

A man is sitting in a specialized beach wheelchair on a sandy beach. He is wearing a dark green jacket, dark blue trousers, black gloves, and a colorful knit beanie. He has a wide, joyful smile, showing his teeth. The wheelchair has large, light blue, treaded wheels and a smaller black wheel at the back. He is holding a white and red patterned bag in his left hand. The background shows the ocean with waves breaking on the shore. The text "FLEETWOOD BEACH WHEELCHAIRS" is overlaid in the top right corner.

FLEETWOOD BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

CONTENTS

Chair of Trustees report	3
Becoming a registered charity	3
Preparing for wheels on the beach	4
Making memories!	5
Summary	7
Thank you to our partners	8
Financial report	10
Income & Expenditure 2020 - 2021	10
Balance Sheet 2020 - 2021	11
Independent examiner's report	12
Gallery of images	13
Feedback	14
Officers and contact details	15

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES REPORT

I am pleased, and somewhat relieved, to be completing this, the first Annual Report of our charity, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs. I hope it conveys the amazing journey we have taken over the last 18 months or so and the exciting plans we look forward to progressing in the future.

Becoming a registered charity ...

Our registration as a Charity was confirmed on 11th February 2020 in an email from the Charity Commission to say that we met all the necessary criteria. This was wonderful news as many of you will recall we only formed the current steering group in November 2019.

At this point we had achieved our initial targets:

- securing funds of £5,000 and the opening of a bank account
- the appointment of trustees and the agreement of a constitution

Prior to having access to our own funds, our modest set up costs were covered by a donation from **Healthier Fleetwood**. As we formally set out on our journey, **The Haldane Trust** had confidence in us and granted us the initial funding which covered the cost of our first ever chair, the three-wheel Hippocampe.

As anyone associated with a charity will know, opening an appropriate bank account is essential but not straightforward, further complicated by the impact of the COVID pandemic. **The Rotary Club of Fleetwood** rescued us by temporarily acting as our 'bank' while we opened our own, independent account.

Preparing for wheels on the beach ...

With generous funding from Rotary District 1190 (Cumbria & Lancashire) and Fleetwood Rotary Club we obtained our second chair, a Sandcruiser, which arrived in August.

We needed to find appropriate premises, close to the beach, with easy access, good parking, hot and cold water and, ideally, toilet facilities. Just such a property was available, the former 'kite shop' in the block close to the beach huts, approximately 200m from Marine Hall. Working with the landlords, Wyre Council, we were able to agree legal terms for a contract and a rent and our thanks to Council officers involved for their invaluable support and expertise.

Having a home, now named 'The Wheel Base', was the spark that we needed. A small and socially-distanced band of volunteers spent a week cleaning, painting and furnishing the premises to get them ready for operations.

Policies and procedures were agreed by the Trustees, insurance for the premises, equipment and public liability was confirmed and an appeal for volunteers was met with a great response!

With opening day approaching we launched our dedicated freephone telephone number **03000 111 003** to manage inquiries and bookings. Using our social media accounts and the local press we announced that we would open soon. A post on Facebook in the week before we officially launched the service reached over 400,000 people and was shared more than 3,000 times - demonstrating the incredible level of interest and goodwill that we have received throughout.

Making memories ...

We welcomed our first visitors on Saturday 12th September, of course observing the COVID guidelines for hygiene and social distancing at all times.

From the start the reaction was amazing. The smiles, laughter and lovely comments from those using the chairs, and their families and friends is exactly why we wanted to set up Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs. Many said this was the first time in years, or even in their lives they had been able to spend time on the beach with their loved ones.

Our opening hours were Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 4pm, with requests for a chair outside those times, covered by volunteers as required. It is our intention to work towards a 7-days a week service, subject to the weather conditions and the on-going COVID restrictions.

By mid-September our fleet of chairs had doubled to four following a generous grant from **Fleetwood Town Council** which enabled us to order a second Sandcruiser chair and a smaller Sandpiper chair, great for children. We have built up a great working relationship with our supplier **Ross Handling**, and look forward to working with them on expanding our range in the future

We also have a MoLift 205 hoist to assist the safe transfer of people between chairs, removing another obstacle to being able to access the beach. Within two weeks of launch, the family of one of our visitors, **Amy-Rose Brown**, set up a fund-raising page on our behalf which soon reached its target and we were able to order a Firefly Go To seat insert, a very popular and useful accessory.

Further kind donations from the public were gratefully received and with careful management and negotiation, we were able to order a 5th chair, a DeBug which arrived in October.

By now Fleetwood was under Tier 3 restrictions and the service was adapted as appropriate. In effect from this time on we have not been able to operate the service to the level we would have wished. With the health of our visitors and volunteers a priority, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs is suspended while the lockdown continues.

Work does go on behind the scenes. Volunteers continue to carry out security checks on the premises and maintenance on the chairs to ensure we comply with our obligations as a tenant and for the insurance policies.

Support for the service also remains strong and as the new year began we were thrilled to accept another kind donation, this time from **The Rotary Club of Blackpool Palatine** which allowed us to order a sixth chair, a DeBug EZ Roller.

At the time of writing our 7th chair, another Sandpiper, is en-route. The cost of this equipment has been provided by a successful bid to **Sport England / Active Lancashire** for projects which help disadvantaged members of the community enjoy outdoor activities for their health and wellbeing.

When we can operate again, our intention is to rotate our fleet of seven chairs so as to enable us to put six chairs on the beach for public use and have a seventh chair as an eye-catching demonstrational and promotional opportunity to support our fundraising and public awareness activities.

Summary

We set ourselves several goals and I am delighted to say that in our first year we have achieved many of them ahead of schedule:

- we have a secure and practical venue to operate from
- we have an extensive fleet of chairs, suitable for a wide range of needs
- we are financially sound, sufficient to cover our operating costs for the next 12 months
- we are building relationships with local authorities, organisations and businesses that will underpin our plans for the future
- we have an amazing cohort of volunteers who, when the restrictions ease, cannot wait to welcome our visitors again
- we have the tremendous sense of just how important our service is, changing lives and making memories

As we look to the future the Trustees will ensure the charity remains true to our aims and is financially viable. We want to expand the range of facilities and opportunities available to individuals with disability and their families. We will raise awareness of issues affecting those living with disability and will establish partnerships encouraging more visitors to Fleetwood in a post-COVID world.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to my fellow Trustees, the many volunteers, our partners, suppliers, everyone who has made a donation and of course our wonderful visitors who make everything so worthwhile. Thank you all.

Michael Gray

Chair of Trustees, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

February 2021

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

We have several organisations to thank for the healthy and optimistic position we find ourselves in today ...

North Berwick Beach Wheelchairs & Beach Access North East

There are around a dozen locations in the UK offering beach wheelchairs, two groups in particular have been incredibly helpful and supportive in our journey. North Berwick, near Edinburgh is possibly the most well-established group and their officers have provided advice and practical support from the start - even sharing their logo with us! Whitley Bay-based Beach Access North East has also given us the benefit of their first-hand experience of setting up a beach wheelchairs service. We would not be where we are now without the assistance of both these wonderful organisations.

Rotary Club of Fleetwood

Our chair of trustees, Michael Gray, is a member of Fleetwood's proactive Rotary Club and from his initial presentation they have encouraged and supported him to research and establish the charity. The Club made a substantial donation towards the cost of a chair, and many Rotarians also volunteer their time and goodwill for Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs. This support is invaluable.

Fleetwood Town Council

A large donation from the Town Council's Community Fund supported the purchase of three chairs in our fleet. Two of our trustees are also local Councillors, passionate about making Fleetwood a better place to live, work in and to visit. The support of the Town Council ensures the charity is always closely linked to the community.

Wyre Council

Securing suitable premises was always essential to the founding and the long-term success of Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs. Wyre Council has worked closely with us with the leasing of our 'Wheel Base' headquarters just a few metres from the Promenade. Officers of the Council have continued to provide their expertise and support despite the demands of the pandemic.

Healthier Fleetwood

The first organisation approached to get the idea off the ground was Healthier Fleetwood, a not-for-profit organisation with a remit to "connect the community". They helped form the initial steering group and much of the administration and marketing has been overseen by officers of Healthier Fleetwood, as well as contacts to potential funders and partners.

Ross Handling

A beach wheelchair is a specialised piece of equipment, well-engineered, reliable and robust, and of course designed to give easy and comfortable access to the beach and other difficult terrain. We are pleased to be partnering with Ross Handling as our preferred supplier and look forward to working with them in the future, taking advantage of developments in the technology and their range of products.

Baxter Life Care Ltd

This family-run business provides a range of value-for-money social care services across the Fylde Coast. The company supports us with their expertise and advice, and has provided specialist equipment for the use of our visitors. We are also delighted to welcome Baxter Life Care Ltd as our website sponsors which will open up discussion with other potential partners.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs - Charity Number: 1187870

Income & Expenditure for the year ended 10 February 2021

Fixed Assets	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Income Funds £	Total Funds £
Income			
Donations	15,663		15,663
Grants		11,234	11,234
Total Income	15,663	11,234	26,897
Expenditure			
Advertising	251		251
Equipment	5,366	9,976	15,342
Insurance	1,089		1,089
Legal Costs	605		605
Maintenance & Repairs	2,046		2,046
Stationery	26		26
Total Expenditure	9,383	9,976	19,359
Net Income	6,280	1,258	7,538

FINANCIAL REPORT


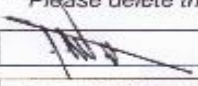
Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs - Charity Number: 1187870

Balance Sheet for the year ended 10 February 2021

Fixed Assets	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Income Funds £	Total Funds £
Beach Wheelchairs	4,504	9,976	14,480
Accum. Depreciation	0	0	0
Total Fixed Assets	4,504	9,976	14,480
 Current Assets			
Bank	5,846	1,258	7,104
Debtors	434	0	434
Total Current Assets	5,846	1,258	7,538
 Current Liabilities			
Creditors	0	0	0
Net Current Liabilities	0	0	0
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	11,234	10,350	21,584

FINANCIAL REPORT

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES		Independent examiner's report on the accounts	
Section A Independent Examiner's Report			
Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs		
On accounts for the year ended	10 th February 2021	Charity no (if any)	1187870
Set out on pages	Pages 1 and 2 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		
	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 10/02/2021.		
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.		
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. * Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.		
Signed:			Date: 2 nd March 2021
Name:	James Christopher Wight		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	-		
Address:	27 Limebrest Avenue Thornton Cleveleys FY5 5AT		

GALLERY



These images, and the photo of Matt on the cover of this report, say far more than any words can about the benefits of our service and the simple joy of being on the beach.

Feedback

Just some of the comments we have received from visitors to Fleetwood ...

"Had a brilliant time, threw stones into the sea for the first time. Loved the water, touching the waves. All said, Matthew loved the chair!"

"Wonderful experience that gave my husband a sense of freedom and a unique experience."

"Thank you for making Archie's day amazing!"

"Felt like normality being able to get down to the sea. Brilliant idea. Will visit again! Keep it up, good luck."

"Great to be able to go onto beach with the grandchildren."

"Fabulous! First time on the beach for 22 years."

"Fantastic day. Ellie loved the chair, easy to use and very comfortable. The staff were excellent and very helpful."

"Sarah really enjoyed her time on the beach and she will definitely be back!"

"Fabulous day out on the beach. Amazing to have this available to access the beach when otherwise we'd be sat on the side. My 11 year old son loved it as did his family. Fantastic experience. Loved it. Will be back. Thanks."

"Brilliant. Never used one before and Thomas absolutely loved it. Fantastic, thank you for setting this up."

"Amazing to have the chance to get to the water's edge. It was bliss."

"First time on the beach at 24 years old! Fantastic service."

From our official opening date in September 2020 to the suspension of service due to the COVID restrictions we have welcomed over 50 visitors to use the beach wheelchairs.

TRUSTEES & OFFICERS

Chair:	Michael Gray
Vice-Chair:	Lorraine Beavers
Treasurer:	Julie Sandham
Secretary & digital / marketing:	David Gore
Trustee & volunteer officer:	Janet Simpson
Trustee & press officer:	Malcolm Lewis
Trustee:	Cheryl Raynor
Trustee:	Karen Murdoch
Trustee:	Reece Slater

CHARITY REGISTRATION & CONTACTS

Registered charity:	No. 1187870
Registered address:	48 Rossall Promenade, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 1LP
E-mail address:	fleetwoodbeachwheelchairs@outlook.com
Website:	www.fleetwoodbeachwheelchairs.co.uk
Facebook:	@FleetwoodBW
Twitter:	@FBWheelchairs