

## NEWS

Holidays for Heroes may have to move out in a week

# Out-of-town premises needed for charity shop

by Toby Chiang

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A JERSEY organisation that has helped hundreds of injured soldiers has launched an appeal for new premises for its charity shop.

Holidays for Heroes Jersey will soon need to leave its Chateau Plaisir building in St Ouen, following the sale of the property.

For almost two years the organisation has run a charity shop from the site, which is at the northern end of the Five Mile Road, raising more than £200,000 in the process.

The charity, which offers holidays in Jersey to injured soldiers and their families, was given use of the building rent-free on the basis that their stay would only be temporary.

It is now thought that the sale of the building could be completed next week.

Charity worker Richard Woodhouse, who co-founded Holidays for Heroes Jersey with his wife Dawn, said the organisation was immensely grateful for DTR Ltd's generosity, but that they needed to find a new site as soon as possible.

Mr Woodhouse said he would like to hear from anyone who had an unused shed, barn or other building out of town that could be transformed into a charity shop with room for parking.

He said that they required at least 5,000 square feet for the shop and that the charity also had an immediate



Shop manager Jane Werrin, Richard and Dawn Woodhouse of Holidays for Heroes Picture: TONY PIKE (5406123)

need for short-term storage space

'In truth, we might have to sacrifice our entire current stock if the purchaser wants vacant possession right away,' he said. 'All stock will now be at half price, as we have to reduce our stock urgently.'

'Over the last two years we've raised over £200,000 in total. £100,000 a year is half of our expenditure, so it's a vital part of our operation.'

'This will be another record-breaking year, with 395 holidays booked,

which is why it costs more than £200,000 to run.

'After almost two years of wonderful fundraising, Chateau Plaisir is being sold and we are looking for a new charity shop premises.'

The shop has been run and managed by Jane Werrin, who set up the Jersey Hospice charity shop that has flourished in St Ouen.

She will continue to be involved with the charity if a new premises can be found.

Mr Woodhouse added: 'I would like to sincerely thank DTR Ltd and Mel Coutanche, who has been a site manager.'

'If there is anybody out there with a site out of town – perhaps a shed or a barn – we would love to hear from them.'

Anyone who might be able to help Holidays for Heroes Jersey can call Mr Woodhouse on 856658 or make contact through [www.hols4heroesjersey.org.je](http://www.hols4heroesjersey.org.je).

## Letter from a holiday visitor

• From Stephen Tyson.

AFTER a period of more than 20 years I have returned to visit Jersey via the Holiday for Heroes charity. I can say without exaggeration that I am pleasantly surprised at their care and consideration.

This has come at a time when I am recovering from cancer and physical injuries, and bereavement.

The journey here (with a family carer) was or is sponsored or paid for by a great effort of fundraising, the majority by Dawn and Richard Woodhouse. The stay is a week, enabling a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to do what it says on the tin: have a holiday.

Now, two days into the reality, I am aware of the attention to detail staff and supporters put into each day. I am aware how there is a dedicated charity shop on the coast road here, and how the black Holidays for Heroes t-shirts are becoming well noticed.

I would like to thank Holidays for Heroes and appeal to readers to support it in their own way, since this is an Island charity.

c/o Maison des Landes Hotel, Route des Landes, St Ouen.

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