The King's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

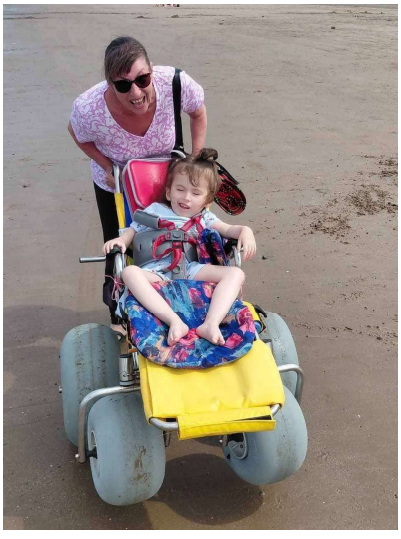
FLEETWOOD BEACH WHEELCHAIRS



Annual Report 2026

CONTENTS

Contents	2
Chair of Trustees Report	3
Secretary's Report	6
Financial Report	7
Balance Sheet	8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statistics	10
Volunteers Report	12
Service & Technical Report	13
Thank You To Our Partners	14
Trustees	15
King's Award Certificate	16



Chair of Trustees Report

It gives me great pleasure once again to be able to give my Annual Report as Chair of the Trustees of Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs, King's Award for Voluntary Service Charity. Our commitment to quality and service has been recognised at the highest level and our reputation is spreading Nationwide.

Earlier this year we made contact with many other beach wheelchair service providers by way of an online forum and were able to give many examples of best practice to our peers. We hope this forum will become formalised in the future and it may be able to help us in buying and trying new equipment at special rates.

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.

This year has seen us begin to update and add to our fleet of chairs. We now have three standard Debugs, two reclining Debugs, three Hippocampes, two EZ Rollers, two Sandpipers and two beach rollators. This makes an operational fleet of fourteen beach access units, and we have four beach trollies for suction equipment, oxygen and accessories.

We are now in our sixth year of operations and our early hope and dream of achieving and operating three different chairs within three years has been well and truly exceeded. Looking back upon our fears that there would be only a limited uptake of our services seems very remote and strange at this time. Our constant concern is now that of finding, training and keeping volunteers, but our central core of loyal and dedicated volunteers gives us an assurance that our performance and service can and will be maintained.

At this current time, we are in the process of revisiting our website. We have not done a great deal with it since we started, being in such a hurry to just get "something" out into the public arena. The site is due for updating and refreshing and we are taking advice as to how to give it a more modern "look" and feel.

We have also "slimmed-down" our Board of Trustees in order to make decision-making easier. We are indebted to Fleetwood's Men's Shed for allowing us to use their premises for our monthly Board of Trustees Meetings.

We have also held a "get-together" of volunteers in order to keep them updated with our operations after our winter partial closure from November to March, and to thank them for their service and loyalty.

We give presentations to groups and organisations and this generates a small contribution to our funds, but we are eager to spread the word and talk to any groups that would like to hear our story of development from an idea to a service.

Up to the time of compiling this report we have had 1772 chair users since opening in September 2020. In August 2025 we had a record-breaking month for the service, with 105 clients using our chairs. Our visitors include many regular and repeat individuals as well as care homes, respite centres, private groups and newcomers. They come from across the Country and stay locally at the growing number of facilities being established for the disabled to stay in and holiday.

The Changing Places Unit adjacent to us (provided and operated by Wyre Council) is very popular and is an asset to us, especially when we are very busy.

Continuing problems with the discharge of sewage into the sea has been a major issue for us and our service throughout the year and we are continuing to pursue solutions with United Utilities.

I and the Trustees and volunteers thank our followers, users and supporters for their continued goodwill and assure them of our best quality of service for the future and coming years.

Michael Gray. BA(Hons) Cert Ed
Chair of Trustees,
Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs
KAVS
May 2026



Secretary's Report

2025/26 has been another good year for giving beach wheelchair presentations to local groups. These always seem to be well received with many people giving us individual donations along with a group donation and taking teddies in return for a small contribution. Thank you to our team of "knitters" for the great work they do for us.

The Fylde Masonic lodges have been most kind to us this year, presenting us with cheques from various Lodges.

Our local quizmaster Martin Crane has continued to organise monthly quizzes at Fleetwood bowling club in support of 3 local charities, namely Wyre and Fylde Defibrillators, Counselling in the Community and Ourselves. These are fun evenings of good friendship and banter. Our team from Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs never win but the challenge continues to stay away from bottom place ! In December, the 3 charities each received the amazing amount of around £1.200 from the quiz profits.

The Cleveleys working men's club hold an annual tea dance where profits from the raffle are given to Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs.

Our collection days at Asda and Affinity are also well supported and we continue to have some kind supporters of our charity who spend endless time and energy in sponsored events.

We are very appreciative of all this support, which along with helping us financially, also helps to raise awareness in the locality and beyond.

Janet Simpson, MCSP



Financial Reports

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Number: 1187870

Income & Expenditure for the year ended 28th February 2026

	2026			2025		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income						
Donations	14,025	-	14,025	22,810	-	22,810
Interest	1,257	-	1,257	1,370	-	1,370
Quiz Money	-	-	-	70	0	70
Total Income	15,283	-	15,283	24,250	-	24,250
Expenditure						
Advertising	882	-	882	857	-	857
Cleaning	57	-	57	167	-	167
Computer	536	-	536	45	-	45
Depreciation	838	3,541	4,379	1,929	6,071	7,999
Electricity	-	-	-	253	-	253
Equipment	-	-	-	219	-	219
Fees	20	-	20	43	-	43
Honararium	200	-	200	200	-	200
Hospitality	168	-	168	-	-	-
Insurance	1,720	-	1,720	1,581	-	1,581
Legal Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licences	20	-	20	20	-	20
Maintenace & Repairs	519	-	519	257	-	257
Office Equipment	269	-	269	-	-	-
Postage	-	-	-	8	-	8
Refreshments	42	-	42	146	-	146
Rotary	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	-
Rent	1,403	-	1,403	2,000	-	2,000
Stationery	375	-	375	240	-	240
Sundries	219	-	219	632	-	632
Telephone	605	-	605	698	-	698
Wheelchair Equipment	449	-	449	330	-	330
Total Expenditure	9,824	3,541	13,365	9,624	6,071	15,694
Net Surplus/Deficit	**5,459**	**- 3,541**	**1,918**	**14,626**	**- 6,071**	**8,556**

Financial Reports

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Charity Number: 1187870

Balance sheet for the years ended 28th February 2026

	2026			2025		
Fixed Assets	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted income funds £**	**Total funds £**	**Unrestricted funds £**	**Restricted income funds £**	**Total funds £**
Beach Wheelchairs	7,857	24,140	31,997	5,181	24,140	29,321
Introduction of Assets	5,707	0	5,707	2,676	0	2,676
	13,564	24,140	37,704	7,857	24,140	31,997
Accum Depreciation	5,370	20,444	25,814	3,441	14,373	17,814
Depreciation	838	3,541	4,379	1,929	6,071	7,999
	7,357	155	7,511	2,487	3,696	6,184
Current Assets						
Bank	53,172	0	53,172	52,799	0	52,799
Prepayments	904	0	904	688	0	688
	54,076	0	54,076	53,487	0	53,487
Current Liabilities						
Accruals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	**61,433**	**155**	**61,587**	**55,974**	**3,696**	**59,670**

Capital Account		
Balance BF	59,670	51,114
Net Surplus/Deficit	1,918	8,556
Balance CF	61,587	59,670

Julie Sandham

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 2026	**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 2026

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:**	10th May 2026
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 1 Oct 2018

Annual Statistics

Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs

Annual Statistics Report 2025-26

1. Monthly figures are as follows:

Month	No of clients	Booked	Drop in	Chairs/Equipment				
				De bug	EZ roller	Hippocampe	Sandpiper	Rollator
April	29	19	10	20	5	2	1	1
May	77	66	11	57	7	7	5	2
June	36	29	7	26	3	4	1	2
July	57	51	6	41	3	8	2	3
August	105	96	9	68	12	11	14	0
September	13	13	0	8	2	0	1	2
October	9	9	0	5	1	3	0	0
November	No chairs/equipment used							
December	No chairs/equipment used							
January	No chairs/equipment used							
February	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
March	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	**329**	**286**	**43**	**227**	**34**	**35**	**24**	**19**

2. Quarterly totals are as follows:

Client numbers

	Number of clients	Booked	Drop in
Q1 April – June	142	114	28
Q2 July - Sept	175	160	15
Q3 Oct - Dec	9	9	0
Q4 Jan - March	3	3	0

Equipment used

	De bug	EZ roller	Hippocampe	Sandpiper	Rollator
Q1	103	15	13	7	5
Q2	117	17	19	17	5
Q3	5	1	3	0	0
Q4	2	1	0	0	0

NB The total figure for equipment used is 330 as one client used both a chair and a rollator.

Annual Statistics

3. Total uses since opening **1664**

4. Notes:

- The total annual client figures for 2025-26 have increased compared to 2024-25. There were **20** more clients – an increase of **6.5%.**
- Quarter 1 was very busy, with **65%** more clients than 2024-25, mainly due to good weather in April and May 2025.
- August 2025 was a record-breaking month with **105** clients using chairs.
- Quarters 2,3 and 4 were not as successful as Quarter 1. In each of those quarters client numbers were fewer than in 2024-25.
- September 2025 figures were particularly low due to the Wheelbase being closed for most weekends, and other bookings being cancelled due to poor weather and frequent sewage outages.
- The DeBug accounts for **69%** of chair/equipment uses.

Jane Harvey

2nd April 2026





Volunteer Report

It has been another busy and successful season.

We welcomed many visitors some new and others who have been coming from the time Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs opened back in 2020. A lot of families book holidays in the area just to visit us.

Without our regular, reliable and dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to provide this valuable and personal service.

We have fourteen members who volunteer regularly. We were fortunate to recruit four new members last year, and have two more being processed at present.

I would like to thank all volunteers for their, hard work and continued loyal support.

Lesley Gray



Service & Technical Report

I am pleased to report our fleet of wheelchairs have now been serviced following our winter break in readiness for the challenges the upcoming warmer months the Spring and Summer will bring.

We continue to maintain our wheelchairs on a strict monthly schedule which allows us to ensure the chairs are in a good and safe condition to ensure ultimate performance and stability for our clients

We are proud of the standards we set and continue to work closely alongside our chair providers to support development and change.

Some chairs have been replaced this year and in turn we have supported similar operations around the country by donating chairs and helping them develop and build by sharing our experience-based knowledge and information.

Consideration will be given to all options which are financially viable and sustainable and will improve our services for our users. We are fortunate to include the addition of one of our volunteers, Peter Hall, to our service team. Peter brings a wealth of engineering knowledge and experience with him which will be immensely beneficial to maintain and improve the service we provide from both our service team and to our chair users.

We look forward to an excellent 2026 season.

Thanks

Steve Ireland



Thank you to our Partners

We have several organisations to thank for the healthy and positive position we are in today:

Fleetwood Rotary

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 District 11900, Cumbria and Lancashire, made a substantial contribution towards the cost of our first chair and many Rotarians also volunteer their time and goodwill for Fleetwood Beach Wheelchairs their support is invaluable.

Fleetwood Town Council

A large donation from the Town Council's Community fund supported the purchase of three chairs to add to our fleet. They are helping to make Fleetwood a better place to live, work in and to visit. Their support ensures the charity is always closely linked to our local community.

Healthier Fleetwood

The first local 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 them.

Wyre Council

The Council has worked closely with us by agreeing a lease on the Wheel-Base – our headquarters just a few metres from the beach. Officers of the Council have continued to provide their expertise and support.

Baxter Life Care Ltd

This family run business provides a range of value-for-money social care across the Fylde Coast. They support us with their expertise and advice and have provided specialist equipment for the use of our visitors. We are also grateful to them for their contribution towards the cost of our new web site.



Trustees and Officers

2025-2026

Chair of Trustees	Michael Gray
Treasurer	Trustee Julie Sandham
Secretary	Trustee Janet Simpson
Volunteers & Bookings	Trustee Lesley Gray
Statistics & Media	Trustee Jane Harvey
Service & Technical	Trustee Stephen Ireland
Community Representative	Trustee Reece Slater

Charity Registration and Contacts

2025-2026

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 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.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service