closely with.

and to those who took part in the Golf Day. Also thanks for the fantastic contribution of toys from Channel 103's Toy and Gift Appeal supported by Ravenscroft and Apex for their wonderful donation of toys from all the staff.



very special meadow in Grouville. It was a very emotional time as Mrs Ellie Rotheram and her family attended, I had the honour of unveiling the plaque with Ellie. The Connetable of Grouville Mark Labey, said a few words of welcome before the unveiling. Also in attendance were Maggie Esson who has been responsible for getting this area made so special with her hardworking team of helpers. Also in attendance was Nichola Turner – Headteacher of Grouville School and Peter Le Cuirot the Parish Procureur and the newest Trustee of the McGugan Family Trust. The area is an all-inclusive nature reserve which is fabulous. It has quiet areas like dens, camp fires, and it really is returning to nature and Variety is so proud to be part of this project. The McGugan Family Trust was formed in May 2019 in memory of the late Arthur McGugan and his family kindly gifted the meadow to the Trust. It was an emotional day but so special. A small reception followed in one of the dens.



Plat Douet School

I was honoured to be invited to the school's assembly and to collect a wonderful donation of £300 from the House Captains of Cole House. I was made so welcome and was invited to speak to the children about the work that Variety does, it was a lovely morning. A huge thank you to Cole House for choosing Variety as their Charity.

Christmas Presents

This year Variety has given out nearly 400 presents to many primary schools who have children who get very little and we try to make their Christmas special, this is the largest delivery to date. Thanks to Andrew Videgrain who has not only overseen this initiative but his son Jacob and his friend Steve Ashton have raised over £2,500 by running in Jersey's Marathon. Also thanks to Brian Godfray who raised money for Variety by completing the gruelling 100km Petra Walk. Donations have also been gratefully received from Mitchell's Building Contractors



Boardwalk

On a lovely Saturday morning in June, myself and Glen Hamel attended an event to commemorate a plaque which was unveiled in memory of the late Elder Statesman Jim Rotheram at a



Variety Sailing Trust

Paul Pinel is the Chairman for this which gives so many sailing opportunities to local children and young people in Jersey. Each year, hundreds are able to enjoy and benefit from the experience of going afloat under sail, all free of charge. The 38 foot catamaran called "The Vernon Lilford Spirit of Variety" which was sponsored by the late Lord Lilford's estate, was built in Poland in 2007 and

initially managed by Education within the Trust. The Variety Sailing Trust, incorporated 30 years ago in 1993, now works in partnership with Praxis who provide sponsorship for the operating costs. Variety is always willing to support this fantastic catamaran in any way, as it so important for so many. A big thank you to Paul for all the time and effort he puts into this, making it more productive and the success it is today.



Simply Christmas

Again this year, Variety was chosen as the charity for this event which ran for 3 weeks, from the end of November. Paul Pinel took over the organisation of this where the raffle consisted of 3 hampers filled with donated items from all the stallholders with all the proceeds coming to Variety. We needed so many volunteers to make this a success, so a big thank you to all who have helped. Approximately, £3,000 has been raised.

500 Club

The tickets have been on sale since the beginning of December and I'm delighted to say that all the tickets have been sold.

Crew

Having an Executive Committee, which consists of senior members of Crew including Elder Statemen has been very constructive – it has been so helpful to me as the Chief Barker to have this support.

Secondly, thanks to all my Crew, for all their support during the year. I did

say that last year would be my last but I was voted in again at the end of the EGM but we could do with some new blood in the future. I'm pleased to say that again Glen Hamel has agreed to be our 1st Assistant, he is so helpful and I know I can rely upon him for his guidance. Our Dough Guy, Andrew de la Haye, has unfortunately stepped down his reporting has always been excellent and so easy to read. I am pleased to report that the new Dough Guy will be Andrew Videgrain. I am looking forward to working with the 2024 Crew and hope that the year will be a really productive one. In 2024 we hope to run campaigns to increase our membership by running pop ups in various places to tell the story of Variety and to tell of the wonderful work that we do. A huge thank you to all my Crew for their support throughout 2023.

Date for your Diary

Sunday, 18th February - Mixed Lunch at the Anchor Club

Friday, 2nd August, 2024 – Variety's Cirque du Jersey to be held at the RJHS – an Extravaganza not to be missed. Please contact the Variety Office for more information.

I would like to wish you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you again for all your support without you we wouldn't be as successful as we are. But please do remember that we need your help with volunteering to make our events successful.

Sandra Auckland, Chief Barker

Please support Variety by using the Co-operative Society share number 152.

Association of Jersey Charities No: 014
Jersey Charity Commission registration No: 181



www.varietyjersey.org.je



Remember Your Help Gives Hope - Children are our future - Help us to make Dreams come true.