

wetwheels FOUNDATION

Registered charity in England and Wales (1148600) and Scotland (SC051304)

Patron - HRH The Princess Royal

Over the Horizon

An Invitation



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

www.wetwheelsfoundation.org

“Wetwheels inspires us to dream. We offer a unique freedom on the water that everyone can share and be part of.”

I believe that now is the most important moment in the Wetwheels story, 12 years after we launched our first boat in Portsmouth.

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 endured. But as the storm clouds have cleared, we believe, more than ever, that Wetwheels is playing a vital part in the health and wellbeing of our participants, their families and carers.



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.

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.

As boats 7 and 8 - Wetwheels Edinburgh and Wetwheels Torbay - become operational, we have identified 4 locations which will provide UK coverage and represent an important milestone.

These locations are the following - please note, the order of delivery is not set and there is some flexibility:

- Wetwheels Cymru
- Wetwheels East Anglia
- Wetwheels 'Over the Horizon' (please see page 9)
- Wetwheels Belfast

I have been reflecting on how far we have come in a relatively short space of time. We have been so fortunate to work some truly incredible friends and supporters. But my dream to ensure no one is excluded from being on the water is yet to be fully realised – and this is why the new locations are so vital.

We cannot achieve this alone - we seek to meet those who share our passion for the water to support our fundraising. It is a challenge, but we have shown our ability to achieve the seemingly impossible. If you would like to be part of this journey we would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you.



Geoff Holt MBE DL – Wetwheels Founder and Trustee



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 coastal communities across The UK. Nearly half of those who come onboard are disabled people with profound and complex, often life-limiting, disabilities. It is a priority to support the wellbeing, physical and mental health of this often invisible subset of disabled people. 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.



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.
- At our core is active participation, empowerment and a shared experience - 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 work to ensure a sustainable operation through a range of income streams and funding.



4. Our Aims

On the water	Key Driver
By 2027 have a fleet of 12 boats, with 15,000 participants per year many of whom will be those with profound and complex disabilities.	Increased participation
Widen participation amongst the hardest to reach groups who are often excluded. This includes those who may not live or be based near coastal regions.	Enhanced reach
Identify new participants to benefit from being on the water via new locations.	Blue Health and impact

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

5. New Locations

Wetwheels Cymru is a key part 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 home.

The boat will also travel countrywide for the widest access and inclusion, reflecting our aim to reach as many participants as possible.



Wetwheels East Anglia will be placed on the River Orwell. This is the ideal base in terms of geography and a significant gap in coverage regarding accessibility to 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, supporting Wetwheels South East based in Dover.



Wetwheels 'Over The Horizon' will serve a number of harbours in the North West including Liverpool, Barrow-in-Furness and other berths. The tides and topography present challenges but with our experience and expertise, we are pleased to target this beautiful coastline where access to the water is extremely limited for those with disabilities.

In addition, participants from further afield such as Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire will have more opportunity to have access to the open water.

She will also visit wider UK locations to introduce the concept of Wetwheels to target areas and share the joy of being on the open water with new participants, friends and supporters.



Wetwheels Belfast is an exciting addition to our UK expansion plans.

We have received warm feedback that a boat here would offer new opportunities for the community of Northern Ireland, as well as completing our UK aspiration.

With its rich maritime history and a thriving City, we would be delighted to place a Wetwheels in this very special and unique location.



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 so much." Lyndsey



6. Funding and Operations

- Please see our overview on page 13 outlining our fundraising objectives.
- Every pound counts - and we appreciate every new donor and supporter.
- Each Wetwheels is managed by a local Wetwheels Operator ensuring the safe and professional oversight of each boat, with ongoing support and expertise provided by The Foundation.
- Our Standard Operating Procedures have been developed in line with our Policies and Procedures. These cover areas such as safety protocols, boat handling, accessibility in the maritime environment and safeguarding, and are at the heart of our operations and charity governance.
- Becoming a Wetwheels Operator requires dedication, skill and commitment and brings with it a truly rewarding experience.



	2023.24	2024.25	TOTAL
Cost for 4 purpose-built Wetwheels boats	£450,000	£750,000	£1,200,000
<i>Confirmed pledges</i>	<i>£80,000</i>	<i>£20,000</i>	<i>£100,000</i>
FUNDRAISING TARGET	£370,000	£730,000	£1,100,000

May we take this opportunity to say a sincere Thank You to our sponsors, supporters and donors.



Be part of the Journey

Online

<https://www.justgiving.com/wetwheelsfoundation>

Bank transfer:

Account Number: 54924618 Sort Code: 52 41 32
Wetwheels Foundation National Westminster Bank
52 West Street
Fareham Hampshire PO16 0JX

Cheque payable to: Wetwheels Foundation

Attn. WWF Company Secretary
Wetwheels Foundation
The Victory, land sec Gunwharf Quays House,
Gunwharf Quays,
Portsmouth,
PO1 3TZ

Or simply get in touch for an informal chat regarding donation,
sponsorship or volunteering

THANK YOU

7. A view from our supporters

"I've been lucky enough to meet and hear first-hand from many people who have been boating with Wetwheels, and how it has brought them and their families so much joy. We couldn't think of another charity more deserving of our support than Wetwheels and we are delighted to play a small part in their work"

Mike Wimbridge, Managing Director, Pantaenius UK



"The Wetwheels Foundation is a fantastic charity, offering incredible experiences for disabled people in the community, many getting out on the water for the first time.

We are thrilled to support them."

Stuart Baker, Managing Director of Maritime UK Solent

8. A message from our Chair

We would like to thank all those who continue to support us and take an interest in our work, as we look to our 4 new locations. This will complete the Vision I share with my fellow Trustees, our friends and supporters and most important of all, our inspiring participants.

Since we were formed we have retained a firm belief in keeping The Foundation highly professional but with a heart, in order to bring out the best in our fantastic team - and those who place their trust in us to create their own journey on Wetwheels.



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 would consider supporting us so that many more thousands of people can experience the magic of a barrier-free Wetwheels, Over the Horizon.

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

Andy Fell - Chair of Trustees

Please get in touch

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Andy Fell - Chair of Trustees

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Geoff Holt MBE DL - Founder and Trustee

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Neil Wilson – Director of Funding and Engagement