



The King's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

**FLEETWOOD
BEACH WHEELCHAIRS**

Annual Report 2025

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Chair of Trustees Report

Once again it is my privilege and honour to submit my report on behalf of the Trustees for the closing year. This is our fifth year of service on the beach, and during this period the Charity saw another increase in our visitor numbers. At close of play on 31st March 2025 we attained a magnificent total of 1335 chair users. An appendix of chair usage is provided within this report by our Trustee Jane Harvey, who continues to monitor usage and guide our policy on how we use the chairs and equipment.

This is, without a doubt, a year of celebration. Whilst this is our fifth year of service on the beach it also marks the ultimate recognition of the work that our volunteers engage in on behalf of the local and wider community. Our Charity has been granted the most prestigious accolade of the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The Award, introduced in 2002 to celebrate the Late Queen's Jubilee, was inaugurated to celebrate the contribution, often unsung, of those who give their time and energy to support others by volunteering themselves to their communities. There can be no doubt whatsoever that our volunteers acquit themselves extremely well on the frontline of volunteering and it is their personal commitment to our charity that has won us this recognition. It also has to be said that those that gave their time to attend and participate in the Assessment Day on January 17th 2024 gave a magnificent impression of the work of the Charity. The thanks, on behalf of the Trustees, is heartfelt.

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. Fleetwood beach is now being recognised as a premier accessible beach.

The year has seen a decline in the weather conditions overall with strong winds continually buffeting the coastline. Added to this there have been several discharges of sewage into the sea around the shoreline which have deterred visitors. We protest in the strongest terms at this blatant disregard for our environment. As I write this report the beach is recovering from a discharge two days ago, during the Easter School holiday on days of brilliant sunshine.

We now have eleven chairs, two Sandpipers, three Hippocampes, five Debugs (of which there are three different models) and one EZ Roller, plus two Rollators and four beach trollies. This year has seen us review our fleet and replace our two Sandcruisers with two new Debugs and one Hippocampe has been replaced with an updated model. Several of our chairs have over 250 hours of beach service each and it was time to begin refreshing our fleet. We have donated the Sandcruisers to the National Trust at Formby and the Hippocampe has a new home at Ardrossan in Scotland. The Sandcruisers have seen sterling service but experience has shown that they do not have the adaptability and comfort of the Debug models. We know the donated chairs will give much pleasure in their new locations.

We have had fewer presentations to groups this year but we do have future dates booked up. It is essential that we "spread the word" of our activities. Presentations are a good source of

donations as well as being a “shop-window” for potential volunteers. This year has seen us add two excellent and reliable volunteers to our ranks and we are indebted to them for their contribution.

The Trustees continue to meet on a monthly basis, with a short break in the winter months due to “downtime”, however decisions are still made and Minuted by means of WhatsApp as the need arises and in the interests of transparency. Our Board Meetings have now moved from the New Boston Hotel, which was our regular venue to the Men’s Shed due to the hotel changing hands and undergoing extensive refurbishment. Our new meeting venue is comfortable and welcoming and we expect to remain there for many years to come.

Our annual concert, organised by Barbara Hebden is due to take place again in May and our annual quiz has been replaced by more regular monthly quizzes organised by a local enthusiast who is sharing funds between charities, ourselves included.

Sadly our regular chair service engineer, John Brimelow, can no longer carry out that role due to illness. John has been essential to us in keeping our chairs in tip-top condition since we began operations five years ago. Fortunately his place has been taken by one of our Trustees, Steve Ireland. Steve has been helping John on the regular servicing days each month and is a worthy replacement for John.

As with previous years fundraising has become an essential part of our profile as we offer our 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 not remained static. 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. We are welcomed by our local ASDA and Affinity Shopping Centre to display our work and collect and donations continue to come in from a number of sources. It is because of this and generous donations that we were able to replace three of our chairs without great difficulty and continue to hold a good reserve in the Building Society for eventualities. Dreams Come True have funded our first round of chair replacements. We look with some concern at future chair replacements as the bulk of our fleet is produced in America and the current financial and political uncertainties there make for caution.

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. Currently our Changing Places facility is operating on a restricted basis due to abuse by less caring individuals and the Council at Wyre is considering

options to overcome this. Nonetheless it does not inhibit our service.

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.

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.

Finally I extend my thanks to the Trustees who guide our activities and give wise counsel, care for our volunteers and chair issues, staff our regular collections, maintain our equipment, organise our Meetings and presentations and support our users and their carers.

We look forward to another successful year ahead. Thank you for Caring.

Michael Gray BA (Hons) Cert Ed

Chair of Trustees

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs KAVS

April 2025

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs Annual Statistics Report 2024 -25

Monthly figures are as follows

Month	Clients	Booked	Drop in	Chairs/equipment					
				Debug	EZ Roller	Hippo-campe	Sand-cruiser	Sand-piper	Rollator
April	14	13	1	7	1	0	5	1	0
May	36	24	12	15	7	5	2	3	4
June	36	32	4	19	5	6	2	2	2
July	62	49	13	30	9	6	8	7	2
Augt	92	84	8	37	9	15	9	18	4
Sept	45	38	7	23	4	10	4	1	3
Oct	13	12	1	3	2	4	1	1	2
Nov	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Dec	No chairs/equipment used								
Jan	No chairs/equipment used								
Feb	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mar	8	7	1	5	0	2	0	0	1
Totals	309	262	47	140	37	49	32	33	18

Quarterly totals are as follows:

Client numbers

	Number of clients	Booked	Drop in
Q1 April – June	86	69	17
Q2 July - Sept	199	171	28
Q3 Oct - Dec	15	14	1
Q4 Jan - March	9	8	1

Equipment used

	De bug	EZ Roller	Hippocampe	Sandcruiser	Sandpiper	Rollator
Q1	41	13	11	9	6	6
Q2	90	22	31	21	26	9
Q3	4	2	5	1	1	2
Q4	5	0	2	1	0	1

Total uses since opening 1335

Notes:

- ♦ The total annual client figures for 2024-25 have increased compared to 2023-24. There were **37** more clients – an increase of **13.6%**.
- ♦ The third Debug was added to the fleet on 30th May 2024. This model of chair remains the most popular with **45%** of uses.
- ♦ The Wheel Base was closed on a number of occasions during the year. The main reason was weather conditions, but sewage issues also led to closures. The most significant closure was from 20.8.2024. to 27.8.2024. inclusive, when 41 bookings were cancelled.

Jane Harvey

31st March 2025

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 Examiner's 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**

28th February 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1187870

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 28th February 2025

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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:

12th May 2025

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 2024-2025

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Number: 1187870

Income & Expenditure

for the year ended

28 February 2025

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	22,810	-	22,810	12,956	-	12,956
Grants	-	-	-	-	703	703
Interest	1,370	-	1,370	808	-	808
Quiz Money	70	0	70	0	0	0
Total Income	24,250	-	24,250	13,764	703	14,467
Expenditure						
Advertising	857	-	857	45	-	45
Cleaning	167	-	167	80	-	80
Computer	45	-	45	330	-	330
Depreciation	1,929	6,071	7,999	1,260	5,922	7,182
Electricity	253	-	253	-	-	-
Equipment	219	-	219	575	-	575
Fees	43	-	43	-	-	-
Honararium	200	-	200	200	-	200
Hospitality	-	-	-	100	-	100
Insurance	1,581	-	1,581	1,530	-	1,530
Legal Costs	-	-	-	724	-	724
Licences	20	-	20	20	-	20
Maintenace & Repairs	257	-	257	392	-	392
Office Equipment	-	-	-	274	-	274
Postage	8	-	8	9	-	9
Refreshments	146	-	146	473	-	473
Rent	2,000	-	2,000	1,300	-	1,300
Stationery	240	-	240	544	-	544
Sundries	632	-	632	225	-	225
Telephone	698	-	698	532	-	532
Wheelchair Equipment	330	-	330	475	219	694
Total Expenditure	9,624	6,071	15,694	9,088	6,141	15,229
Net Surplus/Deficit	14,626 -	6,071	8,556	4,676 -	5,438 -	762

Financial Reports

Balance Sheet

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Number: 1187870

Balance Sheet

for the year ended

28 February 2025

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £
Fixed Assets						
Beach Wheelchairs	5,181	24,140	29,321	4,504	23,545	28,049
Introduction of Assets	2,676	0	2,676	677	595	1,272
	<u>7,857</u>	<u>24,140</u>	<u>31,997</u>	<u>5,181</u>	<u>24,140</u>	<u>29,321</u>
Accum Depreciation	3,441	14,373	17,814	2,181	8,451	10,632
Depreciation	1,929	6,071	7,999	1,260	5,922	7,182
	<u>2,487</u>	<u>3,696</u>	<u>6,184</u>	<u>1,740</u>	<u>9,767</u>	<u>11,507</u>
Current Assets						
Bank	52,799	0	52,799	38,972	0	38,972
Prepayments	688	0	688	635	0	635
	<u>53,487</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>53,487</u>	<u>39,607</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,607</u>
Current Liabilities						
Accruals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	<u>55,974</u>	<u>3,696</u>	<u>59,670</u>	<u>41,347</u>	<u>9,767</u>	<u>51,114</u>
Capital Account						
Balance BF			51,114			51,876
Net Surplus/Deficit			8,556			-762
Balance CF			<u>59,670</u>			<u>51,114</u>

Trustees and Officers

2024-2025

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

Charity Registration and Contacts

2024-2025

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



Charles R

Charles the Third,

By the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and of Our other Realms and Territories King, Defender of the Faith, to

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs
Enabling free access to the beach
and foreshore previously denied to
those with disabilities.

Greeting!

We being cognisant of the said group's outstanding voluntary work in the community,
and being desirous of showing Our Royal Favour do hereby confer upon it:

The King's Award for Voluntary Service for voluntary service by groups in the community 2024

for such period as the group continues to provide its current service and do
hereby give permission for the authorised emblem of the said Award to be
displayed on the group's letterhead and other public material.

Given at Our Court of Saint James's under Our Royal Sign Manual this
fourteenth day of November 2024 in the second year of Our Reign.







Some pictures from
our Gallery





Award presentation at County Hall, Preston by the
Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire , Amanda Parker

