

FLEETWOOD BEACH WHEELCHAIRS



Annual Report 2024

CONTENTS

Chair of Trustees Report	3
Volunteer Officer's Report	6
Hire Information Report.....	7
Thank You To Our Partners	8
Rotary Club of Fleetwood	
Fleetwood Town Council	
Healthier Fleetwood	
Wyre Council	
Baxter Life Care Ltd	
 Financial Reports - Accounts for 2022 - 2023	
Independent Examiner's Report.....	9
Income and Expenditure.....	10
Balance Sheet.....	11
 Photo Gallery	12-14
 Trustees & Officers.....	15
 Charity Registration & Contacts	15

Chair of Trustees Report

It gives me great pleasure to submit my report on behalf of the Trustees for the closing year. This is our fourth year of service on the beach, and during this period the Charity saw its 1000th visitor to use our beach wheelchairs. At close of play before Christmas we attained a magnificent total of 1019 chair users.

It is remarkable to note that of all our users there has only been one person that we have not been able to give access to the beach to, safely and comfortably, and that was a visitor with such profound scoliosis that it was simply not possible to meet their need.

Once again we have been able to give service to visitors from right across the United Kingdom as well as our local community. We have accommodated individuals, families, care homes, schools, community groups and associations from far and near. Local providers of accommodation and leisure facilities have added to our service users as Fleetwood and its surrounding areas has attracted visitors to the location.

The year started poorly for us as we had to recover from the damage caused by a burst pipe at our Base, which was reported on in my last annual report. Added to this set-back was the conversion of the shower and toilet unit next to us which was being turned into a Changing Places facility. The building work restricted access to our Wheel Base and affected operations for several weeks until the conversion was completed.

After these interruptions to service we rapidly got back into operations with all ten chairs being out on the beach at one time on more than one occasion. As things took off we were hit with a devastating blow caused by reports of sewage being dumped in the sea which led to a beach access restriction. The situation was repeated on a second and later third occasion. This considerably hampered our operations as people simply stayed away from the resort. Of all the things that people with disabilities need to avoid the fear of infection or illness from such a source is probably one of the most serious ones.

We have continued with our presentations to groups and have visited Masonic Lodges, Rotary Clubs, Mothers' Union Meetings, Inner Wheel, Church Groups and the Golf Club in order to illustrate what we do and to raise funds. We have had a very successful Quiz Night and hope to repeat that again this year. A Charity Concert was also held on our behalf and we will repeat that again this year.

Fundraising has become an essential part of our profile as we offer services entirely free of charge, but our costs have increased in that our rent has been increased and the cost of our insurance has been raised in line with inflation. The cost of utilities has also increased. Our equipment continues to have to be replaced because of the nature of our work. Keeping a healthy bank balance is a priority. Nobody benefits financially from what we do. All our volunteers and Trustees give their services entirely free of charge. Consequently we have initiated fundraising by holding two events at the Affinity retail outlet in Fleetwood, two collections at local Cooperative stores, and we operated an information stall at the King's Coronation Celebration at Marine Hall, Fleetwood. We are keen to look out for any opportunities to advertise our service and raise funds and contributions. One of our collection activities was featured on Granada Television News in March when one of our Trustees, who is a wheelchair user, did a sponsored "Wheelchair Push" around the town to raise funds.

In addition the Mayor of Wyre, Julie Robinson, has made Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs one of her recipient Charities of the Year and has held events to raise funds for us and her other selected Charities.

We have also made contact with Fleetwood Town Community Trust, which is affiliated to Fleetwood Town Football Club, and hope to develop a beneficial relationship into the future.

During the year we took delivery of a new piece of equipment, a Beach Rollator, which gained considerable interest. During September one image of the unit being used on the beach attracted a total of 10.4 million views and accompanying posts gave us 20.8 million views worldwide. This was so remarkable that the supplier of our equipment has taken an interest in helping with publicity. We await events on this for 2024.

We have now purchased a second Beach Rollator as a result of a generous donation from a local firm.

The completion of the Changing Places Unit next to our Wheel Base has been a considerable asset to our operations and helped us to provide a "complete service" to our users. Many of our clients travel long distances to use the beach. Consequently they need to be changed and "freshened-up" before going on the beach and very often they need changing and refreshing again after being on the beach. Our thanks for this are due to Wyre Council, Fleetwood Town Council, Muscular Dystrophy UK, The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and DANFO for taking up the gauntlet and providing this facility.

This unit is a considerable benefit and adds to the attractions of Fleetwood as a Town that truly cares for people with disabilities and wants tourism. Fleetwood is Disability Friendly and we need to get that message across to people.

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs has been nominated for the King's Award for Voluntary Service. As a result we had a very comprehensive interview and scrutiny in January 2024 to see if we meet the exacting criteria for receipt of the Award. We eagerly await the outcome.

During the year we were awarded the Wyre Business Awards' "Community and Charity Organisation of the Year". We are proud to hold this Award as it reflects the work and dedication of the volunteers who support us and celebrates the "extra mile" that they take for our users.

Both this award and being nominated for the King's Award are tremendous accolades for the work of our volunteers who turn out in all weathers to meet the needs of our visitors and help to get them comfortably and safely onto the beach. I cannot praise them enough for their hard work and dedication. Like all voluntary organisations we can always do with having more volunteers to spread the workload. They truly are a happy and loyal Team.

The weather this year has also been very much against us. Strong winds have forced us off the beach for long periods and a succession of weather fronts with strong winds and heavy rain has kept our activities down as the year came to an end.

We look to begin operations again very soon. We continue to have our monthly Board of Trustees meetings but have recently lost the use of the New Boston Hotel, which has been a great friend to us for the last two years. We will be moving our regular Board meetings to The Men's Shed in Manor Road, Fleetwood, for the foreseeable future. This will help to benefit that charity and ourselves at the same time.

As we move into the future we must now consider using more innovative media techniques to enhance our public profile. As a result of some brilliant re-working of our Facebook page and web-site Paul Foulkes has extended our reach and it is no exaggeration to say that this has given us a World-wide audience. With this in mind we

must consider the use of YouTube and Tik-Tok as platforms for addressing a wider audience.

I would like to thank Fleetwood Town Council for its continued support, Rotary of Fleetwood and Healthier Fleetwood for the help they give us. As an original Rotary Project initiated by the Fleetwood Club we continue to have a number of Rotary members as volunteers and, in fact, one of our volunteers has joined Rotary of Fleetwood as a result of our association with the Club.

In addition I would like to thank all our supporters and followers, wherever they are in the World, and we appreciate their "Shares" and "Likes". We hope to give inspiration to others to follow our lead and liberate the beaches and foreshores wherever such a service can be provided.

We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Michael Gray

Chair of Trustees,

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

March 2024

Volunteer Officer's Report

We had a very successful 2023, despite some bad weather, which caused freezing pipes and subsequent flooding of the wheelbase at end of 2022/early 2023. We also had to contend with the sewage spillage onto the beach which made the national news, causing a number of cancellations to our bookings. However, there were also many nice sunny days which increased our drop-in footfall. In regards to telephone bookings, these have certainly increased for schools, day centres, care homes where we have multiple chairs out on the beach and our clients arriving in mini buses. The opening of the Changing Places next door to our wheelbase initially closed our operations in Spring 2023 for health and safety reasons while building work was completed. But after its official opening, it has helped considerably with the managing of these multiple bookings, providing us with extra space and in particular a second hoist for the use of our clients. I can foresee that these types of bookings will become more prevalent as word is passed around the community.

Single private bookings continue as in previous years, with many of the clients becoming "old friends" with our team of volunteers. On a number of occasions we now recognise names and can look forward to welcoming clients back for repeat visits.

On the volunteer front, we really do need some sort of a recruitment drive. Although we have many volunteers "on the books," it does seem to be the same few personnel who willingly turn out time after time. We have also lost a few through house move, illness, or other commitments.

All of our volunteers are immensely proud of what we have achieved at Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs and while we haven't actively ever asked for any recognition, the accolades continue to pour in, with many awards now adorning the walls and shelves in the wheelbase, and we all excitedly await the results of a nomination for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service.

Let's hope 2024 takes us forward with a larger team of volunteers and sunny days for making happy memories on our beautiful Fleetwood Beach.

Janet Simpson
Volunteer Officer

Annual Information Report – Jane Harvey

Year: 2023 - 24

	Number of clients	Booked	Drop in
Q1 April – June	90	70	20
Q2 July – Sept	161	137	24
Q3 Oct – Dec	14	11	3
Q4 Jan – March	7	5	2
Total	272	223	49

Chairs/equipment hired:

	De bug	EZ roller	Hippocampe	Sandcruiser	Sandpiper	Rollator
Q1	26	15	21	14	14	N/A
Q2	59	23	26	39	12	2
Q3	5	2	2	2	1	2
Q4	4	0	1	2	0	0
Total	94	40	50	57	27	4

Total hires since opening: 1026

Notes:

1st rollator added to fleet 24.7.23.
 2nd rollator added to fleet November 2023.
 Issues with pollution affected service in summer 2023

Annual monthly summary

Year: 2023-24

<u>Month</u>	No. of clients	Booked	Drop in	Chairs/equipment					
				De bug	EZ roller	Hippocampe	Sandcruiser	Sandpiper	Rollator
April	11	7	4	2	1	2	3	3	N/A
May	30	22	8	9	5	7	3	6	N/A
June	49	41	8	15	9	12	8	5	N/A
July	28	25	3	12	4	4	7	1	0
August	77	68	9	26	11	13	19	7	1
September	56	44	12	21	8	9	13	4	1
October	13	10	3	4	2	2	2	1	2
November	No hires								
December	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
January	No hires								
February	No hires								
March	7	5	2	4	0	1	2	0	0
Totals	272	223	49	94	40	50	57	27	4

Total since opening: 1026

Notes:

Rollators added to fleet in July and November 2023.
 Issues with pollution affected service in summer 2023

Thank You to Our Partners

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

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.

Independent Examiners Report



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

29th February 2024

Charity no (if any)

1187870

Set out on pages

1 and 2

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 29th February 2024
DD / MM / YYYY.

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 2024

Name:

James Christopher Wight

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

Address:

2 Leonards Place, Little Singleton,
Poulton Le Fylde. Lancashire FY6 7YZ

Financial Reports

Accounts 2023 – 2024

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs						
Charity Number: 1187870						
Income & Expenditure	for the year ended			29 February 2024		
	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	12,956	-	12,956	12,655	-	12,655
Grants	-	703	703	-	460	460
Interest	808	-	808	354	-	354
Total Income	13,764	703	14,467	13,009	460	13,469
Expenditure						
Advertising	45	-	45	568	-	568
Cleaning	80	-	80	202	-	202
Computer	330	-	330	201	-	201
Depreciation	1,260	5,922	7,182	1,091	5,922	7,012
Electricity	-	-	-	136	-	136
Equipment	575	-	575	697	-	697
Honararium	200	-	200	225	-	225
Hospitality	100	-	100	321	-	321
Insurance	1,530	-	1,530	1,436	-	1,436
Legal Costs	724	-	724	-	-	-
Licences	20	-	20	20	-	20
Maintenace & Repairs	392	-	392	596	-	596
Office Equipment	274	-	274	301	-	301
Postage	9	-	9	16	-	16
Refreshments	473	-	473	91	-	91
Rent	1,300	-	1,300	1,625	-	1,625
Stationery	544	-	544	360	-	360
Sundries	225	-	225	169	-	169
Telephone	532	-	532	206	-	206
Travel	-	-	-	403	-	403
Wheelchair Equipment	475	219	694	1,616	460	2,076
Total Expenditure	9,088	6,141	15,229	10,280	6,382	16,662
Net Surplus/Deficit	4,676	- 5,438	- 762	2,729	- 5,922	- 3,193

Financial Reports

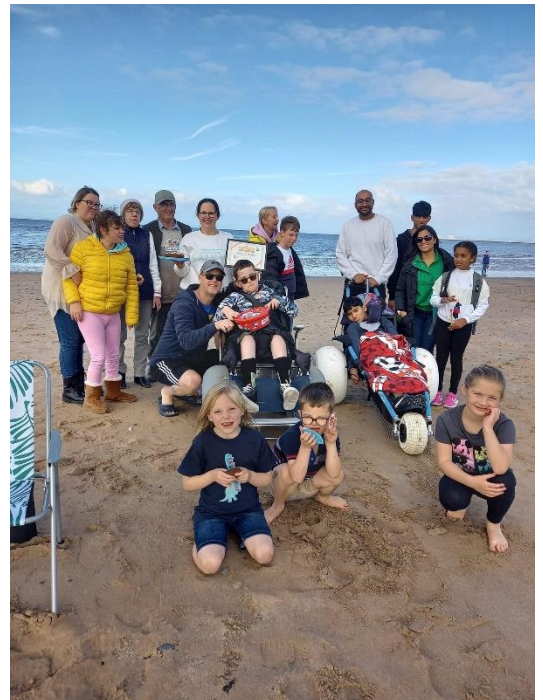
Balance Sheet

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs							
Charity Number: 1187870							
	for the year ended				29 February 2024		
	2024				2023		
Fixed Assets	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Beach Wheelchairs	4,504	23,545	28,049		4,504	23,545	28,049
Introduction of Assets	677	595	1,272		0	0	0
	5,181	24,140	29,321		4,504	23,545	28,049
Accum Depreciation	2,181	8,451	10,632		1,091	2,529	3,620
Depreciation	1,260	5,922	7,182		1,091	5,922	7012
	1,740	9,767	11,507		2,323	15,094	17,417
Current Assets							
Bank	38,972	0	38,972		33,693	0	33,693
Prepayments	635	0	635		766	0	766
	39,607	0	39,607		30,655	0	34,459
Current Liabilities							
Accruals	0	0	0		0	0	0
	0	0	0		16	0	16
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	41,347	9,767	51,114		36,782	15,094	51,876
Capital Account							
Balance BF			51,876				55,069
Net Surplus/Deficit			-762				-3,193
Balance CF			51,114				51,876

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.







Trustees & Officers

Chair & Trustee:	Michael Gray
Vice-Chair & Trustee:	Lorraine Beavers
Treasurer & Trustee:	Julie Sandham
Secretary & Trustee:	Janet Simpson
Volunteer Officer & Trustee:	Leslie Gray
Trustee:	Cheryl Raynor
Trustee:	Jane Harvey
Trustee:	Reece Slater
Trustee:	Stephen Ireland

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

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

