

FLEETWOOD BEACH WHEELCHAIRS



**ANNUAL REPORT
2022**

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Chair Of Trustees Report

It gives me great pleasure to be able to give my Annual Report as Chair of the Trustees of Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs. We are fast becoming the benchmark Service against which all other beach wheelchair services will be judged. We have been consulted for advice and help from areas across the Country and that is mainly due to the hard work of our volunteers and the comments and suggestions made by our users. As requests for additional equipment or improved practices are made, we attempt as far as possible to adopt them. This has added to the provision we offer and we are always keen to improve.

Our achievements have been recognised by the granting of a Rotary “Champions of Change” award for our Chair, winning the Accessible and Inclusive Tourism category of the Lancashire Tourism Awards and we have been mentioned in the Houses of Parliament by our Member of Parliament, Cat Smith, in an Early Day Motion. As a result of winning in the Lancashire Tourism Awards, we have been entered into the VisitEngland National Awards of Excellence in the same category. This is some achievement for a small charity, pitted against businesses and we have only been registered for two years, and operational for about fifteen months due to the Covid 19 restrictions. We are very proud to have been so successful in such a short time.

Our aim to achieve and operate three different chairs within three years has been exceeded to the extent that we now have ten chairs achieved in a year of rather interrupted operations. Our chairs incorporate five different models with a variety of additional equipment. We have also upgraded our hoist to a Molift Mover 205 as a result of a generous grant from Fleetwood Town Council.

As we emerged from “Lock-down” our users grew in number from far and wide and so did our volunteers. Whilst recruiting and retaining volunteers is a constant struggle, we do rely on a number of regulars who faithfully turn out to provide our

Service. All our volunteers are mentored and undergo induction training and work in little groups of two or three. Our Wheel Base Headquarters provides a happy and welcoming centre to work from and we make it as comfortable as possible with a sink, microwave, fridge and kettle. We have gazebos for the sun and a happy atmosphere.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I have outlined the recognition we have received earlier. We have still not had one full year of operations, so it is difficult to forward-plan our next moves, so consolidating our current position is the priority for the present. Our position with opening at the moment is much as it was in the early stages of the “Lock-down” and we are opening by appointment until the better weather of March arrives. However, we will always turn out a team to staff the Wheel Base on request, regardless of the weather, if it is safe to do so. We are always at the end of the Freephone telephone if wanted.

You may rest assured that whatever Government guidance is, or becomes, we will continue to maintain our strict sanitisation and hygiene procedures.

We are working hard to meet the needs of our users and our nine Trustees meet each month on the day after the monthly servicing of our chairs by our mechanical engineer, John Brimelow.

Our partnerships are strong. We remain with our preferred supplier Ross Handling and in fact Ross himself has been to see us and has seen how we use his products. He has taken away ideas from the users who benefit so much from these products.

Although David Gore has left the Trustees to concentrate on his professional work we retain our links to Healthier Fleetwood and enjoy coverage and mention in their publications.

Once again Beverley and Dean Baxter of Baxter Life Care Ltd have kindly supported us in providing the funding for our web-site.

Our contacts with our landlord, Wyre Borough Council, are strong and we continue to benefit from close contact with Fleetwood Town Council who, as mentioned, generously granted us funds to replace our hoist which had come to the end of its useful service.

Dave Whitworth, who operates the Café, which is part of the complex within which we are sited, remains a good friend to us having purchased for us a large colourful sign advertising our presence and being of good service to our visitors.

The future looks good, we are getting known Nationally and we are enjoying offering our Service to all our visitors.

Michael Gray

Chair of Trustees, Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

February 2022

Volunteer Officer's Report

Our volunteer workforce continues to grow, and we now have somewhere in the region of 35 people who are in the Volunteers' WhatsApp group and therefore receive messages when we require cover for bookings. Some of our volunteers are regulars who will turn out on a weekly basis and others are casual volunteers who come to the Wheel Base when other commitments allow. Huge support is given by the Rotary Clubs of Fleetwood and Blackpool Palatine together with volunteers from Accrington and Furness Peninsula Rotary Clubs.

I was very encouraged recently when I put out a request for help in removing sand from around the Wheel Base building following recent storms. We had help from our regular volunteers, plus others not involved with Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs, all of whom were eager to assist. If ever we have another crisis, I'm sure that our friends would be there again if we asked for help. We are becoming very popular in the hearts of many people and the local community is helping us to succeed in our efforts to make family memories on our beautiful beach.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team, and after completing an application form and the taking up references, a full training programme and induction is given. Volunteers will then join our experienced team for a few shifts until they become a confident member. As a result, new friendships are made while helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Janet Simpson
Volunteer Officer

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, together with Rotary District 1190, 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.

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 was overseen by David Gore of Healthier Fleetwood. He has now left the board of Trustees to concentrate on his professional work but still continues to give his support through Healthier Fleetwood.

Wyre Council

The Council has worked closely with us in leasing to us the 'Wheel Base' headquarters just a few metres from the Promenade. Officers of the Council have continued to provide their expertise and support despite throughout the pandemic.

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.

Haven Holidays

We are fortunate to have a magnificent Haven Holiday centre in Fleetwood at Cala Gran. The owners' club worked very hard throughout the difficult year of 2021 collecting money for a Hippocampe XL beach wheelchair which we were pleased to receive in December 2021 and joined our fleet for the future from 2022. Cala Gran has a number of specialist units with facilities for people with disabilities and we are pleased to welcome their guests on the beach.

Financial Report

Accounts 2021 - 2022

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Number: 1187870

Income & Expenditure

for the year ended

28 February 2022

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	29,163	12,000	41,163	15,663	-	15,663
Grants	-	4,168	4,168	-	11,234	11,234
Interest	16	-	16	-	-	-
Total Income	29,179	16,168	45,347	15,663	11,234	26,897
Expenditure						
Advertising	425	132	557	251	-	251
Cleaning	82	-	82	-	-	-
Computer	265	-	265	-	-	-
Depreciation	1,091	2,529	3,620	-	-	-
Electricity	182	-	182	-	-	-
Equipment	339	371	711	862	-	862
Insurance	456	-	456	1,089	-	1,089
Licences	40	-	40	-	-	-
Legal Costs	-	-	-	605	-	605
Maintenance & Repairs	343	-	343	2,046	-	2,046
Office Equipment	414	-	414	-	-	-
Postage	7	19	26	-	-	-
Refreshments	430	-	430	-	-	-
Refund	9	-	9	-	-	-
Rent	1,086	-	1,086	-	-	-
Stationery	420	-	420	26	-	26
Sundries	-15	-	-15	-	-	-
Telephone	30	-	30	-	-	-
Wheelchair Equipment	2,900	738	3,638	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	8,505	3,790	12,295	99,383	9,976	4,879
Net Surplus/Deficit	20,674	12,378	33,051	6,280	1,258	22,018

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Number: 1187870

Balance Sheet

for the year ended

28 February 2022

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Beach Wheelchairs	4,504	9,976	14,480	4,504	9,976	14,480
Introduction of Assets	0	13569	13,569			
	<u>4,504</u>	<u>23,545</u>	<u>28,049</u>	<u>4,504</u>	<u>9,976</u>	<u>14,480</u>
Depreciation	1,091	2,529	3,620	-	-	-
	<u>3,413</u>	<u>21,016</u>	<u>24,429</u>	<u>4,504</u>	<u>9,976</u>	<u>14,480</u>
Current Assets						
Bank	29,896	-	29,896	5,846	1,258	7,104
Prepayments	759	-	759	434	-	434
	<u>30,655</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30,655</u>	<u>6,280</u>	<u>1,258</u>	<u>7,538</u>
Current Liabilities						
Accruals	16	-	16	-	-	-
	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	<u>34,053</u>	<u>21,016</u>	<u>55,069</u>	<u>10,784</u>	<u>11,234</u>	<u>22,018</u>
Capital Account						
Balance BF			22,018			0
Net Surplus/Deficit			33,051			22,018
Balance CF			<u>55,069</u>			<u>22,018</u>

Independent Examiner's 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

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

On accounts for the year
ended

28th February 2022

Charity no
(If any)

1187870

Set out on pages

2

(If relevant, to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 28th February 2022.

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached..

Signed:

Date:

27th March 2022

Name:

James Christopher Wight

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

2 Leonards Place, Little Singleton,

Poulton Le Fylde, Lancashire

FY6 7YZ

IER

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Oct 2018

Statistics 2021-2022

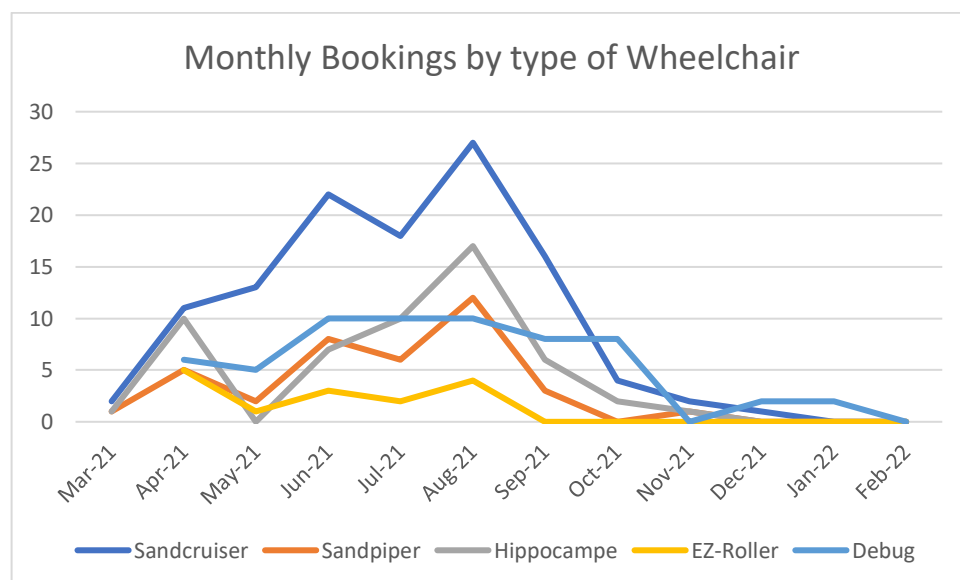
Bookings

August 2021 was our busiest month to date with 70 bookings.

Total bookings since first opening were 372 at the end of the month.

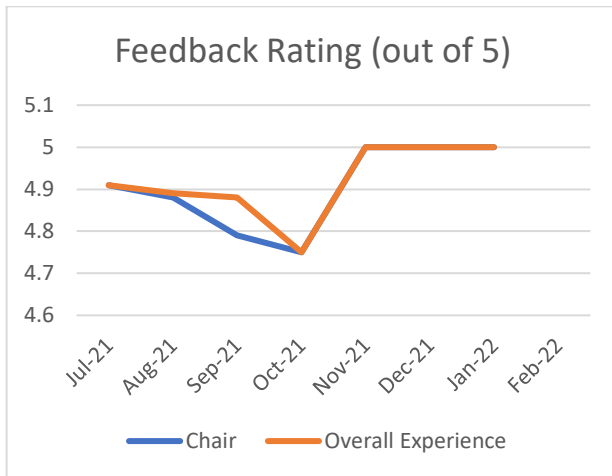
Chair	#Chairs	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	FY Total
Sandcruiser	2	2	10	13	22	18	27	16	4	2	1	0	0	116
Sandpiper	2	1	5	2	8	6	12	3	0	1	0	0	0	38
Hippocampe	3	1	11	0	7	10	17	6	2	1	0	0	0	54
EZ-Roller	1		5	1	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Debug	2		6	5	10	10	10	8	8	0	2	2	0	61
Total	10	4	37	21	50	46	70	33	14	4	3	2	0	284

FY = Financial Year 2021 - 2022 - total bookings since we re-opened on 30/3/2021 up to our year end on 28/2/2022



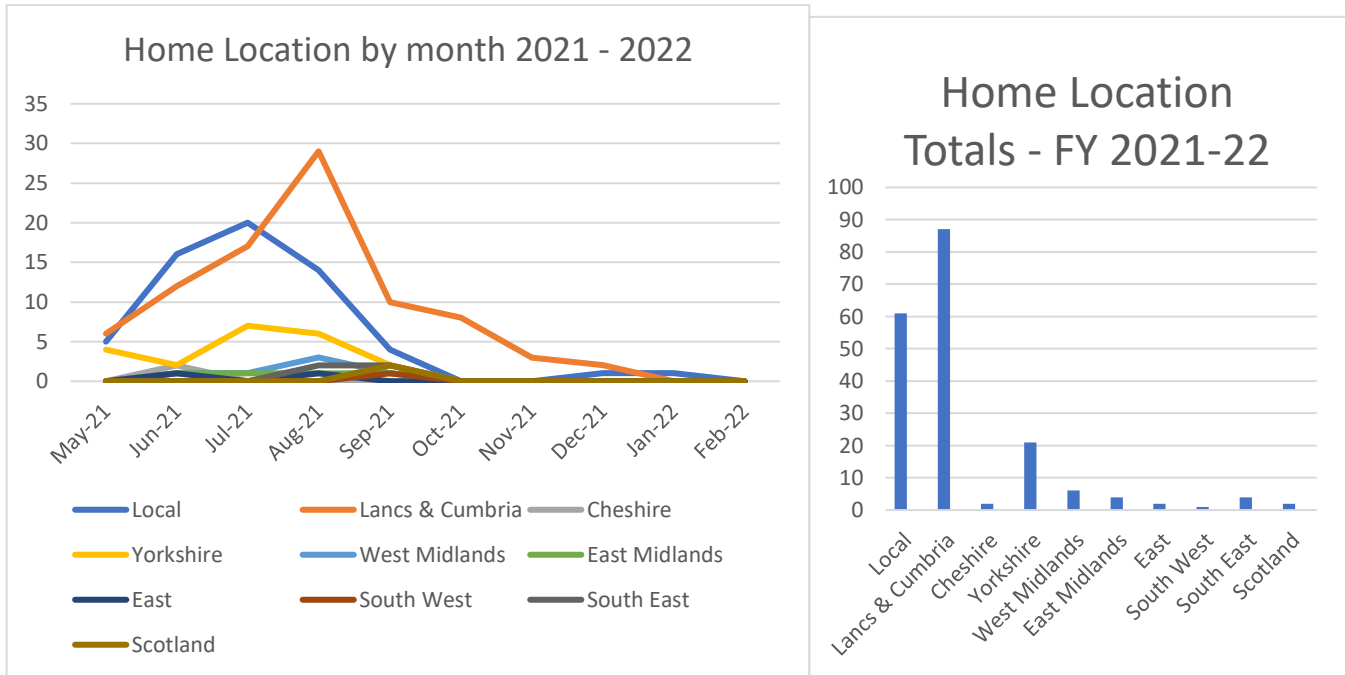
Ratings

Our feedback forms ask clients to rate the chair & the overall experience from 1 (poor) to 5 (brilliant). The chart below shows the average rating by month.



Location

Analysis of where people have come from to visit us, also taken from the feedback forms



Brian Jones
Bookings Officer

Photo Gallery



These images say far more than any words can about the benefits of our service and the simple joy of being on the beach.





Feedback

These are some of the comments made by visitors within the last year, taken from feedback forms and social media.

About the experience: -

You certainly made our day last week. I have waited 14 years to get my adult son onto a beach. Even on the way to Fleetwood I thought in my mind it would not happen for some reason but it did happen. I must point out the very friendly supportive staff who work voluntary, you are amazing and you're making dreams happen, be proud 🙌🙌🙌🏆

This was amazing! It meant we could have the best day on the beach without all the upset. We'll be back.

Major blessing to be back on the beach after 15 years.

Brilliant service, really easy to use.

Great idea thank you, we will definitely come again.

My son had a wonderfull time and loved being in the sea watching and listening to the waves.

Made a good day fantastic – so happy.

This is a wonderful experience for us all.

Memorable experience for the whole family.

Best day ever.

First time Alex has been in the sea he loved it.

Finally able to get my feet in the sea again! thank you so much.

At 93 she thought her days by the sea were done... Windmills were an excellent addition.

So much fun and laughter thanks.

About the staff:-

Fantastic very lovely people who showed us how to use the chairs.

All the staff are friendly and just made my Mum's week.

Volunteers very helpful. Our son got a huge amount from today.

You are all doing a fantastic job – thank you so much helping us to make happy memories.

Trustees & Officers

Chair & Trustee:	Michael Gray
Vice-Chair & Trustee:	Lorraine Beavers
Treasurer & Trustee:	Julie Sandham
Secretary & Trustee:	Alan Dickinson
Volunteer officer & Trustee:	Janet Simpson
Bookings officer & Trustee:	Brian Jones
Trustee:	Cheryl Raynor
Trustee:	Karen Murdoch
Trustee:	Reece Slater

We would like to add our thanks to retiring Trustees David Gore and Malcolm Lewis for their valuable contributions.

Charity Registration & Contacts

Registered charity:	No. 1187870
Registered address:	48 Rossall Promenade, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 1LP
Freephone:	03000 111 003
E-mail address:	fleetwoodbeachwheelchairs@outlook.com
Website:	www.fleetwoodbeachwheelchairs.co.uk
Facebook:	@FleetwoodBW
Twitter:	@FBWheelchairs