

# wetwheels FOUNDATION

Registered charity in England and Wales (1148600) and Scotland (SC051304)  
Patron - HRH The Princess Royal

Ensuring everyone can access the water with a safe,  
barrier free, enriching experience

**New Beginnings – New Aspirations**

[www.wetwheelsfoundation.org](http://www.wetwheelsfoundation.org)



**“As we grow and more people experience the magic of Wetwheels, this inspires us to do more”**

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read our 2023 spring update : New Beginnings – New Aspirations.

As I write this introduction, there is cause for great optimism. For many disabled people - myself included - the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has lasted longer than for many. We believe, more than ever, that Wetwheels is playing an important part in the health and wellbeing of our participants, their families and carers.



There is something very special about being on the water. For someone with a disability, being at sea offers unparalleled freedoms. Your mind and imagination fill with things that once didn't seem possible.

Paralysed from the neck down in an accident at the age of 18, I have maintained the passionate belief that anything can be achieved given a positive approach and the support to help make that dream a reality. That passion remains undimmed.



Having recently celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with our excellent team we have swiftly moved ahead with 2 new boats for the fleet - the latest is Wetwheels Edinburgh which we are



delighted has arrived for the spring, and Wetwheels Torbay has been ordered to arrive for 2024.

We maintain our ambition to do more. Wetwheels provides the opportunity where none had existed for many thousands of disabled people to access the sea, often for the first time. This includes wider UK coverage, and we aim for new ports to call home. This document shares our latest target locations including Wetwheels Cymru, a further extension across the UK.

We cannot achieve this alone - we seek to meet those who share our passion for the water and our objectives of true barrier-free experiences for all, to support our fundraising. It is a challenge - but we have shown our ability to ride the highest of waves.

If you would like to be part of this new journey we would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you.



Geoff Holt MBE DL  
Founder and Trustee - Wetwheels Foundation



## 1. Our Vision

To ensure everyone can access the water with a safe, barrier free, enriching experience.

## 2. What we do

Wetwheels operates fully adapted boats across a network of 7 coastal communities across The UK. Nearly half of those who come onboard are disabled people with profound and complex, often life-limiting, disabilities. This often-invisible subset of disabled people are a priority group for engagement to support wellbeing, physical and mental health. The range of disabilities of those accessing Wetwheels includes, but is not limited to:

- Wheelchair users;
- People affected by stroke;
- People with sensory impairments;
- People with mobility impairments;
- Those living with dementia;
- Behavioural disabilities including autism;
- People with neurological conditions, Parkinson's or Alzheimer's;
- People with learning difficulties;
- People with acquired brain injuries;
- People with multiple, profound and complex conditions;
- Former service personnel and veterans.



Providing high-value life experiences is what makes us unique. Those coming onboard are active participants, rather than simply passengers - sharing these experiences with friends, family and carers makes it even more special.

### 3. Mission Statement

- Wetwheels offers a unique barrier free opportunity for disabled and disadvantaged people of all ages - including those with multiple, profound and complex impairments - to access the water.
- Central to our experience is active participation and empowerment - helping to broaden aspirations, increase confidence and directly impact on health and wellbeing.
- We continually innovate through new technologies, improving our experiences through the excellence of our teams and feedback from participants.
- We are working to ensure a sustainable operation through a range of income streams and funding.

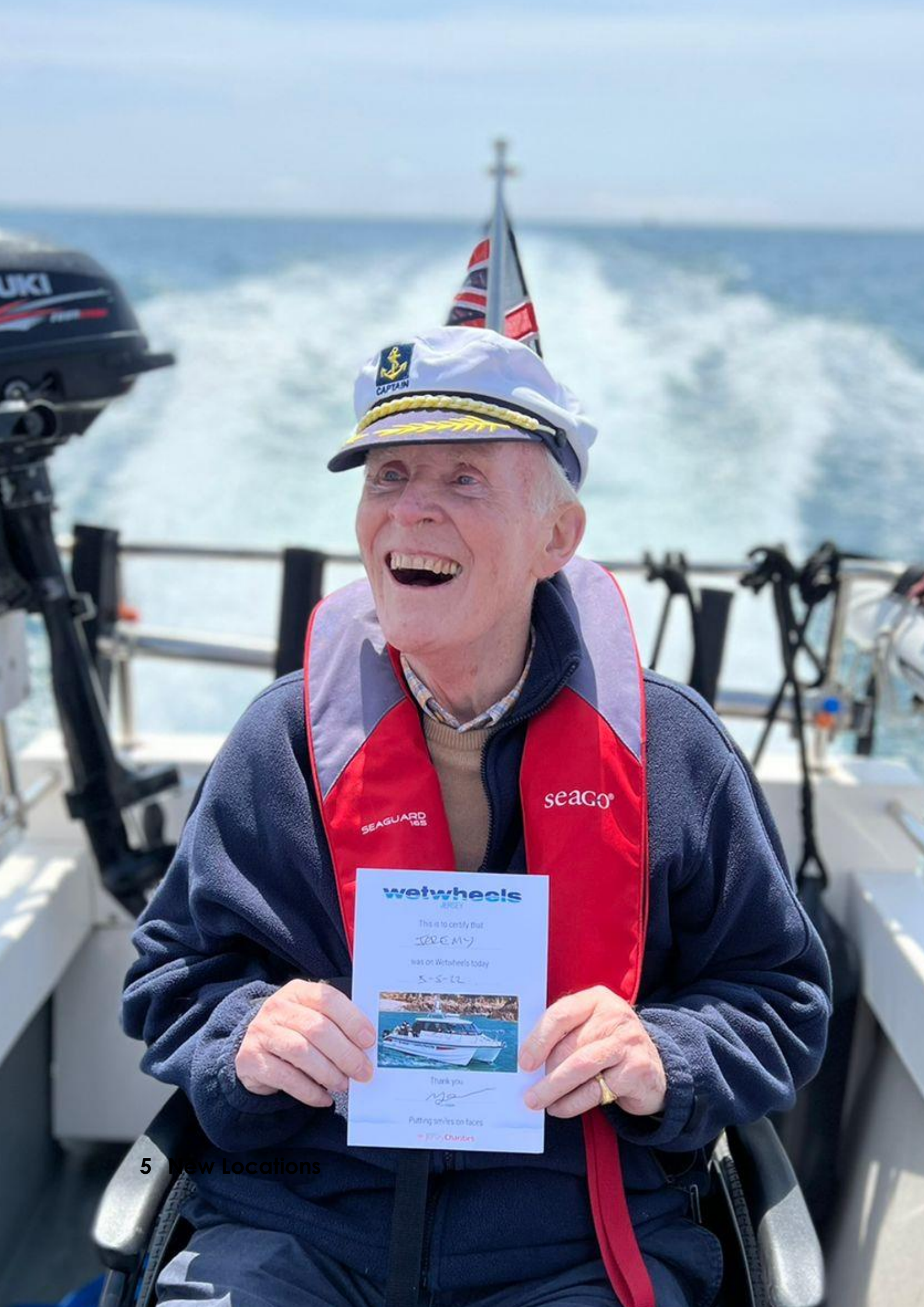




#### 4. Our Aims

On the water	Key Driver
1. By 2026 have a fleet of 10 boats, with <b>12,000 participants</b> per year many of whom will be those with profound and complex disabilities.	Increased participation
2. Widen participation amongst the <b>hardest to reach groups</b> who are often excluded.	Enhanced reach
3. Aim to identify a minimum of up to <b>20% new participants per annum</b> to benefit from being on the water.	Blue Health and impact

Governance and sustainability	Key Driver
1. Deliver new pathways to <b>develop fundraising.</b>	New income & sustainability
2. Ensure our management complies with charitable and legal obligations with a <b>resilience and core strength.</b>	Excel in charity Governance
3. Embed the latest <b>finance and cost</b> management processes.	Ensure Value for money
4. Retain, enhance and <b>share skills and knowledge</b> via our core team and Trustees re: our position as the Maritime & Coastguard Agency Subject Matter Expert in taking disabled people to sea.	Enhanced capability & shared learning
5. Drive and support the agenda for <b>equality of access and opportunity for all.</b>	Building partnerships for the future



**Wetwheels Cymru** is at the heart of our expansion plans. We know a Wetwheels in Wales would be warmly welcomed and the demand for what we do is incredibly high. A country with such a magnificent coastline and natural beauty is the perfect place for our 9<sup>th</sup> boat. The boat will also travel countrywide for the widest access and inclusion reflecting our aim to reach as many participants as possible.



We will be visiting Cardiff at the end of June 2023 with our South West boat to meet local people, take people on the water and share our Vision.

Our second target location is **Wetwheels East Anglia** on the River Orwell. This is the perfect location in terms of geography and a significant gap in coverage re: accessibility and the water.



Similar to Wetwheels Cymru, Wetwheels East Anglia will travel along the coastline to give access across Suffolk, Norfolk and the Eastern region.

This location will also provide additional capacity for outreach to The Thames and London which we are currently only able to provide with one boat, Wetwheels South-East based in Dover.



## A Letter to Wetwheels

*"My twins, Ruby and Sophia, were 2 when we first went on a Wetwheels trip. They have a rare neurological condition which causes a range of transient symptoms, including sudden, prolonged respiratory arrests which require ventilation with a bag and valve mask and oxygen. When our local hospice told us about Wetwheels, I was persuaded to give it a try.*

*Ruby and Sophia absolutely loved the whole experience, and seeing their faces light up made all the worry worth it! It was so good to know that we had been able to give them such a joyful experience - it genuinely felt like we had beaten their condition for the day. It was such a special day, and a really special memory – thank you." Lyndsey*



## 6. Funding

- Please see our funding overview below outlining our fundraising objectives.
- Every pound counts – and we appreciate every new donor and supporter.
- We are also seeking those interested in running our operations. Each Wetwheels is managed by a local Wetwheels Operator which ensures the safe and professional management of each boat, with ongoing support and expertise provided by The Foundation.





<b>COSTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Wetwheels Boat - capital cost	£225,000	£225,000	£-	£450,000
Team, Governance, Training & Development	£85,000	£92,500	£97,500	£275,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£310,000</b>	<b>£317,500</b>	<b>£97,500</b>	<b>£725,000</b>
<b>FUNDING PLEDGED / CONFIRMED</b>	<b>£50,000</b>	<b>£25,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>£90,000</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING TARGET</b>	<b>£260,000</b>	<b>292,500</b>	<b>£82,500</b>	<b>£635,000</b>





## 7. A message from our Chair

After such a challenging period for everyone, can we thank all those who continue to support us and take an interest in our work, as we now look to our two new target locations.

Since we were formed in 2011 we have retained a firm belief in keeping The Foundation as a tightly focussed and highly professional organisation. This brings out the best in our people and those who place their trust in us - who then create their own journey on Wetwheels.



With my fellow Trustees, I would be delighted to welcome you onboard one of our boats to see first-hand just what we do and how it makes a difference. We hope you feel inspired to support us so that many more thousands of people can experience the magic of Wetwheels.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Fell".

Andy Fell - Chair of Trustees

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Geoff Holt MBE DL, Founder and Trustee