

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

The journey ahead 2022 – 2026

www.wetwheelsfoundation.org



“Never have there been more possibilities – but with many challenges”

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read 'The journey ahead', outlining our plans for the future. After an extremely challenging time, we have weathered the Covid 19 storm with some fantastic support from our small staff team, Trustees, volunteers, donors and funding partners.

Why are we sharing this document? Well after navigating this period with professionalism, due care and making progress with our development plans, there is cause for great optimism.



For many disabled people - myself included - the impact of the pandemic will last longer and be more profound than for most. We believe, more than ever, that Wetwheels will play an important part in the health and wellbeing of our participants, as well as 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 celebrated our 10th Anniversary year, The Foundation is at an important crossroads. We have put in place a solid infrastructure, with carefully targeted resourcing to reflect the pressures on funders and donors. This infrastructure is fundamental not only to our plans to grow and innovate, but the overall sustainability of Wetwheels.

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 - with a new base in Scotland being completed as I write.

Our past and current donors continue to be magnificent. But we are seeking those who share our passion for the water and our objectives of true barrier free experiences for everyone in our society. To give hope, aspiration and true enjoyment please support us and ensure the progress we have made is not put at risk.

If you would like to be part of our journey, we would be delighted to hear from 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 have had a greater vulnerability because of Covid 19 and they are a priority group for re-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.

"The wonderful staff team and volunteers help make Wetwheels what it is. Thank you so much."

Providing high-value life experiences is what makes us unique. Wetwheels both inspires and sparks curiosity. Participants can leave their disability on the dock and become members of the Wetwheels crew. Those coming onboard are active, rather than

simply passengers and sharing this experience 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.
- Active participation and empowerment directly impact on health and well-being, and are central to what we offer – helping broaden aspirations and increase confidence
- We continually innovate through new technologies, improving what we do through feedback from our teams and participants.
- Our operation is sustained by a range of income streams. By 2026, 12,000 people every year will be able to participate in a Wetwheels experience.

4. Our structure

The Wetwheels Foundation is a registered charity constituted by way of Trust Deed, delivering experiences through our network of regional Operators. The Trustees play a central role and have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning the activities of The Wetwheels Foundation. The Foundation provides stewardship, management, guidance, support and information for our network:

"I enjoyed a perfect day with Wetwheels. I need to stay in my wheelchair and the amazing boat allows me to do this. I even got to drive all the way to the Isle of Wight!"

- Wetwheels Solent based in Portsmouth
- Wetwheels Jersey
- Wetwheels Hamble
- Wetwheels South East based in Dover
- Wetwheels Yorkshire based in Whitby
- Wetwheels South West based in Falmouth
- Wetwheels Edinburgh

5. Our recent story

Activity and participation

- Across the fleet we took over 6,000 people out on the water in 2021 - a significant achievement during the pandemic.
- We were able to get out on the water at a time when many of the most vulnerable in our society were and are, experiencing serious mental health problems, depression, anxiety and physical impact through not being able to access outdoor settings safely. There are still many unknowns and health implications.
- We have received powerful and often moving feedback on the impact of coming onboard - getting into the open air with such a sense of freedom can often, in many cases, be life-changing.
- This incredibly challenging period has demonstrated our responsiveness and robust operability.



Wetwheels South West

- Wetwheels South West, based in Falmouth, was delivered on time and to budget, mid-pandemic.
- We have been embracing many of the hardest to reach and most impacted by Covid 19, often in isolated communities, as well as those visiting the area.

Building for the future

- Our visit to **Port Edgar, Edinburgh** at the end of May last year was a great success.

Wetwheels Yorkshire spent a wonderful few days taking people out on the water and developing new networks, paving the way for our latest addition to the fleet, Wetwheels Edinburgh.

“A truly out of the ordinary adventure - it helps to bring sparkle to kinship families, especially with our children that have struggled with past traumas, building happy memories and strengthening our bonds.”



- Creation of the first [virtual reality](#) experience on a Wetwheels boat - so if someone cannot come to Wetwheels, we can come to them, and no one is excluded.



Christopher and Katherine's story

"Dear Geoff, Keith and the Wetwheels team - I just wanted to say thank you once again.

You gave my son Christopher, who has severe Autism, the opportunity to drive the boat. I was emotionally overwhelmed at how he listened to Keith and took instruction.

So often as parents we are made to feel that we shouldn't give our children the same chances as other children. In a relaxed atmosphere where I didn't have to ignore the stares and hear the whispers from those deemed as 'normal', you gave Christopher the chance to show me what he can do. I saw the expression on his face. The satisfaction and the pure joy - it was priceless.

I count myself lucky to have Christopher in my life, his zest for life is just amazing. He never gives up on things he wants, he just keeps going with sheer determination. It doesn't matter how many times he falls over, he just picks himself up. By allowing him to do the activities that challenge him he's taught me so very much.

So thank you not only for the trip but inspiring me to seek out other adventure activities.

Please never under estimate the difference that you make to us. I am sure if Christopher could, he would thank you too."

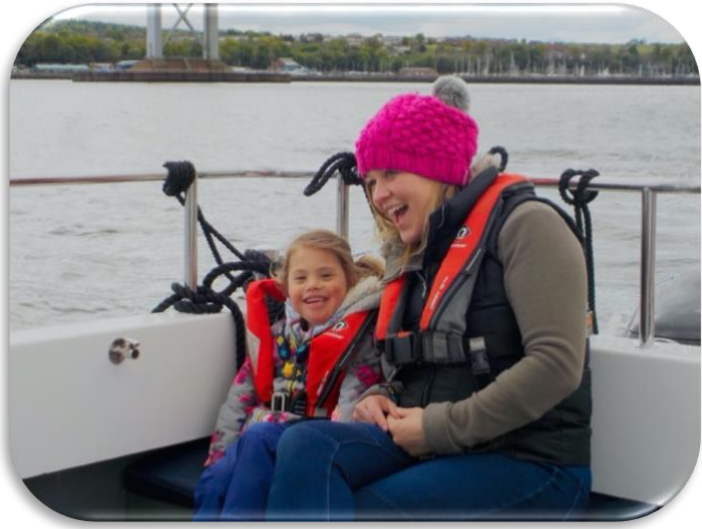


6. Huge progress with strong headwinds

Despite the challenges of the past year, active stewardship of the Foundation has enabled our organisation to continue to thrive. We have created a highly effective structure to support the needs and demands of our work.

This infrastructure is fundamental to the management of our charitable governance. It enables us to innovate and crucially, grow the fleet, to achieve our Mission.

Our Chief Executive and Company Secretary have made an enormous difference in achieving the following:



- The highest quality of fundraising practices and associated outcomes.
- Recruitment to the Trustee Board to ensure a range of experience and expertise as we grow.
- Innovative and accessible processes for feedback to help us to continually improve.
- Excellence in all areas of compliance e.g. health and safety, data management, skills and training.
- Robust governance and charity management.
- Raising awareness via various media, helping to tell our story and ensure new participants can access our activities.
- A sustainable business model with a diverse range of income streams.
- A culture of working together with passion, dedication and a sense of joy.

7. Locations

Existing

Future

(subject to confirmation including
Northern Ireland)



8. Funding – it's time to talk

- We are confident of achieving long term sustainability after our funding plans and events were significantly hampered in 2020 and 2021.
- We have now recommenced our National Development Board, which is a small group of volunteers who help guide our fundraising activities and connect us to new donors and supporters.

"Bob is non-verbal, but his broad grin tells us he finds the experience thrilling. Seeing him so happy gives me the energy to cope with the year on year caring role."



COSTS	2022.23	2023.24	2024.25	2025.26	TOTAL
Boats 7 – 10 capital cost	50,000	£115,000	£230,000	£115,000	£510,000
PT CEO & Company Secretary (including donor stewardship & grants / Trusts)	£69,600	£70,600	£70,600	£71,100	£281,900
Boat audits	£3,500	£0	£4,500	£0	£8,000
Fundraising & events	£3,700	£4,500	£5,000	£5,500	£18,700
Finance, Governance, Training & Development	£22,500	£23,000	£23,500	£24,000	£93,000
TOTAL	£149,300	£213,100	£333,600	£215,600	£911,600
FUNDING / INCOME CONFIRMED	£68,150	£48,350	£42,950	£33,050	£192,500
FUNDRAISING TARGET	£81,150	£164,750	£290,650	£182,550	£719,100

This funding will lead to the following outcomes:

On the water	Key Driver
1. By 2026 have a fleet of 10 boats, with 12,000 participants per year many of whom will be those with profound and complex disabilities.	Increased participation
2. Widen participation amongst the hardest to reach groups (c. 1,200 per boat per year) who are receiving limited support and who are often excluded.	Enhanced reach
3. Aim to identify a minimum of up to 20% new participants per annum to benefit from being on the water.	Blue Health and impact

Governance and sustainability	Key Driver
1. Deliver new pathways to develop fundraising via the National Development Board.	New income & sustainability
2. Ensure our charity management complies with charitable, legal and fiscal obligations with a resilience and core strength in the face of any future challenges.	Excel in charity Governance
3. Embed the latest finance and cost management processes to ensure best value for money .	Value for money
4. Retain, enhance and share skills and knowledge via our core team and Trustees - embedding our position as the Maritime & Coastguard Agency Subject Matter Expert in taking disabled people to sea.	Enhanced capability & shared learning
5. Build on new links with Defra and other government and community networks to drive the agenda forwards for equality of access and opportunity for all .	Building partnerships for the future

9. A message from our Chair

After such a challenging period for everyone, can we thank all those who have continued to support us and take an interest in our work.

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 with us when coming on the boats - and who then create their own journey on Wetwheels.



With my fellow Trustees, I would be delighted to welcome you onboard to see first-hand, just what we do and how it makes a difference - please do get in touch. 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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Andy Fell - Chair of Trustees

Please see the following contact details:

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Geoff Holt MBE DL, Founder and Trustee

Read our latest Annual Report:

<https://wetwheelsfoundation.org/about-us/>

