

Media Release

WHEELPOWER ANNOUNCES STOKE MANDEVILLE STADIUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/07/2019 00:01

WheelPower, the national charity for Wheelchair Sport, today announces the 50th anniversary celebrations for the world renowned, Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Aylesbury which will take place at the athletics arena on Friday 2nd August from 2pm-6pm.

WheelPower is inviting volunteers from past and present, to attend a Garden Party at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, which is recognised as the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, as a way of expressing the Charity's gratitude for all their help and to acknowledge their services and celebrate 50 years since the facilities were opened by Her Majesty The Queen.

Solie Mokienko, 50th Anniversary Event Organiser, comments: *'We would love to have as many of the volunteers here with us on the day to celebrate 50 years of Stoke Mandeville Stadium. There have been so many successful events over the years and that success is down to the many wonderful volunteers. I can't wait to hear their stories and see their photographs! There will be an afternoon Garden Party serving drinks, sandwiches and cake. All guests are welcome to bring a picnic blanket and share stories from their volunteering experiences at the Stadium or supporting WheelPower.'*

WheelPower's CEO, Martin McElhatton comments, *'Dr Guttman recognised the need for additional facilities as the Stoke Mandeville Games grew and they moved to the Stadium site in the 1950's. In 1969 the original Stadium was built and in 2003 WheelPower, supported by the National Lottery through Sport England and the Sporting Chance Appeal improved the facilities with a £10.2 million redevelopment. Over the years the Stadium has hosted many major sporting events including the 1984 Paralympic Games. Events at the Stadium have relied on the support of our incredible volunteers and we are delighted to be hosting this Garden Party to thank them for their support and recognise their contribution to the charity and the Stadium.'*

Volunteers from past to present will be at the event to share their stories and experiences.

If you or a family member have volunteered for WheelPower or at Stoke Mandeville Stadium we would love to have you at the celebrations! Please contact the WheelPower Team on info@wheelpower.org.uk

-ENDS-

...and we are all together again...

WheelPower, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Guttman Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9PP
Tel: 01296 395995 Email: info@wheelpower.org.uk www.wheelpower.org.uk

Notes to Editor:

WheelPower

Requests the pleasure of your company to the

STOKE MANDEVILLE STADIUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN PARTY

Friday 2nd August 2019, 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Stoke Mandeville Stadium

Guttmann Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire HP21 9PP

In partnership with More Leisure Trust.

DETAILS

Refreshments: Drinks, sandwiches & cake

Parking: From 2pm - 6pm there is ample free parking at the Stadium.

Dress: Casual

Please do bring a picnic blanket

RSVP: by 24 July 2019 to info@wheelpower.org.uk

Images



transforming lives through sport

WheelPower, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Guttmann Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9PP
Tel: 01296 395995 Email: info@wheelpower.org.uk www.wheelpower.org.uk

Stoke Mandeville hosted the first Games in 1948, on the lawns of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to link with the 1948 Olympic Games in London. Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann organised an archery competition for just 16 paralysed men and women war veterans.

“If I ever did one good thing in my medical career it was to introduce sport into the treatment and rehabilitation of disabled people,” commented Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann.

The Stoke Mandeville Games for wheelchair athletes began and the Paralympic movement was born.

These games later became the Paralympic Games in 1960, in Rome, Italy.

Today, that Paralympic Games is the world's biggest sports event for disabled athletes. 4,432 athletes from 159 nations competed in 528 different events in 22 different sports at the 2016 Rio Summer Paralympic Games.

From humble beginnings in the late 1940s at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann encouraged wounded veterans to play sport as an aid to rehabilitation from spinal injury. This led to local competitions, to the Stoke Mandeville Games and to the Paralympic Games which today attracts national and international public support and interest.

Stoke Mandeville Stadium developed out of the Stoke Mandeville Games — the forerunner of the Paralympic Games — founded in 1948 by Sir Ludwig Guttmann.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW, OR TO ATTEND THIS EVENT:

Contact:

Carolyn Fray

Marketing, Communications & Engagement Officer

WheelPower

Email: carolyn.fray@wheelpower.org.uk

T: 01296 395995

W: www.wheelpower.org.uk

Transforming lives through sport

WheelPower, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Guttmann Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, HP21 9PP
Tel: 01296 395995 Email: info@wheelpower.org.uk www.wheelpower.org.uk