THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1152433

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	08404014
Registered	2013-06-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JX
Phone	00447958176160
Email	info@theflyingseagullproject.com
Website	www.theflyingseagullproject.com

Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; AND2) TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES, SO AS TO DEVELOP THEIR CAPABILITIES THAT THEY MAY GROW TO FULL MATURITY AS INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

Activities: We spread joy worldwide through music, art, circus and dance. Working with vulnerable, abandoned, outcast and poorly people, we run creative sessions to help build confidence, aid childhood development and strengthen communication.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152433

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Albania
- Belgium
- Bosnia And Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Poland
- Romania
- Spain
- Turkey
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£445,589	£438,508	-	-
2024-02-29	£664,306	£562,998	£464,802	5
2023-02-28	£546,683	£370,766	£363,494	3
2022-02-28	£258,873	£282,029	-	-
2021-02-28	£240,878	£196,698	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152433

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Balakrishna McAlinn		2019-08-07
Catherine Sullivan		2022-11-08
David Robinson		2022-11-08
Donna Yay		2022-11-08
Naomi Frances Briercliffe		2019-08-07
Sofie Henell		2024-07-01
Steve Wynne		2019-08-07

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1152433

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152433

Accounts

Charity registration number 1152433 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 08404014

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr S Wynne Ms N F Briercliffe Mr B McAlinn Ms D Yay Mr D Robinson Ms C Sullivan Ms S Henell	 (Appointed 1 July 2024)
Chief Executive	Mr A Perrin	
Charity number	1152433	
Company number	08404014	
Principal address	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY	
Registered office	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY	
Independent examiner	John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF	

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

CONTENTS

	Page
Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees	1
Trustees' report	2 - 14
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	15
Independent examiner's report	16
Statement of financial activities	17
Statement of financial position	18
Statement of cash flows	19
Notes to the financial statements	20 - 33

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The most unremarkable things that people say are often the most telling.

“It’s so nice to see them smiling. We do try to make them happy here, but it’s difficult.”

The heartbreaking simplicity of this mother’s aspiration, quoted on page 13, surely captures every parents’ most basic ambition: we want to make them happy – but if you’re homeless, living with day-to-day uncertainty in every dimension of your life, abject poverty, perhaps energy-sapping illness, violence or abuse, what might be unremarkable for some is barely imaginable for others.

The Flying Seagulls make children happy in refugee camps, care homes, hostels, hospitals, temporary accommodation centres, refuges, and community centres across the UK, Europe and the Middle East. Our activities have grown this year, more programmes, more diversity, more children – all made possible by more people committing to the mission.

Our income has increased in a challenging market.

Our staff and volunteer team has expanded. We are particularly pleased with the success of our apprenticeship programme which has nurtured the development of seven new colleagues this year, now all fully fledged, professional members of the team.

And we have strengthened the Trustee board with the addition of Sophie Henell. Sophie brings to our work the benefit of her long experience in the development sector with particular skills in programme management and a special interest in children – all hugely helpful.

Every night the TV news brings a daily reminder. Children are suffering across the world and we can’t do enough but we can be strategic. Strategic and smart about where we are needed most and about where we can make the useful contribution: sometimes independently, seeking out the places where others don’t go; often working with partners, combining and leveraging our assets.

I am indebted to all those who have helped us to make those decisions over the last year, to resource our choices, and to deliver the work: partners, funders and advisers, trustees, volunteers and paid staff, in the field and at base. Most of all I am grateful to the ever-growing family of children and their parents who have welcomed us into their lives with a warmth and enthusiasm that, for a while at least, defies the most difficult of times. Thank you all.

David Robinson

David Robinson (Sep 24, 2025 11:19:40 GMT+1)

David Robinson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date: 24/09/2025....

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2024.

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period ended 31 December 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note one to the accounts, and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for the accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Welcome to our annual report

Through music, circus, clowning, theatre, dance, magic and art, The Flying Seagull Project brings laughter and happiness to children in crisis. We work in refugee camps, care homes, hostels, hospitals, temporary accommodation centres, refuges, food banks and community centres in the UK, the Middle East and across Europe.

A message from our CEO

Since the beginning of The Flying Seagull Project in 2008, we have had one simple objective. We want to make sure that no childhood passes without moments of magic, self-value and the space and confidence to play. Over the last 17 years we have developed techniques, invested in equipment, expanded our team, diversified our priorities to include new communities and challenges, and introduced more in-depth and broad-reaching training. All of these advancements, however, still focus on that simple act of playful, loving connection with communities and children who have had obstacles placed in the way of their happiness. This year I can put my hand on my heart and say that I have never been more proud of the progress that we've made in all of those areas.

I've always taken this work extremely seriously, in spite of its playful and seemingly whimsical elements. It is a very strange task to be responsible for creating systems that are reliable, sustainable and dependable, without losing the magic of mischief and the liberating nature of play. That is, however, the task we've taken on, and to make that possible we have now rented a Seagull development and play training space in Athens. "The Nest" is now a hub for our teams to experiment, share skills, develop, create and innovate, so that we are always meeting the ever-growing challenge of bringing play to children in crisis.

We have developed a new Train 'n' Tour programme so that our regular volunteers who are ready, with the right skillset to become longer-term core members, have an in-depth, year-long training programme. This includes training in trauma-informed response, the practical elements of performance magic and street-style entertainment, responsive play methodology, and the challenges of working in crisis.

In terms of diversity of approach, we have now launched our Sensory Circus, led by a number of the team who have put their hearts and souls into developing a truly authentic and genuinely inclusive project and show-delivery style. This means being brave enough to sidestep systems, methods and formats that we have used for many years, to explore dynamic, innovative and brand new concepts and delivery styles. The Sensory Circus team have been developing equipment that has never been seen before, so that every child, no matter what body they are born into, can enjoy twirling a hoop and balancing on a tight wire, or enjoy the gentle comfort and pleasure of a sense-based show: truly dynamic work, and something I'm extremely excited to see us take further.

We have also not stepped back from frontline delivery in areas of crisis. It is now our third year delivering in Poland, supporting children from institutional care who are fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. Wherever there is hardship, there should be Seagulls; and we have taken big steps this year to meet that need even more.

We saw a team return to Turkey for the second time following the devastating earthquakes that, in the blink of an eye, left so many families homeless and without possessions. Those families are still facing extreme adversity, living in container villages across the region with no end in sight to this new reality. They must, however, still have the vital elements of play, and a safe and loving childhood for those little people that now call it home.

Across the UK we continue to meet the ever-growing challenge of displaced communities trying to find a safe and healthy existence in temporary accommodation, we expanded our support in Great Ormond Street hospital, as well as continuing to work across the country in communities facing hardship. We also recognised the need for extra support for mothers and children who have been forced to seek shelter from violent situations at home. These upheavals can be just as devastating as fleeing a country, as it's the same element of leaving all you know behind and racing towards a future of uncertainty. The one thing we want to make sure at the Seagull Project is that, whatever else they lost, they don't lose their childhood as well.

For the year ahead we will continue to develop our training tour plans, our sensory delivery and frontline work, as well as seeking, as always, the communities that no one knows needs care. Every year we put a piece of budget aside that we call "needed but not known". Rather than adapting our projects to fit what may be publicly known or easily funded, we make sure that communities where there is no care, no publicity, also receive some full-power Seagull sunshine and play.

I want to send a special thank you to every member of the Seagull team, those working in the performances and those working behind the scenes to make it all possible. This team of devoted, passionate, hard-working humans go the extra mile more times than I can count and it is that reason and almost that reason alone that we are able, after 17 years, to say once again that we have grown in delivery, we have grown in funding, grown in team, and most importantly, increased the sharing of love, light, laughter and playfulness for children across the globe.

Ash Perrin, clown and entertainer, founded The Flying Seagull Project in 2008.

Our mission

We share joy worldwide through music, art, circus and dance. Working with vulnerable, abandoned, displaced and poorly people, we run creative sessions to help build confidence, aid childhood development and strengthen communication.

We believe everyone has the right to laugh, socialise and enjoy their life, no matter their financial, physical, psychological or societal situation.

We believe every child should have the right to play freely without risk or threat.

We believe play, creativity and laughter are essential to a child's development and therefore to the community as a whole.

What we have achieved

March to December 2024 at a glance
In the reporting period, we delivered 594 Seagull sessions, with a total attendance of more than 35,967.

International projects

- Fantastic Attica: 70 sessions shared from March to June and October to December, with a total attendance of 4,108.
- Joyful Jordan: 100 sessions shared from March to May and October to November, with a total attendance of 17,097.
- Talking Turkey: 67 sessions shared from March to May, with a total attendance of 7,789.
- Balkan Laughathon: 55 sessions shared in May, with a total attendance of 1,613.
- Playtime Poland: 33 sessions shared from May to June, with a total attendance of 760.
- Sensory Circus – Poland: 53 sessions shared from September to October, with a total attendance of 655.

National projects in the UK

- Emergency Laughter Relief: 104 sessions shared in March, from April to May, and June to July, with a total attendance of 1,656.
- Laugh ‘n’ Play UK: 71 sessions shared in April, May, and from October to November, with a total attendance of 1,508.
- Great Ormond Street children's hospital: seven sessions shared from May to October, with session attendances ranging from three to 14.
- Sensory Suitcase and Sensory Circus: 30 sessions shared from June to July, with a total attendance of 414.
- One-off events: four sessions delivered in June, August and December, with a total attendance of more than 350.

New initiatives in March to December 2024

Sensory Circus

“Sensory Circus” is our new, participant-led model made specifically for those with disabilities and the most barriers to access. The project emphasises sensory exploration, play and activities, delivered in smaller groups with a focus on more one-to-one engagement between participants and Seagull crew.

Through carefully designed and bespoke equipment, shows, workshops and games, we bring the full essence of the Seagull circus to life through the senses, with intensive interaction, music, puppetry and magic, using equipment and content tailored to all abilities. Children see that every single one of them deserves a moment of dedicated play and attention in a way that fits their engagement style.

After developing the Sensory Circus through a period of review, research and training, we trialled this new model in the UK over June and July. We then launched a full Sensory Circus project in the UK, and afterwards incorporated this new model into our work in Poland.

Our first full international Sensory Circus tour in Poland took place in the autumn, where we delivered 53 sessions with a total attendance of 655. This tailored, meticulously planned tour created an inclusive, accessible and exciting experience for all participants, bringing our high-energy, bold and magical circus experience to all, with particular focus on accommodating those with disabilities and other barriers to access.

One of our delivery partners in Poland reported: “[I’ve] worked with other community groups with people with disabilities and never seen such high engagement and the whole group enjoy an activity so completely. It was so nice to see everyone engaged in their own way and on their own terms.”

Great Ormond Street children’s hospital

Since the early days of the Seagulls, we’ve sent our smile specialists to support children in hospitals. And for many years now, we’ve been proud to visit kids and their families while they’re at Great Ormond Street.

In 2024, we launched a full partnership with Great Ormond Street, to look at delivering a more regular programme of Seagull visits to children receiving hospital treatment there and their families. We got things started this year with seven visits from May through to October.

Train ‘n’ Tour

Our team is one of our greatest assets. To ensure our quality and consistency while increasing our reach, we have invested in a detailed training programme for the team to develop skills, confidence and experience, plus a full understanding of how and why we use the trauma-informed approach that underpins everything we do.

Ash has devised our new, experiential “Train ‘n’ Tour” programme, which combines training with touring. This immersive model means that the team immediately delivers what they have learned, and allows trainers to give very specific feedback based on real settings. During this year we trained two new international team leads and six new core crew, to allow a more experienced, skilled and extensive delivery programme in the year to follow.

Our international projects in detail

Fantastic Attica - March to June and October to December

Total attendance was 4,108 across 70 sessions.

Fantastic Attica was launched in 2023, expanding our longstanding work in Greece and drawing on the skills of our growing local team of Seagull performers.

Through this year's Fantastic Attica programme, we continued our work with community education centres for child refugees, shelters for unaccompanied children seeking refuge, support groups for children and adults with disabilities, Roma communities, and children living alone in state care.

We also used the second block of this project, from October to December, as an opportunity to deliver on-project training and development as part of our new Train 'n' Tour model, under the instruction of senior Seagulls Bash and Benno.

Comments from the delivery team:

In addition to the continued effort to support displaced communities, we also recognise the extremely difficult circumstances for many communities and groups across Greece. As an economy in a continued crisis, many areas of society are painfully under-provided for, resulting in a major lack of joy. Our work around Attica and across other regions in Greece has included groups such as Roma communities and elderly residents in care homes, providing play, fun and creative connection in areas it simply doesn't exist otherwise.

These communities face challenges most of us would find impossible to imagine, so we met those challenges with full power, full colour, play and energy. - Ash

Partner feedback:

"The Flying Seagulls' show took place at a school which serves both host country and refugee students. The performance was an excellent experience that bridged language barriers between these two groups. The students formed one team, united by laughter, surprise and excitement. Furthermore, I noticed that shy and reserved children were filled with self-confidence and pride, and they actively participated in the performance. The teachers were ecstatic about the show and stated that they had never seen the students participate in an activity with such enthusiasm." - senior teacher at a primary school in Greece

Joyful Jordan - March to May

Total attendance was 17,097 across 100 sessions.

For the last two years we've worked in Jordan, as part of a "Middle East Medley" programme in which we also visit Lebanon. This year we were unable to work in Lebanon due to the escalating conflict that preceded the Israeli invasion in October. We therefore increased our efforts in Jordan: a country that is home to hundreds of thousands of displaced children, many of them growing up in conditions of extreme hardship.

Across two six-week visits to the country, we delivered circus and smiles in large refugee camps housing people displaced from Syria, in refugee camps for Palestinian refugees, in community centres supporting displaced children from Eritrea and Sudan, in centres supporting children and adults with disabilities, and in a youth prison housing boys between the ages of 12 and 15.

Comments from the delivery team:

"This project focuses on creating memories for a lot of children. That this is working was visible in the way children remembered us from a year ago: greeting me by my clown name before I even introduced myself; asking after the Seagulls that were there last tour, but not now, also by their names; inquiring after magic tricks and games we did last time and whether they'll happen again. The grown-ups all want to show us pictures from the previous tours, of

us with them and their children. One of the teachers that saw us for the fourth time said that this was our best show so far. Even though we only come by once or twice a year and not everyone gets the chance to see us each time, we are slowly becoming a part of their life." - Pieter

Partner feedback:

"With all love and appreciation, I extend, on behalf of The East Amman Charity and Development Association, my deepest thanks and gratitude. You were more than just visitors; you were creators of moments of joy and happiness that left a beautiful mark on everyone's hearts, especially the children, who were filled with delight thanks to your exceptional performances.

"Your games were full of joy, your costumes and characters brought creativity and magic to the atmosphere, and your team's kind and professional interaction reflected high levels of warmth and excellence.

"We truly enjoyed getting to know you and sharing this wonderful experience. We hope to see you again soon in upcoming events.

"Thank you from the heart." - Iman Titi, East Amman Charity and Development Association

Talking Turkey - March to May and October to November

Total attendance was 7,789 across 67 sessions.

Last year we launched our first project in Turkey, offering our support for communities affected by the terrible earthquake of February 2023. In light of the ongoing hardships experienced by those who had lost their homes, we returned for a further project in 2024.

This year, we revisited the "container cities" that are providing temporary accommodation, more than a year on, for those displaced by the earthquake, as well as visiting refugee camps housing families from Syria, working with children in institutional care, and putting on Seagull workshops in centres for children with disabilities.

Comments from the delivery team:

"I remember visiting a school in a refugee camp, very close to the border with Syria. Due to its location this school had a large military presence and security, and we were told there were 3,000 children currently enrolled. The response to the three shows we delivered here was incredible – each had upwards of 1,000 children in the audience, and the level of excitement and anticipation felt like this was a really monumental event for the community. We were later told by a teacher at the school that nobody had been in to visit these children in over two years, and we could really feel this in their response to the show." - Anna

Partner feedback:

"After our three-day event, we would like to express our endless thanks for your communication with our children, the love you show them, the value you give them and your never-diminishing energy, for putting a smile on the faces of our children, for being the most beautiful heroes in their imaginations and for making us experience many beauties like these. We are always waiting for you at our school, our door is wide open to you."
- Centre in Nizip for children with disabilities

Balkan Laughathon - May

Total attendance was 1,613 across 55 sessions.

We've worked in the Balkans since the earliest days of the Seagulls, and 2024 was no exception. Throughout May, we had teams working in Bulgaria and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These two countries remain among the poorest in Europe: in such circumstances, young people too often miss out on access to proper play, recreation and opportunities for creative development. Both countries have also become staging points for people seeking refuge in Europe. Consequently, there are large numbers of children spending long periods of time in seriously under-provisioned refugee centres.

Through the course of this project, we worked with children in refugee centres, children in care, children from Roma communities, young people and adults with disabilities, and in local schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Comments from the delivery team:

“A beautiful thing about this project was how we could see the impact of previous sessions of the seagulls. In many of the places we visited, children knew some of the games or could already sing the songs. The way their faces lit up at the sight of the familiar stripy socks tells a story itself. There were even a few individuals who remembered me from the first and my last Bulgaria tour, three years ago.

“In a session with adults with disabilities we were told by staff that one participant was not allowed on the parachute and that he couldn't play. However, we supported him to take part in the game and were met with faces of surprise from staff at what he could achieve.” - Pieter

Partner feedback:

“The Flying Seagulls always manage to bring smiles to people from all ages. Voenna Rampa came to life upon their visit – the whole yard was full of laughter, colours and activities. I'm especially grateful for some unaccompanied children that took part in the activity. In day-to-day life, because of the circumstances, I see some aggression and difficulty with communication among them. But as soon as your team showed up all of this vanished. And for two whole days I saw joy, contagious joy, in kids who rarely experience positive emotions. For this I'm grateful. Thank you for the great and fun way you handle all that comes up from these precious children's lives and bring freshness into my work motivation.” - Partner at a refugee centre in Bulgaria

Playtime Poland - May to June

Total attendance was 760 across 33 sessions.

Since October 2022, we’ve worked in Poland to support children evacuated from Ukraine, who are living without their parents in institutional care. In 2024, we continued this work, as well as expanding our Playtime Poland programme to include more Seagull sessions in schools and centres for young people and adults with disabilities.

Comments from the delivery team:

“The kids were running towards us excitedly when we came. They were singing the songs we do with them and were very ready to start the circle games. Some of them even said things we usually say, before we started to say it. It seemed like they took lots of ownership in the games and songs. When we left, they were asking ‘tomorrow?’ – we could tell them that we would be back the day after tomorrow, with lots of circus and a show!” - Eline

Feedback from a parent:

“A mum observing the show and session came and thanked us for the visit, saying that this is the only visit or activity they’d had in the two years since they fled from the Ukraine war, so they were so happy the kids had something fun to do.” - Reported by Eline, Seagull project lead

Sensory Circus – Poland - September to October

Total attendance was 655 across 53 sessions.

Following its successful research and development phase in the UK, we premiered the international launch of Sensory Circus in Poland. We collaborated with one of the largest schools for disabled people in Europe, which has been a long-term partner of The Flying Seagull Project. This collaboration meant we could trial this new Sensory Circus method in a setting we trusted, and have built a foundation of trust with. The school serves children and young adults from the age of three to 19, and also has an attached adults service. The school serves a range of needs, including physical disabilities, those with visual and hearing differences, those with learning disabilities and neurodiversities as well as those labelled with profound and multiple learning disabilities. This meant we were able to deliver our show to many participants with varying access needs, which was crucial to making sure the project served our community groups in the way we intended.

Due to our longstanding relationship with the school, we were able to offer a three-week residency, in which we delivered three to four shows daily, each with at most 15 participants. During these three weeks, we saw all the children in the school. The residency format meant we were able to use our new, fold-out indoor circus big top tent, which helped us bring the magic of the circus to our participants. As well as the show content, we were able to trial our bespoke accessible equipment with participants, including hula hoops and juggling sets.

Comments from the delivery team:

“In a Sensory Circus session, there was a teenage boy who came in with very heightened fear and anxiety. He would rapidly walk in the opposite direction of anyone new and he was very clear on not wanting to physically engage. We immediately honoured this and made it very clear that he could stay outside of the tent and join or not join us whenever he chose and however he felt comfortable with. For the majority of the show he kept a physical distance but his engagement increased incrementally as each moment passed. He was given the space to be curious outside of the active playing zone and so therefore was able to participate in the way that was his own version of engagement and that allowed him to find safety. He came closer and closer to us and at the end of the show gave me a high five. For this young man to reach that level of comfort with us from where he started and in that short a period of time was remarkable and felt like a huge win for both him and us.” - Mickey

Partner feedback:

“The artists have prepared something special – a sensory tent that gave children unforgettable experiences. In a magical atmosphere full of colours, sounds and textures, the little ones could explore new stimuli and experiences. The children were delighted and fascinated by every element of the show. It was an amazing adventure that opened their senses and imagination!” - Partner at a centre in Poland for children and adults with disabilities

Our UK projects in detail

Emergency Laughter Relief - March, April to May, and June to July

Total attendance in the reporting period was 1,656 across 104 sessions.

We launched Emergency Laughter Relief in 2021, as a year-round programme of play support for children who are seeking refuge in the UK and are living in temporary accommodation. In 2023, we adapted this project into a residency format, to make sure the children at each location we visited got a full week’s programme of games, circus and activities.

This year, having seen the positive impact of a Seagull residency for children’s confidence, social development and overall wellbeing, we decided to roll these circus residencies out more widely. As well as continuing our work with displaced children in temporary accommodation, we put on Emergency Laughter Relief residencies at community centres, in pupil referral units, and with an organisation supporting mums and pre-school children in temporary or insecure accommodation.

Comments from the delivery team:

“Every single group we visited had a huge lift in confidence and self esteem. When we first arrived the children would be a bit wary of us. We would spend the first session earning their trust and through the fun and safe structure we offer they would come out of their shells. This resulted in every single child feeling safe and confident enough to take part in a talent show and perform to their peers and families.

“One hotel had teenagers who were very reluctant to get involved. On show day I asked them to create some magic tricks for the younger children and perform them in the show. This was a major success. We had teens developing their own routines, jokes and tricks and integrated it into the magic show.” - Cameron

Participant feedback after a residency in a pupil referral unit:

“It was cool, we enjoyed it because of the different activities everyone could do. It was better than lessons.”
- JC, year nine

"I liked the clowns, they were friendly and we were all invited to take part. When are they coming back?"
- TG, year eight

"The best part of the project was the fun activities, even the teachers took part so we worked together."
- MA, year nine

Laugh 'n' Play UK - April, May, and from October to November

Total attendance was 1,508 across 71 sessions.

2024 marked the fifth year of our Laugh 'n' Play UK programme of school holiday smile support. During the school breaks, we visit community centres, disability support organisations, hotels accommodating refugees, out-of-school services, young carers groups, hospices and refuges, to share a positive day of play, circus and laughter.

In December, we deliver these sessions with a seasonal twist as a Festive Cheer Up project.

Comments from the delivery team:

"During the freeplay portion of a session for children who can no longer live with their parents, one of the older girls really took to stilt walking. She eventually mastered it and was able to walk backwards and around the whole room. She said that she felt like she was never able to do anything and this was the first thing she could do."
- Liz and Echo

"The children were excited and engaged with the show, but the adult women living at the refuge even more so. They joined in with every magic trick, being the loudest participants, they all got stuck into free play and particularly enjoyed getting to grips with the stilts. They made lots of videos of the show that I could hear them watching again and again." - Liz

Participant feedback:

"It's so nice to see them smiling. We do try to make them happy here, but it's difficult."
- mother at a refuge for women and children

"I don't get much of a chance to have fun like this, I look after five brothers and sisters at home."
- 15-year-old girl at a young carers support group

Great Ormond Street children's hospital - May to October

Seven sessions delivered, with session attendances ranging from three to 14.

We launched our new partnership with Great Ormond Street in May, organising seven visits in total across the reporting period.

Comments from the delivery team:

"The children we interacted with thoroughly enjoyed our presence and their parents expressed gratitude for distracting them from their reasons for referral to the hospital." - George

Feedback from a parent:

"I'm so stressed, my son is being operated on. It's a relief to see his brother play and engage with you while we wait. Thanks for distracting him."

Sensory Suitcase and Sensory Circus - June to July

Total attendance in the reporting period was 414 across 30 sessions.

Following a period of research, training and planning, we launched our new "Sensory Circus" model in the UK.

Sensory Circus includes both Sensory Circus shows and Sensory Suitcases. Sensory Suitcases are 45-minute, themed, participant-led sensory workshops. We created Sensory Suitcase alongside community partners in London to make sure our work was being developed with our audience in mind. Throughout six sessions we gathered feedback and, after an overwhelmingly positive response, we then launched a bigger Sensory Circus project, in which we shared 24 sensory sessions with a larger range of partner organisations in July.

Comments from the delivery team:

“This was the first time we explored specifically a sensory way of working in the Flying Seagulls, and the engagement we saw from each group we worked with was huge. Although we have previously worked with groups and individuals with sensory needs, I have often felt that the offer we had wasn’t quite right and the children weren’t always able to access our sessions and shows in a way that was appropriate and meaningful for them. During this project, however, children with a huge range of different needs were able to truly engage with the show, and we kept getting this feedback from teachers, parents, support workers and hospice staff.

“In every class that we worked with across all the schools, it felt like every child had at least one thing that they were able to engage with and enjoy. The variety within the show, and the one-to-one, interactive moments, meant that it worked on so many different levels. Often there would be one or two children in a class who were more reluctant to participate, staying at the side with their teaching assistant or doing a different activity. However, almost always there would be something in the show that would catch their attention and allow them to engage of their own accord. One participant in particular spent a considerable amount of her time sitting with her back towards the stage, not wanting to turn around and with ear defenders on. During every single one-to-one intensive interaction, though, she showed curiosity and really engaged with the performer and sensory prop!

“As well as our observations, it was very telling to hear from the adults who know the children well, and often we would hear how surprised and delighted support workers and teachers were that children who normally struggle to engage were joining in and wanting to be part of the fun! The sea bucket in particular was incredibly popular; one boy who is visually impaired grabbed the bucket and lifted it up to his eyes to stare at every part of it – the teachers were so excited by this level of engagement! Another child got so excited he picked the seaweed out of the bucket and put it on Robyn’s head – the staff were shocked and shared that he never engages in sensory play and this was a huge step for him.” - Robyn

Partner feedback:

“The Seagulls are so careful, trauma-informed, equitable, gentle, silly, excitable. The shows are expertly created and finely tuned to account for the reaction of the children. The level of care, detail, and compassion in the shows is mindblowing. This was the first time we had done consecutive, close play with children who have emerging sensory and communication needs. It was wonderful to see how the ethos and techniques of the wider shows can be translated into close work and individual one-to-one work. What you do is magic, it transforms lives; you don't just perform shows, you perform miracles every single day.” - Jane Williams, founder and CEO of the Magpie Project

“The show engaged everyone, and the sensory element made one of our less verbal children so animated, as well as being some well-deserved silly fun for the other children, parents and staff. Seeing one of our children nearing the end of her life smiling and laughing along with the staff was incredibly emotive. The team is very flexible and adaptive to our needs – thank you for pausing the show when more children arrived! We would absolutely recommend this experience to any organisation working with children, particularly with varying needs. The team just brings a unique light into the room that every child deserves to feel. Thank you so much from all of us.”
- member of staff at a hospice

One-off events - June, August and December

Total attendance was more than 350, across four events.

This year we joined four one-off events with partners in the UK.

In June we were at Hammersmith and Fulham Council’s Summer Refugee Day, sharing play, games and laughter with more than 50 young asylum seekers and refugees.

We were once again proud to support the One Heart Festival in June: an event for the community who were affected by the Grenfell fire in 2017. Total attendance at this year’s festival was 2,504.

We joined a summer day out in August and a Christmas party in December organised by our partner Hestia, who support families affected by domestic abuse and modern slavery. Across both events, around 300 women and children joined in with Seagull shows and our play and games offerings.

Comments from the delivery team:

“Hestia said how much the kids had enjoyed it. And there were some lovely moments when we got some adults to try things they were normally too shy to do. It boosted their confidence and was positive for the kids too.”
- Francesca

Partner feedback:

“The Flying Seagulls were fantastic and the families enjoyed seeing them. They were friendly, engaging and kept people entertained with all their different circus skills. The activities were well organised and we definitely recommend them.” - Sabrina Lobo, Corporate Volunteering Partnership Coordinator at Hestia

How we monitor and evaluate

We take pride in our monitoring and evaluation, so that we can accurately, sensitively and effectively tell the story about the difference our projects make for children and families around the world.

We share real-life data and stories. We record and measure the impact of what we do through case studies, partner feedback, audience and family feedback, numbers attending the shows, photographs, videos, interviews with attendees and partners, anecdotes and comments, quotes, and partner observations.

To add to this, we are extremely proud to share that Justine Howard, Chris Cox and Rhiannon Morgan of Swansea University carried out an independent thematic review of our impact, based on 596 facilitator reports representing our global activity throughout 2024. Their analysis reveals benefits to children’s socio-emotional behaviour and health, and confidence and independence. These findings underscore the importance of laughter and “being in the moment”, and make the case for play’s role within humanitarian policy and practice. Their summary concludes:

“When children are afforded opportunities for spontaneous play and joyful expression, they experience lower levels of stress hormones like cortisol and increased production of endorphins and oxytocin, which support neurological development and emotional resilience. Joyful interactions in early childhood are strongly linked to the formation of secure attachments and the development of empathy and prosocial behaviour. Moreover, environments that encourage laughter and happiness support creativity and exploration, essential elements of cognitive development.

“Children thrive when they feel safe, relaxed, and engaged, conditions created by the Flying Seagulls in their programmes of activity. Given their specific emphasis on supporting children affected by crisis (whether this be the result of displacement, ill-health, poverty or disability), spontaneous joy also helps children build coping strategies to process life challenges in a positive social and emotional framework. In sum, laughter and happiness are not merely byproducts of a healthy childhood – they are vital components of it.”

Our team

Our Board of Trustees

David Robinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Bala McAlinn
Naomi Briercliffe
Sofie Henell
Catherine Sullivan
Steve Wynne
Donna Yay

Our founder and CEO

Having founded the project in 2008, Ash Perrin AKA Bash is still involved with every aspect of the charity from board meetings to beard greetings. Ash is a passionate advocate for children’s rights and is devoted to making sure the project always delivers high-standard dynamic play.

Our delivery team

We have a phenomenal team of skilled and experienced entertainment crew who work with full energy and enthusiasm across both international and national projects, delivering the highest-quality music, arts and entertainment to make sure every child we meet feels included, special and valued. Our crew is made up of volunteers, core team and team leaders who deliver across both our international and national projects. To support our team's development in the organisation, we run training and development programmes including our new Train 'n' Tour format. We also run several volunteer training programmes throughout the year, and welcome interest and applications from new volunteers to bring more talent into the Seagull flock.

Our office team

Our base camp team is headed up by chief clown and founder Ash Perrin, CEO, supported by our Executive Director, Tania who has been with us since 2020. Our "base camp" office team is made up of our Marketing and Communications Lead Martin, who has been with us since 2018; Philippa our Finance Manager who joined in April 2023; Ciara our Projects Coordinator in charge of all project bookings, partnerships, logistics and team plannings and briefings, who joined us in January 2024; and Rachel, our Volunteer Manager who joined in March 2023, making sure that our team of fantastic volunteers are welcomed, trained, briefed, and supported.

Thank you to our valued donors and supporters

We have a wonderful, dedicated range of supporters, spanning one-off donors, event fundraisers, regular givers, major donors, family trusts and foundations, and institutional donors.

From seeing us at festivals, or through our schools partnership programme, hearing about us via word of mouth or through our socials, we are hugely appreciative of everyone who takes the time to find out more and who put their hard-earned cash towards helping us to reach more children who deserve to play.

We are hugely grateful for our valued and long term partnership with Choose Love, who continue to believe in us, promote us and support our work. We are also incredibly grateful to our family trust and foundation partners for supporting us with valuable unrestricted and core funding, demonstrating belief and trust in us and what we do.

We would like to thank everyone who continues to follow, share and "like" our work. Your support in sharing our message is vital for us and we are grateful that you take the time to keep our messages going.

Thank you to all our supporters for continuing to believe in us and in the power of play; we couldn't do any of this without you.

Future plans

In 2025, we plan to continue to maintain a diverse income stream from a range of sources, so we can continue to be flexible and nimble in response to the crises and issues that we identify around the world.

We aim to continue on the path that we have successfully followed throughout 2024. In particular, we will:

1. **Train more team:** Continue to roll out our global training programme, led and delivered by Ash, our founder and CEO, to train up existing team to lead projects and to recruit new experienced team and volunteers.

2. **Deliver more projects:** We intend to run new projects across Europe, in Colombia, in Bangladesh, and to continue to deliver our Sensory Circus project in more areas where there is a distinct need.

3. **Develop our operational capacity**: We are continuously evaluating, developing and growing our internal capacity to support our team, to run our operations to the highest standards, to plan and deliver where, based on research, we know there is the most need, and to excel in our training, safeguarding, partnership work and monitoring. All these core functions require regular review, consideration and adjustments, and we intend to continue this as a priority throughout 2025.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Financial review

The total income of the Charity for the year was £445,587 (28 February 2024: £664,306) with an overall surplus of £7,081 (28 February 2024: £101,308).

Reserves

The Charity seeks to set aside at least six to nine months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. Based on current annual activity and future development plans, the Board of Trustees has determined to hold £150,000 in unrestricted funds for this purpose. These are referred to as Minimum Operating Reserves in our designations.

In addition, at the year ending December 2024, the Board further designated unrestricted funds to support delivery of work within our charitable aims.

Designation

Needed but Not Known ***£50,000***
Funds to work in areas where we are desperately needed but that are often unknown or are difficult to fundraise for. In addition there can be a need to quickly respond to events and the Board wishes to hold funds, to ensure that those in crisis are supported in line with our mission.

It is anticipated that where we have the resources this will be a rolling designation for the Charity.

Vehicles and Equipment **£20,000**
Funds to enable the charity to meet significant maintenance costs, and replacements of vehicles and equipment

It is expected that this will be a rolling designation while ever we hold vehicles and equipment within the Charity.

Development & Innovation **£30,000**
A fund to be used for the development of the charity, including innovative work. This could include tangible assets but also investment in people who can move the work of the charity forward in new ways, to reach more of those in need.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th February 2013, and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Flying Seagull Project has a Management Committee made up of the Board of Trustees. The Management Committee meets a minimum of twice annually and keeps full minutes. In addition, smaller working groups of Trustees with particular professional skills work on projects relevant to their experiences to support the Charity's activities. The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring the public benefit of the Charity's activities is clear and adhered to at all times. Strategic direction, expenditure and policy is discussed and decided on as a group. No decision entailing a substantial change in direction by the Charity is taken unless it has been approved by a majority of the Management Committee members.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the period and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr S Wynne
Ms N F Briercliffe
Mr B McAlinn
Ms D Yay
Mr D Robinson
Ms C Sullivan
Ms S Henell (Appointed 1 July 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
New trustees with suitable talents and experience are appointed at the discretion of the existing trustees. Appropriate induction and training procedures are followed.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

David Robinson

David Robinson (Sep 24, 2025 11:19:40 GMT+1)

Mr D Robinson
Trustee

Date: 24/09/2025

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Flying Seagull Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Flying Seagull Project (the Charity) for the period ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE
Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Date: 25 September 2025

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	225,882	214,467	440,349	335,684	310,877	646,561
Investments	**4**	4,840	-	4,840	17,745	-	17,745
Other income	**5**	400	-	400	-	-	-
Total income		231,122	214,467	445,589	353,429	310,877	664,306
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**6**	61,804	-	61,804	52,466	-	52,466
Charitable activities	**7**	82,443	294,261	376,704	254,187	256,345	510,532
Total expenditure		144,247	294,261	438,508	306,653	256,345	562,998
Net income/(expenditure)		86,875	(79,794)	7,081	46,776	54,532	101,308
Transfers between funds	**18**	-	-	-	(21,943)	21,943	-
Net movement in funds	**9**	86,875	(79,794)	7,081	24,833	76,475	101,308
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 March 2024		323,053	141,749	464,802	298,220	65,274	363,494
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		409,928	61,955	471,883	323,053	141,749	464,802

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	**12**		27,608		22,713
Investments	**13**		1		1
			27,609		22,714
Current assets					
Inventories	**14**	6,707		-	
Trade and other receivables	**15**	41,144		9,245	
Cash at bank and in hand		411,337		442,428	
		459,188		451,673	
Current liabilities	**16**	(14,914)		(9,585)	
Net current assets			444,274		442,088
Total assets less current liabilities			471,883		464,802
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	**18**		61,955		141,749
Unrestricted funds	**19**		409,928		323,053
			471,883		464,802

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the period ended 31 December 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

David Robinson

David Robinson (Sep 24, 2025 11:19:40 GMT+1)

Mr D Robinson
Trustee

Ms C Sullivan (Sep 24, 2025 11:09:51 GMT+1)

Ms C Sullivan
Trustee

Company registration number 08404014 (England and Wales)

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**23**		(19,531)		97,170
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(16,800)		(8,818)	
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		400		-	
Investment income received		4,840		17,745	
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities			(11,560)		8,927
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(31,091)		106,097
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period			442,428		336,331
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period			411,337		442,428

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Flying Seagull Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1, Aldbury's Farm, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7JY.

1.1 **Reporting period**

The charity has changed its year end to better align with the way that activities are run and funded. These accounts are for the 10 month period from 1 March 2024 - 31 December 2024. The comparative figures are for 12 months.

1.2 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grant income received for projects is deferred to the balance sheet and recognised in the statement of financial activities when the work is undertaken.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure is recognised when there is an obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the appropriate heading and includes irrecoverable VAT.

1.7 Property, plant and equipment

Property, fixtures and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Fixtures and equipment costs above £2,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.9 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.12 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.14 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.15 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	162,108	20,000	182,108	290,684	4,175	294,859
Grants	63,774	194,467	258,241	45,000	306,702	351,702
	225,882	214,467	440,349	335,684	310,877	646,561
Donations and gifts						
Donations and gift aid	162,108	20,000	182,108	272,939	4,175	277,114
Donations from Trading Subsidiary	-	-	-	17,745	-	17,745
	162,108	20,000	182,108	290,684	4,175	294,859

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	4,840	17,745

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	400	-

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	6,746	16,017
Staff costs	55,058	36,449
	61,804	52,466

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	61,044	96,830
Depreciation and impairment	11,905	13,709
Projects expenditure	220,739	294,629
Consultancy fees	2,333	14,655
	296,021	419,823
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Support	77,683	87,709
Governance	3,000	3,000
	376,704	510,532
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	82,443	254,187
Restricted funds	294,261	256,345
	376,704	510,532

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	58,953	53,537
Insurance	2,758	1,453
Sundry expenses	-	39
Bookkeeping	-	3,000
Charity administration expenses	14,652	23,076
Consultancy	-	955
Marketing and PR	1,320	5,649
Governance	3,000	3,000
	80,683	90,709

Governance costs comprise:	2024 £	2024 £
Independent examination fees	950	950
Accountancy	2,050	2,050
	3,000	3,000

9 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	950	950
Depreciation of owned property, plant and equipment	11,905	13,709
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(400)	-

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the period was:

	2024 Number	2024 Number
Charitable Activities	3	3
Admin	3	2
Total	6	5

10 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	**2024**	**2024**
	£	**£**
Wages and salaries	161,396	171,402
Social security costs	11,206	12,902
Other pension costs	2,453	2,512
	175,055	186,816

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024	**2024**
	Number	**Number**
£60,000 - £70,000	-	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2024	**2024**
	£	**£**
Aggregate compensation	45,834	55,000

During the year a salary was paid to Mr A Perrin, as disclosed above. Mr Perrin is a Director of the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd.

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the period.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Property, plant and equipment

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 March 2024	33,947	72,826	106,773
Additions	16,800	-	16,800
Disposals	-	(7,295)	(7,295)
At 31 December 2024	50,747	65,531	116,278
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 March 2024	33,947	50,113	84,060
Depreciation charged in the period	3,360	8,545	11,905
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(7,295)	(7,295)
At 31 December 2024	37,307	51,363	88,670
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2024	13,440	14,168	27,608
At 28 February 2024	-	22,713	22,713

13 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 March 2024 & 31 December 2024	1
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2024	1
At 28 February 2024	1

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2024 £	2024 £
Investments in subsidiaries	**22**	1	1

14 Inventories

	2024 £	2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	6,707	-

15 Trade and other receivables

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2024 £
Trade receivables	13,316	-
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	27,828	9,245
	41,144	9,245

16 Current liabilities

	2024 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	5,177	5,109
Trade payables	6,737	1,476
Accruals and deferred income	3,000	3,000
	14,914	9,585

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,453	2,512

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 March 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Austen Steers Charitable Trust - LnP	18,992	-	(18,992)	-	-
Crucible - UK Posts	-	30,000	(2,206)	-	27,794
Crucible - Training & Development	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
ELR Choose Love	-	50,000	(34,114)	-	15,886
Playtime Poland	50,000	-	(50,000)	-	-
National Lottery	-	68,467	(50,192)	-	18,275
Anon - Balkan Laughathon	-	13,910	(13,910)	-	-
Choose Love	42,197	-	(42,197)	-	-
SBHL - ELR UK	11,955	-	(11,955)	-	-
Choose Love - Turkey	18,605	22,090	(40,695)	-	-
Joyful Jordon	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
	141,749	214,467	(294,261)	-	61,955

Previous year:	At 1 March 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 28 February 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Austen Steers Charitable Trust - LnP	-	18,992	-	-	18,992
ELR Choose Love	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	4,175	(4,175)	-	-
National Lottery	-	68,467	(68,467)	-	-
Anon - Playtime Poland	50,000	50,000	(50,000)	-	50,000
Anon - Balkan Laughathon	(6,968)	15,000	(29,975)	21,943	-
Choose Love	22,242	45,000	(25,045)	-	42,197
SBHL - ELR UK	-	44,243	(32,288)	-	11,955
Choose Love - Turkey	-	40,000	(21,395)	-	18,605
	65,274	310,877	(256,345)	21,943	141,749

18 Restricted funds (Continued)

Refugee Support Fund - A fund to provide assistance and support for running costs during the pandemic. The £10,000 income in 2021-22 was earmarked for a project in Greece and was all spent in the year.

ELR Choose Love - This fund is to provide Emergency Laughter Relief (ELR) sessions to refugees and displaced people living in temporary accommodation in the UK.

Arts Council - workshops and festivals - This funding from the Arts Council is for community festivals and workshops in the UK.

National Lottery - This funding is to cover work in the UK throughout the year along with a contribution to project management, advocacy and development.

Miscellaneous - This fund includes small donations for specific projects.

Anon- Funding to cover salaries and purchase of a new Showmobile vehicle.

Mark Leonard Trust - This is restricted funding towards salaries of some of the staff.

Anon - Playtime Poland Fund - this fund includes grants given specifically to shows that will be undertaken in Poland.

Anon - Balkan Laughathon Fund - this fund contains monies given to us to work in Bulgaria, primarily with refugees. There was an overspend on this fund in the year, but additional funding has been received in 2023/24 which will cover this, therefore the fund has been left with a negative balance.

Choose Love - This fund is for work with refugees in Poland.

Austen Steers Charitable Trust LNP - Laugh and Play are sessions delivered around the UK, during the school holidays. This funding was specifically for Easter 2024.

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 March 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset fund	27,604	-	-	-	27,604
Minimum Operating Reserves	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Needed but not known	60,000	-	-	(10,000)	50,000
Fleet & equipment: Maintenance, Development & Innovation	35,000	-	-	15,000	50,000
General funds	50,449	231,122	(144,247)	(5,000)	132,324
	323,053	231,122	(144,247)	-	409,928

19 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 March 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 28 February 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset fund	27,604	-	-	-	27,604
Minimum Operating Reserves	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Needed but not known	60,000	-	(27,835)	27,835	60,000
Fleet & equipment: Maintenance, Development & Innovation	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
General funds	25,616	353,429	(278,818)	(49,778)	50,449
	298,220	353,429	(306,653)	(21,943)	323,053

Fixed asset fund - the trustees have decided to designate the value of the fixed assets. This reflects the charity's need to retain these assets in order to be able to operate. They therefore do not represent free reserves.

Minimum operating reserves- The trustees have set aside at least 6 to 9 months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. Based on current annual activity and future development plans, the Board have determined to hold £150k in unrestricted funds for this purpose.

Needed but Not Known - Funds to work in areas where we are desperately needed but that are often unknown or are difficult to fundraise for. In addition there can be a need to quickly respond to events and the Board wish to hold funds, to ensure that those in crisis are supported in line with our mission.

It is anticipated that where we have the resources this will be a rolling designation for the Charity.

Fleet & Equipment: Maintenance, Development and Innovation - Funds to enable the charity to meet additional vehicle maintenance costs, and replacements, moving towards a more environmentally friendly fleet. Along with resources to replace equipment as necessary, the charity wishes to innovate equipment to offer access for those with disabilities.

It is expected that this will be a rolling designation whilst ever we hold vehicles and equipment within the Charity.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances are represented by:								
Property, plant and equipment	27,608	-	-	27,608	-	22,713	-	22,713
Investments	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	382,319	-	61,955	444,274	78,283	222,056	141,749	442,088
	409,928	-	61,955	471,883	78,284	244,769	141,749	464,802

21 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties
During the period the Charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

At the balance sheet date, the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd, owed the Charity £27,828 (2024: £9,245).

22 Subsidiaries

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 31 December 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd	England	Recreation	Ordinary	100.00	

During the period to 31 December 2024, the trading company made profit of £2,146 (2024: £10,734) and had closing reserves of £14,915 (2024: £12,779).

23 Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**2024 £**	**2024 £**
Surplus for the period	7,081	101,308
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(4,840)	(17,745)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(400)	-
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	11,905	13,709
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in inventories	(6,707)	-
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(31,899)	3,685
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	5,329	(3,787)
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(19,531)	97,170

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152433

Accounts



THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 28 February 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note one to the accounts, and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Trustees	Mr S Wynne Ms N F Briercliffe Mr B McAlinn Ms D Yay Mr D Robinson Ms C Sullivan Ms S Henell (appointed 1 July 2024)
Chief Executive	Mr A Perrin
Charity number	1152433
Company number	08404014
Principal address	Unit 1 Aldbury Farm Hatfield Broad Oak Bishop's Stortford CM22 7JX
Registered office	Unit 1 Aldbury Farm Hatfield Broad Oak Bishop's Stortford CM22 7JX
Independent examiner	John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

Contents

Trustees' report 1
— Welcome to our annual report 1
— A message from Ash 2
— Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees 3
— Our mission 5
— 2023-24 at a glance 6
— New initiatives in 2023-24 9
— Our other international projects in 2023-24 19
— Our other UK national projects in 2023-24 27
— How we monitor and evaluate 33
— Safeguarding 34
— Our Board of Trustees 35
— Our base camp team 36
— Our delivery team 37
— Thank you to our valued donors and supporters 39
— Future plans 40
— Public benefit 40
— Financial review 41
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities 43
Independent examiner's report 44
Statement of financial activities 46
Statement of financial position 47
Statement of cash flows 49
Notes to the financial statements 50





Welcome to our annual report

Through music, circus, clowning, theatre, dance, magic and art, The Flying Seagull Project brings laughter and happiness to children in crisis. We work in refugee camps, care homes, hostels, hospitals, temporary accommodation centres, refuges, food banks and community centres in the UK, the Middle East and across Europe.

A message from Ash

For the past few years, we have put an incredible amount of effort into consolidating and making sustainable all of our practices, in terms of delivery but also fundraising, safeguarding, and all the things that make an organisation effective, impactful, and trustworthy. The result is that, without doubt, this has been the single most productive year since the Seagulls began 16 years ago. The increases in our income as a result of the fundraising efforts were significant, which allowed an increase in delivery. We were able to deliver to this increased potential as a result of a bigger team. Due to a focus on training and a more robust creative support structure within the team, we were able to deliver to a higher standard, with a broader range of activities, and a more skilled team. Most importantly, all of these efforts and all this growth meant that we were able to meet more children facing difficult and often brutal circumstances, sharing moments of magic and safety. Everything we have done since we began 16 years ago still holds that single focus, that the only growth we want is one that supports more children having access to quality play, music, movement and creative activities, feeling valued and special and having an actual childhood.

As always I take this opportunity to offer a huge amount of gratitude to everyone involved with the flying seagull project: both the team but also those who support us in a myriad of ways. Though they don't seem quite enough, as two very short words, I say to everybody involved, thank you.

Ash Perrin
CEO, founded The Flying Seagull Project in 2008



Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

If you've only got five minutes to read this report, forget the words. You might even disregard the numbers (although 1,310 sessions delivered in 2023/4 is a big one and we are very proud of it.) Please look at the pictures.

First the children. Even with pixelated faces you get a sense of the fun. Then the performers; all energy and passion. Last, the scene beyond: The ramshackle buildings and the tatty tents crowded close together.

This is the Flying Seagulls. We work and play with children in crisis across the world. Many are fleeing from danger and living fraught, frugal lives, constantly in turmoil. Others are stuck in transition camps, not designed for permanent residence but still the only home they've ever known. Some are in temporary accommodation here in the UK, hospitals, community centres, SEND support groups. Everywhere, our mission is the same: to share a little happiness with children who don't often get to feel valued and special, but will do today.

It's a privilege to be Flying Seagull, even a grounded one. As trustees our job is to provide sound governance, supervise the finances and oversee all the processes of a responsible organisation. We guide, and we also lead, working with our staff on planning and strategic direction.

Last year the Seagulls reached more children in more places than ever before. I am grateful to everyone who made that possible – the team both out in the field and in base camp, the volunteers including my co-trustees, the funders, and, above all, grateful to all of the children who have welcomed us into their lives to share moments of magic. Thank you all.

David Robinson
Chair of the Board of Trustees


UK82
NORTHCROSS
1961



Our mission

We share joy worldwide through music, art, circus and dance. Working with vulnerable, abandoned, displaced and poorly people, we run creative sessions to help build confidence, aid childhood development and strengthen communication.

We believe...

everyone has the right to laugh, socialise and enjoy their life, no matter their financial, physical, psychological or societal situation.

every child should have the right to play freely without risk or threat.

play, creativity and laughter is essential to a child's development and therefore to the community as a whole.

2023-24

at a glance

1,310 sessions

7 countries

42,316 smiles shared



International projects

Middle East Medley

March to May '23

Playtime Poland

March to May '23

October to December '23

Balkan Laughathon

April '23

October to November '23

Fantastic Attica

October to December '23

Talking Turkey

November to December '23

National projects in the UK

Emergency Laughter Relief

February '23 to July '23

September '23 to February '24

Skills Share Circus Clubs

March '23

Laugh 'n' Play UK

April, May, June, October & December '23, February '24

Chuckles and Cheer summer camps

July to September '23

Summer Sunshine Roadshow

August '23

Emergency Laughter Relief residencies

October to December '23



New initiatives in 2023-24

This year we added five new projects, with two new international projects and three new national projects in the UK ...

Emergency Laughter Relief residencies

Weeklong residencies through the year, sharing play, circus and games with children seeking refuge who are living in temporary accommodation. These new residencies involved visiting kids in temporary accommodation like hotels for a full weeklong play programme each time.

All our residency teams spoke about the powerful impact of this longer format, which meant we could build a deeper rapport and trust with the kids and share a wider variety of activities.

This impact was most noticeable in the way that these residencies were really participant-led, where the kids got a chance to decide what their favourite activities were and shape the weeklong play programme around their interests.

> You make him happy. It has been a long time not happy and you make him happy.

> The children stay in the room. You make them come out. You give them happy, fun times.

– two mothers of children at a hotel we visited

56
sessions

912
total attendance



Chuckles and Cheer summer camps

Full-week Seagull residencies at hotels accommodating children seeking refuge, sharing smile relief during the long periods of isolation and activity that these children face during the school summer holiday.

34
sessions

1,333
total attendance

"We just wanted to thank you again for a wonderful week of children's activities. The children had a great time and I could see that it helped them in many ways. The banners are still up on the walls and we will add to them as the weeks go on.

"Please thank the rest of your team for their hard work, they were such good fun to be with."

– Family Liaison at a hotel housing displaced people seeking refuge

"This was the first time we'd run this project and it was fantastic. We could really see the difference it made, not only to have activities in the summer holidays when there is no school to provide structure, stimulation and socialisation, but also how much it meant and how much we were able to achieve by being there for the whole week instead of just a day."

– Izzy, Seagull National Director



Fantastic Attica

Our fantastic Greek-led crew delivered a full schedule of Seagull activities in community education centres for child refugees, shelters for unaccompanied minors seeking refuge, support groups for children and adults with disabilities, Roma communities, and children living alone in state care.

22
sessions

1,125
total attendance

"They loved the show and they were impressed that we visited them because as they say, 'no one comes here, especially for something like this.'

"What you are doing is very important and meaningful for the whole community, thank you!"

– Angela Lecatsa, mediator in Roma communities

"For many years we have supported refugee groups and families and community groups in crisis across Greece. The issue now is that access to the camps has been reduced or removed entirely.

"There are more than 30 Roma communities in the Athens district alone, and all of them are in severe situations of poverty, food scarcity, and with zero positive activities for the children.

"Also, high levels of financial destitution and an extremely damaged economy in Greece has meant many decades of reduced spending on social care. Additionally, the special education, shelter and facilities for children and adults with additional needs is sorely underfunded, meaning many children and adults have little to no actual life, rather an existence.

"These are therefore the areas we have focused our efforts and attention this year."

– Ash, Seagull founder and CEO



Summer Sunshine Roadshow

A new UK summer tour, we visited new partners in London and the south-east and across north-west England and Wales, sharing smiles at lunch clubs, out-of-schools services, community centres, SEND support groups, and hotels and community groups supporting displaced people. We also partnered with Monmouthshire Council to deliver a play programme in local areas facing high levels of hardship.

> **I loved the show, especially the bit when I got to perform on stage!**
>
> – Isla, eight, participant at a SEND support group in Monmouthshire

28
sessions

786
total attendance





Talking Turkey

Our first-ever project in Turkey was launched in November, to share emergency play relief with children and families who remained displaced after the terrible earthquake that affected the region earlier in February. In addition to shows and sessions in the "container cities" housing those displaced by the earthquake, we also worked with young Syrian refugees and visited schools for children with disabilities, and schools and community centres in areas with local hardships.

64
sessions

7,266
total attendance

"The activities helped our disabled children who receive special education support and their families feel good and valued, and they had a very enjoyable time."

– Beril Erkan, psychologist at Elazığ Active Children Special Education and Rehabilitation Centre

"It is impossible to imagine what the population here went through, even after seeing all destroyed cities, the tens of thousands of people living in container camps and after meeting and talking to the ones affected by the disaster.

"Everyone has lost someone they knew among the more than 60,000 casualties. Thousands of buildings were destroyed or made unsafe, and this means the loss of homes, hospitals, schools, businesses and futures. Rebuilding life as it was is an unreachable dream for most, since the economic situation of most families is also in ruins.

"In this environment we met children and families with a great need to play, laugh, be silly and think about something else. Play and humour brings a sense of normality and maybe even some hope. Whether it was a camp for families displaced by the earthquake or a refugee camp, the needs are similar: children need fun, play and positive energies."

– Bendik, Seagull team leader



Our other international projects in 2023-24

This year we expanded three of last year's international projects ...


care
UNHCR



Middle East Medley

In our first international project of 2023, we returned to Lebanon and Jordan to continue our work with children who've sought refuge from Syria. This year, we expanded the project to include play and laughter sessions in disability support groups and with communities affected by the deepening economic and social challenges in Lebanon and Jordan.

177
sessions

11,526
total attendance

"We feel strongly that this was an incredibly powerful project. Both in Lebanon and Jordan there were far more children than we had the time to see. While still meeting so many and making a big impact, we are left with the feeling that there were so many more that we did not see. This gives us great motivation for the next project here."

– Pieter, Seagull team leader

We have been receiving lots of gratitude from the women at the centre about the impact the Flying Seagulls had on their kids. A lot of the kids that come to our centre have a range of abilities. The women have explained that they struggle to support their range of needs. The Flying Seagulls made it possible for their kids to feel empowered, important, and that they are capable.

On this day, we saw our very quiet and timid kids have a new sense of wonder and confidence that we haven't seen before. We saw our kids with disabilities have surprised faces by being able to do the activities that they didn't think they could do. We saw the staff, volunteers, and women overwhelmed with emotions of happiness and gratitude for the effort of meaningful inclusion and participation of every kid.

We are truly grateful for the efforts and compassion shown by the Flying Seagulls. There was so much laughter and love that filled the centre this day. Thank you again, Flying Seagulls!

– Thea, Circle of Wellbeing



Playtime Poland

Last year we responded to the invasion of Ukraine by launching our first Playtime Poland project, focussing our efforts on supporting Ukrainian children in orphanages and institutional care, who'd had to flee war without even a parent there to provide comfort and reassurance.

280
sessions

6,265
total attendance

"The places where we work in Poland are places where many of the basic needs like food, clothing and a place to live are met.

"But vital elements like warmth, safety and encouragement seem to be lacking. In two of the centres, this seemed even worse then half a year ago, with the caretakers being even more distant then we had seen them before.

"A Seagull session filled with 'bravos!', where we create a space where bullying is not allowed and everyone gets to join in equally, makes a visible impact on the children."

– Katie, Seagull team leader

"When are you coming back? This has been so much fun ... To play with my friends is the best, and you are all so funny."

– teenager, Protection Hub Rzeszow





Balkan Laughathon

Bulgaria's location near the border of the EU means large numbers of people arrive there seeking refuge. Combined with the fact that the country remains one of the poorest in Europe, this results in children – many of whom have experienced terrible hardships – growing up in refugee camps with some of the most difficult conditions we've seen.

The need for proper play, creative enrichment and moments of real joy also extends beyond refugee camps and shelters, to places like orphanages and centres for people with disabilities.

72
sessions

2,242
total attendance

"Bulgaria is economically challenged and as such there is widespread poverty and instability in social support structures.

"As we have seen from day one with the Seagulls, when the purse is empty the provision of play is understandably low on the priorities list. However, many times we saw a hunger for interaction, play, noise: a break from the monotony of struggle."

– Faidra, Seagull team leader

"The children have absolutely loved every second of The Flying Seagull Project's visit, from group games and free play circus skills, to magic shows, crafting and spontaneous dance sessions: so much so that children would wait by the entrance of the camp for the Seagulls to return each day!

"The children have all formed such happy memories over the last two weeks – and positive memories are so incredibly important for refugee children. It is like shining a bright light into a very dark period of their lives. I'm sure these memories will last a lifetime."

– Sadie, Harmanli refugee camp



Our other UK national projects in 2023-24

This year we expanded three of last year's national projects in the UK ...



Emergency Laughter Relief

Emergency Laughter Relief is our year-round project of play support for children who are seeking refuge in the UK and are living in temporary accommodation. Over the summer session of this project, we also continued working with two schools who had recently taken in large numbers of children who've been granted asylum in the UK, helping all the kids to make new friends, and making sure that joining a new school was the positive experience for all that it should be.

> These sessions are more important than ever. As the environment becomes ever more inhospitable, these families need to know that they are not forgotten and that there is a safe place for them to be children. We continue to get requests from hotels through word of mouth and recommendations, asking us to visit and saying that the children are desperate for something to do.
>
> – Izzy, Seagull National Director

439
sessions

7,494
total attendance



Skills Share Circus Clubs

Our Skills Share Circus Clubs offer a programme of regular, long-term sessions and workshops tailored for groups of young people with specific needs.

Since we launched this project in January 2022, we've seen that sharing regular, structured play sessions and workshops over a longer period of time has helped improve mental health, confidence and participation among the children and young people we've worked with.

In the 2023–24 reporting period we delivered this project at Simmons House, an in-patient psychiatric unit for young people between 13 and 17 with emotional and mental health problems, and at South London Refugee Association, who support child refugees living in hotels, temporary accommodation and foster care.

"Each workshop has been brilliantly thought-out and planned, while always allowing space for change and adaptation depending on the young people's abilities and needs. It has worked really well that each workshop is slightly different, allowing each young person to try something new. It continues to be a wonderful space where the young people can learn and have fun with relaxed but exciting facilitators."

- teacher at Simmons House



Laugh ‘n’ Play UK

Now into its fourth consecutive year, Laugh ‘n’ Play UK is a regular fixture of our Seagull calendar.

Every school holiday we send teams out across the country, partnering with community centres, disability support organisations, food support groups, hotels accommodating refugees, out-of-school services, and refuges, to make sure children and families, regardless of their circumstances, get to share a really memorable day of play, games and big belly-laughs.

In December, we deliver this holiday programme with a seasonal twist as the Festive Cheer Up.

> **I don’t even know how to explain the amazing impact this session had not only on the children but the grownups. The two ladies who came were out of this world at making the children feel relaxed and included. I’ve recommended them to anyone who will listen. They went above and beyond any of our other service providers.**
>
> – Anne Doyle, Volunteer Manager at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital

134
sessions

3,289
total attendance



"I have never seen the children all so actively engaged together in one activity, the Flying Seagulls managed to keep them all enthralled throughout the performance. It's also a massive help to me and the team of volunteers that we can concentrate on cooking food while the children are entertained. Many of the children have never seen circus or shows before so it was a real treat."

– Amy Goodwin, Project Manager at All Saints Family Cafe

"The importance and impact of Laugh 'n' Play has been well established. The cost of living crisis is causing even more families to drop below the poverty line and services are stretched to the limit. Partners have been in contact, very keen to book us and bring some light and an event to look forward to for their families. The sessions we have run have been very well received and the team have commented on the need."

– Izzy, Seagull National Director

"The sessions were extremely well received by the host venues and parents/guardians as a vital outlet for children during the holiday period. The Flying Seagulls had children gripped by the performances and overjoyed with the circus activities. Their performances and activities are accessible for a broad spectrum of children with varying needs and abilities. Their interaction with the children before, during and after the performances made it memorable for all who attended."

How we monitor and evaluate

We want to accurately, sensitively and effectively tell the story about the difference our projects make for children and families around the world. We are realistic about the impact and outcomes we make. We are creative in the way we gather and share our stories. We are brave about how we relate our work in ways that are genuine and meaningful.

We gather audience and partner feedback, we share real-life data and stories and we record and measure the impact of what we do through case studies, partner feedback, audience and family feedback, numbers attending the shows, photographs, videos, interviews with attendees and partners, and quotes. We believe our team's insights and stories, gathered after every session under the three headings of wellbeing, skills and community, evidence the real importance of play for children and families in times of crisis.

We are proud to be able to report that our sessions improve communication, confidence, mood, self-esteem, peer relations, trust, resilience, perseverance and the ability to regulate emotions.



Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of everyone who interacts with our services is of the highest importance and maintained to the best standards.

Working with vulnerable children and families around the world, we uphold quality and replicable practices for our own delivery and insist that our partners have their own up-to-date, appropriate safeguarding policies and that they formally adhere to our own policies and practices.

With safeguarding training and expertise represented across our organisation, from our dedicated Board-level safeguarding lead through our paid teams and volunteers, every person taking part in our delivery has to undergo our detailed safeguarding training, delivered by our trained Designated Safeguarding Officer.

Our Safeguarding Policy can be found at the following adress.

https://www.theflyingseagullproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Child-Protection-Policy-Mar-23.pdf



Our Board of Trustees

Bringing a broad range of skills including legal, accountancy, safeguarding, broadcasting, creative training and third sector experience, our fantastic Trustee Board is responsible for our overall governance and oversight.



David Robinson

Chair of the Board of Trustees



Bala McAlinn



Naomi Briercliffe



Catherine Sullivan



Steve Wynne



Donna Yay



Sofie Henell

(appointed 1 July 2024)

Our base camp team

Our base camp team is headed up by chief clown and CEO Ash Perrin, and now consists of our Executive Director, Tania, who has been with us since 2020 and our Communications Manager. Martin, who has been with us since 2018.

This year we also recruited three new roles: Philippa, our Finance Manager, who joins us with many years' experience; Ciara, our Projects Coordinator, is in charge of all project bookings, partnerships, logistics and team plannings and briefings; and Rachel, our Volunteer Manager, is making sure that our team of fantastic volunteers are welcomed, trained, briefed and supported.

We were sad to say goodbye to our valued and long-term Seagull Isobel Wolff, who, after 10 years, decided to move on to explore other opportunities. We would like to thank Izzy for her commitment, passion and love, and wish her all the best in her new ventures.



Ash Perrin



Tania Skae



Martin Platais



Ciara Connell



Rachel Lochhead



Philippa Ghosh



Our delivery team

We have a phenomenal team of skilled and experienced play practitioners who, in spite of the difficult challenges and environments we operate in, work tirelessly with full energy, grit and grace to deliver our magical projects. Delivering both internationally and nationally, they bring the highest quality music, arts and entertainment with dignity and respect for every child, to make sure everyone we meet feels included, special and valued. We run a range of training and apprentice programmes to support our team's development in the organisation.


THE
FLYING









Thank you to our valued donors and supporters

We would like to share a huge, heartfelt thank you to our donors and supporters for believing in our work and in the power of play. Thank you to everyone who follows us, shares our work, paints our vans, sends us letters, joins us on the field, cycles the length of the country to raise sponsorship, checks our HR processes, supports us with legal work, films our performers, edits our videos, holds fundraisers, bake sales, comedy nights and 100's of other acts of support and to all the amazingly generous, compassionate children who raise funds and donate their pocket money to support our work- we are continually blown away and immensely touched and grateful for every effort you all make to help keep us flying.

To all our major donors, family foundations and regular givers, your trust in us to provide unrestricted funding is a vital lifeline that allows us to plan and deliver projects where we see the most need, being nimble and agile so we can respond to crises and emergencies very quickly and for this we are eternally grateful.

Thank you also to our valued and long term partners Choose Love for believing in us and continuing to support our work with displaced people internationally and in the UK.

Together with you all we can and do change the worlds of young people and families and spread hope, love and friendship.

Future plans

As our income has grown, so have our plans and ambitions to reach more children with quality play around the world. During the 2022-23 reporting year, we made a strategic commitment to invest in our core "base camp" team, which included recruiting a new Finance Manager, Volunteer Manager, and Projects Coordinator.

In line with this strategic commitment, our plans for the year ahead will see us:

1. **Train more team.** We want to increase our delivery capacity by training more crew, so that we can deliver more projects at any one time. We will run a global training programme, led and delivered by Ash, our CEO, to train up existing team to lead projects and to recruit new team with strong prior experience.
2. **Deliver more projects.** We intend to run new projects in Turkey, Greece, the Middle East, the Balkans, England and Wales.
3. **Improve our planning and logistics.** We replaced our dedicated UK National Director role with an International Projects Coordinator, to manage all our bookings, partnerships and opportunities across both national and international programmes. This will enable us to plan and deliver the high number of projects that we have in the pipeline in the most efficient ways, and help us better support our team.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.



Financial review

The unrestricted surplus for the year was £24,833. £76,475 of restricted funds were carried forward at the end of the year. At the year end, total unrestricted funds were £323,053 (2023: £298,220) and restricted funds were £ 141,749 (2023: £65,274).

Reserves

The Charity seeks to set aside at least six to nine months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. Based on the current annual activity and future development plans, the Board of Trustees have determined to hold £150k in unrestricted funds for this purpose, referred to as Minimum Operating Reserves in the following financial statements.

In addition, at the year ending February 2024, the board further designated unrestricted funds to support the delivery of work within our charitable aims:

- **Needed but Not Known - £60,000** Funds to work in areas where we are desperately needed but that are often unknown or are difficult to fundraise for. In addition, there can be a need to quickly respond to events and the Board wish to hold funds, to ensure that those in crisis are supported in line with our mission. It is anticipated that where we have the resources this will be a rolling designation for the Charity.

- **Fleet & Equipment: Maintenance, Development and Innovation - £35,000** Funds to enable us to meet the additional vehicle maintenance costs and replacements moving towards a more environmentally friendly fleet. Along with resources to replace equipment as necessary, we want to continue innovating equipment to offer access to those with disabilities. It is expected that this will be a rolling designation whilst ever we hold vehicles and equipment within the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to these.



Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Flying Seagull Project for the purpose of Company Law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent examiner's report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Flying Seagull Project (the Charity) for the year ended 29 February 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies. I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE
Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Dated: 21 November 2024

Statement of financial activities

including income and expenditure account for the year ended 29 February 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	335,684	310,877	646,561	294,703	245,227	539,930
Charitable activities	4	-	-	-	1,350	-	1,350
Investments	5	17,745	-	17,745	-	-	-
Other income	6	-	-	-	5,403	-	5,403
Total income		353,429	310,877	664,306	301,456	245,227	546,683
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	52,466	-	52,466	35,965	20,000	55,965
Charitable activities	8	254,187	256,345	510,532	171,592	143,209	314,801
Total expenditure		306,653	256,345	562,998	207,557	163,209	370,766
Net income		46,776	54,532	101,308	93,899	82,018	175,917
Transfers between funds	18	(21,943)	21,943	-	70,528	(70,528)	-
Net movement in funds	10	24,833	76,475	101,308	164,427	11,490	175,917
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 March 2023		298,220	65,274	363,494	133,793	53,784	187,577
Fund balances at 29 February 2024		323,053	141,749	464,802	298,220	65,274	363,494

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006..

Statement of financial position

As at 29 February 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	**13**		22,713		27,604
Investments	**14**		1		1
			22,714		27,605
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	**15**	9,245		12,930	
Cash at bank and in hand		442,428		336,331	
		451,673		349,261	
Current liabilities	**16**	(9,585)		(13,372)	
Net current assets			442,088		335,889
Net assets			464,802		363,494
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	**18**		141,749		65,274
Unrestricted funds			323,053		298,220
			464,802		363,494

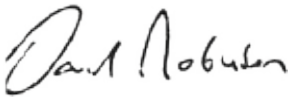
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 29 February 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 November 2024.



Mr D Robinson
Trustee



Ms C Sullivan
Trustee

Company registration number 08404014 (England and Wales)

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 29 February 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**23**		97,170		184,429
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(8,818)		(32,198)	
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		-		15,750	
Investment income received		17,745		-	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			8,927		(16,448)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			106,097		167,981
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			336,331		168,350
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			442,428		336,331

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 29 February 2024

1. Accounting policies

Company information
The Flying Seagull Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1, Aldbury Farm, Hatfield Broad Oak, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7JX.

1.1 Accounting convention
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income
Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grant income received for projects is deferred to the balance sheet and recognised in the statement of financial activities when the work is undertaken.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure is recognised when there is an obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the appropriate heading and includes irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, fixtures and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Fixtures and equipment costs above £2,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank

overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024£	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	290,684	4,175	294,859	269,703	5,892	275,595
Grants	45,000	306,702	351,702	25,000	239,335	264,335
	335,684	310,877	646,561	294,703	245,227	539,930
Donations and gifts						
Donations and gift aid	272,939	4,175	277,114	269,703	5,892	275,595
Donations from Trading Subsidiary	17,745	-	17,745	-	-	-
	290,684	4,175	294,859	269,703	5,892	275,595

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Party, Theatre Show and Workshop Income	-	1,350

5. Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Distributions from trading subsidiary	17,745	-

6. Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	5,403

7. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Other fundraising costs	16,017	-	16,017	-	-	-
Staff costs	36,449	-	36,449	35,965	20,000	55,965
	52,466	-	52,466	35,965	20,000	55,965

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	96,830	27,683
Depreciation and impairment	13,709	11,504
Projects expenditure	294,629	185,771
Consultancy fees	14,655	15,167
	419,823	240,125
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	87,709	71,676
Governance	3,000	3,000
	510,532	314,801
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	254,187	171,592
Restricted funds	256,345	143,209
	510,532	314,801

9. Support costs allocated to activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	53,537	32,766
Insurance	1,453	1,299
Sundry expenses	39	-
Bookkeeping	3,000	15,900
Charity administration expenses	23,076	17,799
Consultancy	955	-
Marketing and PR	5,649	3,912
Governance	3,000	3,000
	90,709	74,676
Governance costs comprise:		
Accountancy	2,050	2,050
Independent examination	950	950
	3,000	3,000

10. Net movement in funds	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned property, plant and equipment	13,709	11,504
Loss/(profit) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(5,403)

11. Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Charitable Activities	3	2
Admin	2	1
Total	5	3

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	171,402	107,545
Social security costs	12,902	6,935
Other pension costs	2,512	1,934
	186,816	116,414

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 - £70,000	1	-

11. Employees (Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2024 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	55,000	29,445

During the year a salary was paid to Mr A Perrin, as disclosed above. Mr Perrin is a Director of the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd.

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

12. Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13. Property, plant and equipment

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 March 2023	33,947	64,008	97,955
Additions	-	8,818	8,818
At 29 February 2024	33,947	72,826	106,773
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 March 2023	30,852	39,499	70,351
Depreciation charged in the year	3,095	10,614	13,709
At 29 February 2024	33,947	50,113	84,060
Carrying amount			
At 29 February 2024	-	22,713	22,713
At 28 February 2023	3,095	24,509	27,604

14. Fixed asset investments

	Other investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 March 2023 & 29 February 2024	1
Carrying amount	
At 29 February 2024	1
At 28 February 2023	1

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Investments in subsidiaries	**22**	1	1

15. Trade and other receivables

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade receivables	-	750
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	9,245	9,405
Other receivables	-	2,775
	9,245	12,930

16. Current liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	5,109	4,541
Trade payables	1,476	5,831
Accruals and deferred income	3,000	3,000
	9,585	13,372

17. Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2023 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,512	1,934

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

18. Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 March 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 29 February 2024 £
Austen Steers Charitable Trust - LnP	-	18,992	-	-	18,992
ELR Choose Love	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	4,175	(4,175)	-	-
National Lottery	-	68,467	(68,467)	-	-
Anon - Playtime Poland	50,000	50,000	(50,000)	-	50,000
Anon - Balkan Laughathon	(6,968)	15,000	(29,975)	21,943	-
Choose Love	22,242	45,000	(25,045)	-	42,197
SBHL - ELR UK	-	44,243	(32,288)	-	11,955
Choose Love - Turkey	-	40,000	(21,395)	-	18,605
	65,274	310,877	(256,345)	21,943	141,749

Previous year:	At 1 March 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 28 February 2023 £
Refugee Support Fund	39,582	-	(4,788)	(34,794)	-
ELR Choose Love	14,042	267	(19,465)	5,156	-
Arts Council - workshops & festivals	-	21,341	-	(21,341)	-
Miscellaneous	160	13,619	(44,230)	30,451	-
Anon	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Mark Leonard Trust	-	45,000	(45,000)	-	-
Anon - Playtime Poland	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Anon - Balkan Laughaton	-	5,000	(11,968)	-	(6,968)
Choose Love	-	60,000	(37,758)	-	22,242
	53,784	245,227	(163,209)	(70,528)	65,274

18. Restricted Funds (Continued)

Refugee Support Fund - A fund to provide assistance and support for running costs during the pandemic. The £10,000 income in 2021-22 was earmarked for a project in Greece and was all spent in the year.

ELR Choose Love - This fund is to provide Emergency Laughter Relief (ELR) sessions to refugees and displaced people living in temporary accommodation in the UK.

Arts Council - workshops and festivals - This funding from the Arts Council is for community festivals and workshops in the UK.

National Lottery - This funding is to cover work in the UK throughout the year along with a contribution to project management, advocacy and development.

Miscellaneous - This fund includes small donations for specific projects.

Anon - Funding to cover salaries and purchase of a new Showmobile vehicle.

Mark Leonard Trust - This is restricted funding towards salaries of some of the staff.

Anon - Playtime Poland Fund - this fund includes grants given specifically to shows that will be undertaken in Poland.

Anon - Balkan Laughathon Fund - this fund contains monies given to us to work in Bulgaria, primarily with refugees. There was an overspend on this fund in the year, but additional funding has been received in 2023/24 which will cover this, therefore the fund has been left with a negative balance.

Choose Love - This fund is for work with refugees in Poland.

Austen Steers Charitable Trust LNP - Laugh and Play are sessions delivered around the UK during school holidays. This funding was specifically for Easter 2024.

19. Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 March 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 29 February 2024 £
Fixed asset fund	27,604	-	-	-	27,604
Minimum Operating Reserves	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Needed but not known	60,000	-	(27,835)	27,835	60,000
Fleet & equipment: Maintenance, Development & Innovation	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
General funds	25,616	353,429	(278,818)	(49,778)	50,449
	298,220	353,429	(306,653)	(21,943)	323,053

19. Unestricted Funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 March 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 28 February 2023 £
Fixed asset fund	-	-	-	27,604	27,604
Minimum Operating Reserves	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
Needed but not known	-	-	-	60,00 0	60,000
Fleet & equipment: Maintenance, Development & Innovation	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
General funds	133,793	301,456	(207,557)	(202,076)	25,616
	133,793	301,456	(207,557)	70,528	298,220

Fixed asset fund - the trustees have decided to designate the value of the fixed assets. This reflects the charity's need to retain these assets in order to be able to operate. They therefore do not represent free reserves.

Minimum operating reserves - The trustees have set aside at least six to nine months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. Based on current annual activity and future development plans, the Board have determined to hold £150k in unrestricted funds for this purpose. (In the Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2023, the minimum operating reserves were designated "operation and winding up".)

Needed but Not Known - Funds to work in areas where we are desperately needed but that are often unknown or are difficult to fundraise for. In addition there can be a need to quickly respond to events and the Board wish to hold funds, to ensure that those in crisis are supported in line with our mission.

It is anticipated that where we have the resources this will be a rolling designation for the Charity.

Fleet & Equipment: Maintenance, Development and Innovation - Funds to enable the charity to meet additional vehicle maintenance costs, and replacements, moving towards a more environmentally friendly fleet. Along with resources to replace equipment as necessary, the charity wishes to innovate equipment to offer access for those with disabilities.

It is expected that this will be a rolling designation whilst ever we hold vehicles and equipment within the Charity.

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances are represented by:								
Property, plant and equipment	-	22,713	-	22,713	-	27,604	-	27,604
Investments	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	78,283	222,056	141,749	442,088	25,615	245,000	65,274	335,889
	78,284	244,769	141,749	464,802	25,616	272,604	65,274	363,494

21. Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the Charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

At the balance sheet date, the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd, owed the Charity £9,245 (2023: £9,405).

22. Subsidiaries

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 29 February 2024 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd	England	Recreation	Ordinary	100.00	

During the year to 28 February 2024, the trading company made profit of £10,734 (2023: £12,330) and had closing reserves of £12,779 (2023: £19,789).

23. Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	101,308	175,917
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(17,745)	-
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(5,403)
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	13,709	11,504
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in trade and other receivables	3,685	1,490
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(3,787)	921
Cash generated from operations	97,170	184,429

24. Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.



www.theflyingseagullproject.com

The Flying Seagull Project is a registered charity no. 1152433, incorporated in England and Wales,
and is a company limited by guarantee no. 8404014. Address: Unit 1, Aldbury's Farm, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7JY.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152433

Accounts

Charity registration number 1152433

Company registration number 08404014 (England and Wales)

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr S Wynne	
	Ms N F Briercliffe	
	Mr B McAlinn	
	Ms D Yay	(Appointed 8 November 2022)
	Mr D Robinson	(Appointed 8 November 2022)
	Ms C Sullivan	(Appointed 8 November 2022)
Chief Executive	Mr A Perrin	
Charity number	1152433	
Company number	08404014	
Principal address	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY	
Registered office	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY	
Independent examiner	John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF	

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 16
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	17
Independent examiner's report	18
Statement of financial activities	19
Statement of financial position	20 - 21
Statement of cash flows	22
Notes to the financial statements	23 - 38

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Welcome to our annual report 2022–23

Through music, circus, clowning, theatre, dance, magic and art, The Flying Seagull Project brings laughter and happiness to children in crisis. We work in refugee camps, care homes, hostels, hospitals, temporary accommodation centres, refuges, food banks and community centres in the UK, the Middle East and across Europe.

A message from our Founder

This year has been another very exciting year, but more importantly an impactful one. Following the launch of our nationwide UK projects and the full reintroduction of our international work, we have managed to reach out, share fun and through play, support and engage huge numbers of children in extreme hardship.

The UK projects have been broad spectrum, including refugee emergency support, working in a pupil referral unit, prison family connection days and with children with health issues to name a few. The work in temporary hotel accommodation for refugees has also given us a moment to see the whole picture of our work with displaced communities over the past years by being part of their journey as they arrive to safety. One moment we will never forget was as we were setting up at a hotel in the Midlands, we heard children outside the room shouting 'everybody up!' and singing a song which we have sung in many countries and camps across the world. They'd seen the Flying Seagulls in a refugee camp in Greece and remembered Bash. They were so mega-excited to see us and they could remember the songs, the routines and joined in with full voice. This continuity means that throughout the toughest period of their lives, we have been able to lift their spirits from Lebanon to Liverpool and are still singing and laughing together. In their world of inconsistency and constant change, the joy through Seagull play remained present. I couldn't be prouder we have played this positive part in their lives.

The past years have seen The Flying Seagull Project grow in almost all ways. We have broadened our team, welcomed a very talented number of new members to our Trustee Board, increased our income, and recruited new team to deliver Seagull sessions. The growth has been challenging, exciting but most importantly has created new and deepened opportunities for us to reach into areas and communities that are often ignored, or simply don't have a financial support structure to make possible. We have dealt with this by having a dual funding strategy that allows us to apply and thankfully find success achieving larger grants, and donations for specific projects, whilst maintaining a powerful and dedicated support from individuals who believe in our work regardless of where the crisis occurs, or which community of society are facing it. This means we can focus on where our projects are needed, rather than simply where the issues are known. Practically, this means we can visit and deliver projects in places that are not in the news, with communities that are not always 'popular' to engage with, ensuring we meet our mission to remain dedicated to all children and families in crisis everywhere from every nationality, with every body type regardless of politics, race, faith or social position.

The situation for many children around the world is still one of peril and crisis and childhoods are still in danger of being damaged or missing altogether. As we grow, so does our understanding and knowledge that this is a huge challenge, but one we are determined to meet as often and as widely as we can. We move into the next year more ready, more able and more devoted to making fun and play a child's right, and intend to do everything in our power, with the combined strength of our team and our supporters, to make this happen.

CEO, Ash Perrin, clown and entertainer, founded The Flying Seagull Project in 2008

Our mission

We share joy worldwide through music, art, circus and dance. Working with vulnerable, abandoned, displaced and poorly people, we run creative sessions to help build confidence, aid childhood development and strengthen communication.

We believe everyone has the right to laugh, socialise and enjoy their life, no matter their financial, physical, psychological or societal situation.

We believe every child should have the right to play freely without risk or threat.

We believe play, creativity and laughter are essential to a child's development and therefore to the community as a whole.

To ensure we achieve our mission, we set these objectives:

1. Take laughter and play to more children in crisis.
2. Train more staff and volunteers to reach more people.
3. Record and demonstrate our reach and impact.

What we have achieved

2022–23 was the first year of delivering a full international programme alongside a full new UK programme. We are extremely proud of what we have achieved and welcome you to have a look through our impact information below.

2022–23 at a glance

International projects

- Miles of Smiles: 2,612 children and young people participated in 94 sessions, delivered from March to May 2022.
- Middle East Medley: 8,225 children participated in 94 sessions, delivered from March to May 2022.
- Playtime Poland: 1,000 children participated in 202 sessions, delivered from October to December 2022.
- Balkan Laughathon: 772 children and young people participated in 36 sessions, delivered from November to December 2022.

National projects

- Skills Share Circus Clubs: 129 children and young people participated in 54 sessions, running through the year from March 2022 to February 2023.
- Emergency Laughter Relief: 1,790 children participated in 150 sessions, running through the year from March 2022 to February 2023.
- Seagull Seasons: 32 children participated in three sessions in March 2022, continuing a project that had delivered eight sessions in January and February 2022.
- Laugh 'n' Play UK: 4,879 children participated in 175 sessions in April, October and December 2022, and February 2023.
- Prison Family Days: 35 children participated in two sessions in April 2022.
- Get Up 'n' Giggle family fun fests: 1,959 children and young people participated in 13 sessions across six festivals, delivered from June to August 2022.

Our new initiatives

This year we added five new projects, with three new international projects and two more in the UK.

Middle East Medley

Our Middle East Medley project expanded the scope of our previous Laughter to Lebanon format, in order to deliver Seagull circus and play sessions to displaced children in Jordan as well as Lebanon. The Flying Seagulls Norway led the project, with crew and support from The Flying Seagull Project and the Flying Seagulls Netherlands.

Playtime Poland

After careful planning and research, we launched this new project to share happiness with orphaned and abandoned Ukrainian children who were evacuated to institutions in Poland after the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Balkan Laughathon

This new international project supports children and young people in Bulgaria. We worked in refugee camps and shelters, centres supporting people with disabilities, orphanages, after-school programmes for at-risk children, educational programmes for Romany children, and a support group for people with terminal illnesses.

Skills Share Circus Clubs

This new national project delivered regular, long-term play sessions and circus workshops tailored for groups of young people with specific needs. We delivered programmes with autistic children and young people, children young people with disabilities, children and young people in pupil referral units, and children and young people going through resettlement after seeking refuge in the UK.

Prison Family Days

In this new national project we delivered entertainment and circus workshops for children during family visitations at Downview Prison and Young Offender Institution.

How we monitor and evaluate

We need our monitoring and evaluation to accurately, sensitively and effectively tell the story about the difference our projects make for children and families around the world. We are realistic about the impact and outcomes we make: e.g., we don't claim to make a direct impact on children's educational attainment; however through exploratory play, our sessions do enable children to regulate their emotions or develop new skills, sometimes helping to better prepare them for learning.

We are creative in the way we gather and share our impact information, using both qualitative and quantitative information about what our partners, children, families and team tell us about our work and how children experience it.

Audience and partner feedback helps us make sure that our offering remains as relevant and impactful as the day we started, and that children are still captivated and inspired by our work. We also need to demonstrate the importance of our work to stakeholders and supporters through real-life data and stories, so that they too can understand why and how we deliver our projects, be captivated by the importance of play, and know how valuable and sometimes life-changing play is for those we work with.

We record and measure the impact of what we do through case studies, partner feedback, audience and family feedback, numbers attending the shows, photographs, videos, interviews with attendees and partners, anecdotes and comments, quotes, and partner observations. Our team record impact after every session under the three headings of Wellbeing, Skills and Community.

Our sessions are shown to improve communication, confidence, mood, self-esteem, peer relations, trust, resilience, perseverance and the ability to regulate emotions.

Our team
Our Board of Trustees

David Robinson Chair of the Board of Trustees
Bala McAlinn
Naomi Briercliffe
Catherine Sullivan
Steve Wynne
Donna Yay

Our CEO and founder
Having founded the project in 2008, Ash Perrin AKA Bash is still involved with every aspect of the charity from board meetings to beard greetings. Ash is a passionate advocate for children's rights and is devoted to making sure the project always delivers high-standard dynamic play.

Our office team
Finance
Our Finance Manager Shirley Dinsmore joined in April 2021 and has been supporting the charity with all our finance functions including bookkeeping, expenses and payroll.

Marketing & Communications
Martin Platais joined The Flying Seagull Project in 2018 as Communications Assistant. Now our Communications Manager, Martin takes care of social media, website and all things digital.

Executive Director
Tania Skae joined the Seagulls as Donor Relations Manager in 2020, moving to Director of Development in 2022 and as well as fundraising, has now taken on increased responsibility for day to day operational management, working alongside Ash.

National Director
Isobel Wolff took on the role of National Director leading on our UK-wide expansion and project roll-out, managing the delivery team and all things logistics, bookings, partnerships, and working closely with the rest of the office team.

Our delivery team
We have a phenomenal team of skilled and experienced entertainment crew who work tirelessly with full energy and enthusiasm across both international and national projects, delivering the highest quality music, arts and entertainment to make sure every child we meet feels included, special and valued.

In November 2022 we recruited six new Seagulls from a range of fields and backgrounds to join our team, all of them experienced in play work. Following an introductory period of shadowing our more experienced crew, the new Seagulls have joined our sessions around the country and are a valuable addition to the team.

Our fantastic team of Seagulls are all featured on our website here: https://www.theflyingseagullproject.com/about-us/meet-the-team/

2022–23 projects
International projects

Miles of Smiles

2,612 children and young people participated in 94 sessions
March to May 2022

After a hiatus imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, 2022 saw the resumption of our annual Miles of Smiles tour of Europe.The format of this project is designed to respond to "hotspots" where children are in acute need of emergency play relief, and develop relationships with new and existing partner organisations.

This year, an international team featuring Seagulls from our branches in the UK, Norway, the Netherlands and Greece toured Greece, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, and Belgium. We shared shows, play sessions and games with children in refugee camps, asylum centres and care homes, worked with children from Romany communities, and put on sessions with disability support groups.

Feedback from participants and partners:

"Never in my life have I laughed so much, I laughed the full 45 minutes of the show long, I am sore in my cheeks!" Teenager (anonymised)

"Thank you so much for the wonderful workshop and show. I would like to express how impressed we were by how quickly you established rapport with the children. We were very impressed to see that they remained engaged and excited over the whole hour, which is something we don't see often. Even the teenagers that are 'too cool for school' couldn't hide their laughter. We would love to welcome you again the next time you are coming to Berlin." Kristina Lablang, volunteer coordinator at Internationaler Bund refugee accommodation centre in Berlin.

Middle East Medley

8,225 children participated in 94 sessions
March to May 2022

Our Middle East Medley project expanded the scope of our previous Laughter to Lebanon format, in order to deliver Seagull circus and play sessions to displaced children in Jordan as well as Lebanon.

Human Rights Watch estimates that 1.5million Syrian refugees remain in Lebanon. According to ACAPS and UNHCR, a further 1.3million refugees from Syria are living in Jordan, of whom around 675,000 are officially registered.

Squalor, disorder and exploitation are among the problems faced by many who are living in informal refugee settlements. The large, official refugee camps now include many children who were born in a refugee settlement and have barely experienced the world beyond the camp's perimeter.

The result is that hundreds of thousands of young people risk growing up and remembering childhood as a time of constant hardship and instability. This is something that we'll never accept. No matter how difficult the situation, we believe everyone should be able to look back on childhood with positive memories of friendship, respect and kindness. So, over 10 weeks, we delivered 91 shows and play sessions, sharing smiles, hope and happiness with children and young people in schools, refugee camps and disability support groups.

The Flying Seagulls Norway led the project with crew and support from The Flying Seagull Project and the Flying Seagulls Netherlands.

Playtime Poland

1,000 children participated in 202 sessions
October to December 2022

After the invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, more than 2,000 children living in institutional care were evacuated to Poland. They are now living in old, large-scale institutions that the Polish government has been trying to replace with a modern foster care system over the last two decades.

These children had to endure war and emergency evacuation without family support, and now face an uncertain future in large institutions that struggle to provide encouragement, comfort and opportunities for individual expression.

After months of planning and research, we decided that supporting these children was the most responsive and effective way we could support young people affected by the war in Ukraine.

We partnered with a Polish children's charity, to send two teams of clowns, musicians and play specialists to share laughter and happiness with Ukrainian children who've been evacuated to institutions in Poland.

Feedback from participants and partners:

"We enjoy playing with you, because it is so fun and full of laughter. You need to stay longer!" A brother (around nine) and sister (around seven), evacuated to in institution in Poland

"You came at the right time as we are not able to run many activities for the children in the winter, so they would be staying in their rooms otherwise. Having you here gives the children excitement. They are all like my children and meeting people from across the world that care as much as we do is really special!" Director at PCM Garczynie, a youth centre accommodating Ukrainian evacuees in Koscierzyna.

Balkan Laughathon

772 children and young people participated in 36 sessions
November to December 2022

When we visited Bulgaria during our Miles of Smiles tour earlier in the year, it was clear that there were several places in the country where we should offer extra support.

Bulgaria's location near the border of the EU means large numbers of people arrive there seeking refuge. Combined with the fact that the country remains one of the poorest in Europe, this results in children – many of whom have experienced terrible hardships – growing up in refugee camps with some of the most difficult conditions we've seen. And the need for proper play, creative enrichment and moments of real joy also extends beyond refugee camps and shelters, to places like orphanages and centres for people with disabilities.

In response, we launched a new Balkan Laughathon project, to share Seagull shows and play sessions in Bulgaria through an intensive four-week programme covering part of the difficult winter period. We partnered with local organisations Caritas and Tabitha to access refugee camps and shelters, centres supporting people with disabilities, orphanages, after-school programmes for at-risk children, educational programmes for Romany children, and support groups for people with terminal illnesses.

Feedback from partners:

"The transformation I saw in the older boys as well as the adults for these days was amazing - from super serious, distant bystanders in the beginning to active participants in the activities already in the second or third day. The most valuable thing for me was to see and hear the laughter of children whose difficult personal fate I am aware of, the calmness and satisfaction on the faces of their parents, teenagers who, even for a few hours, allowed themselves to be children again." Ovcha Kupel refugee centre, Sofia

"The children had a lot of fun, we are very pleased and will expect the Flying Seagulls again. They inspired us for new activities with the children, we ordered juggling balls and can't wait to start practising!" "Ready for school" community support centre, Sofia

National projects

Skills Share Circus Clubs

129 children and young people participated in approximately 56 sessions
Ongoing, running through the year from March 2022 to February 2023, our Skills Share Circus clubs were launched in January 2022. This is a programme of regular, long-term sessions and workshops tailored for groups of young people with specific needs.

Through sharing regular, structured play sessions and workshops over a longer period of time, we've seen improved mental health, confidence and participation among the children and young people we've worked with.

The project's first delivery period ran from January to June 2022, delivering Seagull sessions with three partner organisations:

- Autism Bedfordshire is an organisation that runs several sites supporting autistic young people and their families. This organisation was a new partner for the Seagulls.
- Families United Network is an existing partner, who provide services and support to young people with disabilities and their families.
- The Pavilion is a pupil referral unit supporting children outside mainstream education, where we had previously delivered regular sessions. This year we secured specific funding to both continue our work with teenagers here and expand our programme to work with four younger boys with pronounced behavioural needs.

The project's second delivery period ran from September to December 2022. We continued our work with the Pavilion, in addition to delivering sessions with New Citizens' Gateway and South London Refugee Association, who support child refugees living in hotels, temporary accommodation and foster care. South London Refugee Association was a new partner for the Seagulls.

We have continued the Skills Share Circus Club project in 2023. Between January and the end of February 2023, we have been delivering a circus course with a new partner, Simmons House: an in-patient psychiatric unit for young people between 13 and 17 with emotional and mental health problems.

Feedback from our partners:

"The programme of activities was well-planned with ongoing reflection as to how to engage the learners. This was an excellent response to the challenges that arose during the project. The project was able to accommodate three different cohorts of learners, each with particular needs: behaviour, social and emotional. You were able to improve wellbeing in all of these young people. The development of focus and enrichment of social skills was clearly evident." Mark, teacher at the Pavilion

"Each workshop has been brilliantly thought-out and planned, while always allowing space for change and adaptation depending on the young people's abilities and needs. It has worked really well that each workshop is slightly different, allowing each young person to try something new. It continues to be a wonderful space where the young people can learn and have fun with relaxed but exciting facilitators." Teacher at Simmons House.

Emergency Laughter Relief

1,790 children participated in approximately 188 sessions
Ongoing, running through the year from March 2022 to February 2023, Emergency Laughter Relief shares regular play sessions and circus shows with children and young people who've sought refuge in the UK and are now living in hotels and temporary accommodation centres while they go through the process of resettlement.

Many child refugees arrive in the UK traumatised by their journey. They then face months of isolation in hotels and bridging accommodation with very little provision for activities and education. In these situations, a regular routine of structured play creates a sense of normality and safety, and is the first step in rebuilding a childhood taken away by violence and displacement.

This was the project's second year of delivery, and saw it expand to deliver supportive and rehabilitative play activities to more children. This year, we also added new creative activities to our regular offering through collaborations with longstanding partners like the crafts group Junkfish and the dance groups Flamingo Chicks and Folkdance Remixed.

Feedback from our partners:

"These sessions have already made a difference. The children expect 'the clowns' on Fridays: they put their screens aside, they play, shout and laugh freely (which is impossible at school and in their small rooms). It is a moment of pure joy for them.

These sessions also put a smile on their parents' face. For some, especially single parents, it is a small break in the continuous task of looking after their kids. For others, it is the occasion to see what their children are capable of (catching a new game, running and jumping faster)

Having a regular session, time to forget about what's going on in the hotel, is almost like therapy for the kids and adults, letting them be something else." Laurence, coordinator at Care4Calais

Seagull Seasons

32 children participated in three sessions
March 2022 (the project began in the previous reporting period, with eight sessions delivered in January and February 2022)

Following our first set of Seagull Seasons last year, we returned to Clacton and Jaywick for two more six-week programmes of play, laughter, opportunities to learn new skills, and big laughs for all involved.

Across the UK, many young people risk missing out on happy and healthy childhood games and activities. Coupled with growing feelings of neglect and exclusion in many parts of the country, this lack of access to free, quality childhood provision poses serious problems for personal and social wellbeing, both now and in the future.

Our Seagull Seasons aim to address these problems by strengthening children's confidence and their mental and physical health through sharing professional-quality skills and activities workshops in partnership with local organisations.

Feedback from carers, parents and residents in Jaywick:

"Love The Flying Seagull Project and Inclusion Ventures, so lucky to have this on our doorstep for free to keep the kids entertained and active and making memories. Thank you guys."

"Thank you so much for what you've done for them – you've helped them more than you'll know. They'll be back next year."

Laugh 'n' Play UK

4,879 children participated in 175 sessions
April, October and December 2022, and February 2023

Laugh 'n' Play UK has become a regular part of our Seagull calendar. Every school holiday we send teams out across the country, to make sure children and families, regardless of their circumstances, get a really memorable day together, filled with play, games and big belly-laughs. In December, we deliver this holiday programme with a seasonal twist as the Festive Cheer Up.

Laugh 'n' Play UK continues to grow in scale and we've now delivered sessions in every region of England, partnering with community centres, disability support organisations, food support groups, hotels accommodating refugees, out-of-school services, and refuges. In 2022 we saw an increased need for the holiday activity provision we deliver through Laugh 'n' Play UK, as people across the country were burdened by the cost of living crisis.

It's unacceptable for any child's access to play and enriching activities to be restricted by their circumstances, and we are deeply concerned by the number of young people who are being harmed by this growing childhood inequality.

We're determined to make sure that projects like Laugh 'n' Play UK continue to reach more young people year-on-year and ensure that children can still enjoy their right to play, recreation and creative development despite the worsening social and economic conditions facing many people across the country.

Feedback from parents, participants and partners:

"At the event, we had a child who uses a wheelchair. The Flying Seagulls came up to the child and included them in a one-to-one. Staff from the Hub ensured that he was also able to access the dancing in the hoops activity at the end. Each child had the members of Flying Seagulls come up to them in a one-to-one, it was amazing." Daniella Barnett, team leader at Woodside Family Hub

"My children loved it. My son in particular has wanted to go to the circus but I just cannot afford the one at the Trafford centre for my three. "This was such a great alternative. I cannot believe it was completely free and they all loved joining in with the circus skills at the end." Parent at Barlow Moor Community Association.

"The Flying Seagull Circus came to visit us at our children's hospice to provide entertainment for the children and their siblings. They did an amazing job entertaining a wide spectrum of ages (from four to 14) and all the kids really enjoyed both the show and the circus activities.

"They often don't get the same experiences as their peers due to the amount of medical needs the child may have so this performance definitely gave them some normalcy. They are such a friendly team and the kids were very comfortable with them. We would definitely recommend them to other places and we cannot wait to have them back!" Misha Noah, play specialist at Zoe's Place Hospice.

Prison Family Days

35 children participated in two sessions
April 2022

Having a family member in prison has a huge impact on young people. And although research demonstrates that prisoners who maintain good relationships with their children are less likely to reoffend when released, fear and stigma can make visitations an overwhelming experience for young people.

This new project in 2022 saw us work with prison staff responsible for reducing reoffending, to deliver entertainment and circus workshops during visitations at Downview Prison and Young Offender Institution.

Feedback from staff at Downview:

"The Flying Seagull group were a fabulous addition to our family days. Ensuring our residents have quality contact with their families and children is so important in helping rehabilitate those in our care. The family days help build on these important relationships and give the children a chance to spend valuable time with their mums, aunts, sisters, grandparents, etc." Katie Hyneman, CM for Reducing Reoffending at Downview

A case study from the Seagull team coordinator:

"One particular interaction I had with a child and his mother was extremely poignant. The young boy was fairly nervous at seeing a new face and a little withdrawn, so I spent a few minutes making him laugh and feel comfortable with me. Then his mother spoke to him and said: 'See, these are the people who look after mummy. They're not scary at all are they?' To which the little boy smiled and shook his head. That response, understanding and comfort level is exactly what we wanted to achieve." Izzy "Wolfy" Wolff

Get Up 'n' Giggle family fun fests

1,959 children and young people participated in 13 sessions across six festivals
June to August 2022

Last year we launched our Get Up 'n' Giggle programme: a series of summer community festivals, free of charge and open to all. The project aims to make sure that children and families, regardless of their circumstances, can enjoy a special and memorable day of games, play and friendship during the summer.

This year we delivered these family fun fests in partnership with organisations from last year's Get Up 'n' Giggle project, as well as adding new events at refugee support groups across England.

Feedback from participants and their families, and partner organisations:

"This is what I dreamed England would be like in my head." Ukrainian child at our family fun fest in Canterbury

"This is the first time I've seen my child play with other children since we left Ukraine." Mother at our family fun fest in Canterbury

"Both my husband and son are on the autism spectrum; never before have I seen either of them focused on one thing this long. Beautiful to see how they can share this experience." Mum at our family fun fest at Families in Focus

"We've not been able to take him to anything because he's been in hospital for so long. This has been an incredible experience for him." Nan at our family fun fest at SOLA Arts

"It enables us to spend time as a family in a fun, safe environment where Noah can explore at his own pace. It also helps build his confidence. Noah never volunteers for things but he did when the magician asked for volunteers and he loved being part of the trick." Linda, parent at our family fun fest at CAFT.

Thank you to our valued donors and supporters

We are extremely grateful to all our donors and supporters for sticking with us through such difficult times for many. Thank you to our amazing challenge fundraisers, who've brought in donations through all manner of events, including sponsored runs, toy sales, bike rides, and yoga days: you name it, you're doing it! A huge thank you to all our regular donors, giving up your hard-earned cash every month to keep us going. And to everyone seeing us at festivals and events and giving one-off donations and taking the time to get behind us, truly, thank you.

We are also delighted to have secured a new multi-year grant award towards our work supporting children evacuated from Ukraine over three years. Thank you also to our valued and long term partners Choose Love for believing in us and supporting our work with displaced people internationally and in the UK.

This year we have built meaningful partnerships with new major donors who have generously awarded us both unrestricted funding and core funding: a lifeline for all charities, but especially for those like us, who deliver crisis-response and need to act quickly and nimbly in response to emergencies.

We are committed to carrying out intensive research, strong due diligence and long-term evaluation. For this, we need both unrestricted funding and core funding that we can use towards research and evaluation, as and when we see a need.

We carry out research, due diligence and evaluation using what we call our 1-2-3 model:

1. Active, on-the-ground and desk-based research and scoping, to ensure we go where we are needed most, working with the most trusted partners.

2. Project delivery, reaching as many children as possible.

3. Intensive or long-term support in any one area that we have determined has the strongest need and where we have established valued partnerships.

We would like to thank everyone who continues to follow, share and like our content on social media. Your support in sharing our message is vital for us and we are grateful that you take the time to keep our messages going.

Thank you to all our supporters for continuing to believe in us and in the power of play; we couldn't do any of this without you.

Future plans

International projects

We will expand our Middle East Medley, Playtime Poland and Balkan Laughathon projects, and add a new Talking Turkey project to respond to the worsening situation facing young people near Turkey's border with Syria after the earthquake in February 2023.

Middle East Medley
Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon are caught in a vast, ongoing crisis with no end in sight, and it's crucial that we continue to deliver a play programme for these children each year. The 2023 Middle East Medley will take place in Jordan and Lebanon from March to May. The 2023 project will also expand its scope to deliver additional play and laughter sessions in support groups and with communities affected by the worsening economic and social difficulties in Lebanon. The Flying Seagulls Norway will lead the project, with crew and support from The Flying Seagull Project and the Flying Seagulls Netherlands.

Playtime Poland
Based on the impact this project had in 2022 and the ongoing, serious need for play relief among Ukrainian evacuees living in Polish institutions, we have decided to expand this project in 2023. The project will now take place with more teams covering more sites, with two project blocks covering a longer period of time: from March to May, and October to December.

Balkan Laughathon
We are expanding our work in Bulgaria in 2023, to deliver two Balkan Laughathon projects: one in April and May, and one in October.

Talking Turkey
This new project will take place in October 2023, near the Turkish border with Syria. Following the devastating earthquake in February 2023, more than a million people were displaced from their homes. This disaster also exacerbated the already harsh conditions facing Kurdish and Syrian communities in the region, including the large populations who have sought refuge in Turkey from conflicts across the Middle East. The result is that there are hundreds of thousands of children suffering immense trauma, instability and stress. Our new Talking Turkey project will bring emergency play and laughter relief to these children.

National projects

We have continued to respond to the huge needs we are seeing nationally through a range of projects tailored to different age groups, needs, locations and situations.

Emergency Laughter Relief
We will continue our regular sessions at hotels and accommodation centres housing displaced children in the UK. We plan to expand the project to support schools who are taking on new pupils who've sought refuge in the UK, to promote integration and inclusion through uniting in laughter.

Skills Share Circus Clubs
We will continue these longer-term, regular session with neurodiverse groups, and young people and families facing multiple adverse childhood experiences, including food insecurity, poverty, lack of access to arts and activities, mental and physical health issues, exclusion from school or other parts of life, temporary or insecure housing, and abuse or trauma.

Laugh 'n' Play UK
We plan to continue this project's expansion across the UK, maintaining its focus on holiday play provision to make sure that we reach children at the time of greatest need. As Christmas approaches, we will revisit groups that find the festive period more challenging and provide support with our seasonal Festive Cheer Up.

Chuckles and Cheer summer camps
Responding to the need for summer activity provision in bridging and contingency refugee hotels, these new summer camps will deliver five-day activity programmes hosted in our big top tent at hotels accommodating refugee families.

Summer Sunshine Roadshow
A new four-week summer holiday programme with a team touring across the country, focusing on new service mapping. The project will visit entirely new areas in the country to discover partners and needs and ensure our UK work continues to expand in the most effective and impactful way.

Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is a rare day when our TV news bulletins do not include at least one harrowing story about people uprooted and displaced by war or natural disaster.I imagine that I am not alone in sometimes finding it difficult to not switch off, literally or metaphorically – it is just too painful, too far beyond the reach of anything I can do.

Then along come the Flying Seagulls - circus and play workers skipping and juggling and dancing and singing into those broken places that most of us have never experienced and can barely imagine. Here is something magical;practical and purposeful and full of hope and joy. Something I am honoured to support as a trustee, and something we can all help to flourish with our time or our money or our various talents.

This report tells the story of our year. I hope that you find it interesting. Needless to say, we would love to hear from you if you would like to know more.

The Seagull programme has grown substantially over the last year and so has our trustee board. We were delighted to welcome Catherine Sullivan and Donna Yay. Both bring considerable experience and essential skills. Catherine leads for the trustees on all things financial, and Donna has a particular focus on safeguarding.

These new appointments reflect the priorities of the trustees. It is our job to provide the sound governance and effective oversight that enables our wonderful team to do their best work. We are grateful to every member of that team for all their energy and brilliance over the last year. The work is fun and fulfilling, but it is also physically and emotionally draining. None of that activity on the ground would be possible without the dedicated support of the home team, keeping the show on the road. And every Seagull project is dependent on the talents and energy of our volunteers and on the financial support of our many generous donors, the wind beneath our wings.

Thank you all

David Robinson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Financial review

The unrestricted surplus for the year was £164,427. There was a surplus on restricted funds of £65,274. At the year end, total unrestricted funds were £298,220 (2022: £133,793) and restricted funds were £65,274 (2022: £53,784).

Reserves

The Charity seeks to set aside at least 6 to 9 months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. Based on current annual activity and future development plans, the Board of Trustees have determined to hold £150k in unrestricted funds for this purpose.

In addition, at the year ending February 2023, the Board further designated unrestricted funds to support delivery of work within our charitable aims.

Designation

Needed but Not Known *£60,000*

Funds to work in areas where we are desperately needed but that are often unknown or are difficult to fundraise for. In addition there can be a need to quickly respond to events and the Board wish to hold funds, to ensure that those in crisis are supported in line with our mission.

Bulgaria is a specific example of where this fund applies. Fortunately some restricted funding was received for the delivery of the Balkan Laughton project in 2023-24 but additional resources from this fund will ensure the work can be delivered in full.

It is anticipated that where we have the resources this will be a rolling designation for the Charity.

Fleet & Equipment: Maintenance, Development and Innovation £35,000

Funds to enable us to meet additional vehicle maintenance costs, and replacements, moving towards a more environmentally friendly fleet. Along with resources to replace equipment as necessary, we wish to innovate equipment to offer access for those with disabilities.

It is expected that this will be a rolling designation whilst ever we hold vehicles and equipment within the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14th February 2013, and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Flying Seagull Project has a Management Committee made up of the Board of Trustees. The Management Committee meets a minimum of twice annually and keeps full minutes. In addition, smaller working groups of Trustees with particular professional skills work on projects relevant to their experiences to support the Charity's activities. The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring the public benefit of the Charity's activities is clear and adhered to at all times. Strategic direction, expenditure and policy is discussed and decided on as a group. No decision entailing a substantial change in direction by the Charity is taken unless it has been approved by a majority of the Management Committee members.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs P S Mustill	(Resigned 7 November 2022)
Miss S V Wade	(Resigned 7 November 2022)
Mr S Wynne	
Ms N F Briercliffe	
Mr B McAlinn	
Ms D Yay	(Appointed 8 November 2022)
Mr D Robinson	(Appointed 8 November 2022)
Ms C Sullivan	(Appointed 8 November 2022)

New trustees with suitable gifts and experience are appointed at the discretion of the existing trustees. Appropriate induction and training procedures are followed.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr D Robinson
Trustee

20 October 2023

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Flying Seagull Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Flying Seagull Project (the Charity) for the year ended 28 February 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE

Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Dated: 20 November 2023

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	294,703	245,227	539,930	188,463	62,968	251,431
Charitable activities	4	1,350	-	1,350	1,692	-	1,692
Other income	5	5,403	-	5,403	5,750	-	5,750
Total income		301,456	245,227	546,683	195,905	62,968	258,873
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	35,965	20,000	55,965	29,145	-	29,145
Charitable activities	7	171,592	143,209	314,801	201,200	51,684	252,884
Total expenditure		207,557	163,209	370,766	230,345	51,684	282,029
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		93,899	82,018	175,917	(34,440)	11,284	(23,156)
Gross transfers between funds	16	70,528	(70,528)	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		164,427	11,490	175,917	(26,940)	3,784	(23,156)
Fund balances at 1 March 2022		133,793	53,784	187,577	160,733	50,000	210,733
Fund balances at 28 February 2023		298,220	65,274	363,494	133,793	53,784	187,577

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	**11**		27,604		17,258
Investments	**12**		1		1
			27,605		17,259
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	**13**	12,930		14,419	
Cash at bank and in hand		336,331		168,350	
		349,261		182,769	
Current liabilities	**14**	(13,372)		(12,451)	
Net current assets			335,889		170,318
Total assets less current liabilities			363,494		187,577
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**16**		65,274		53,784
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds:					
		272,604		-	
	17	272,604		-	
General unrestricted funds		25,616		133,793	
			298,220		133,793
			363,494		187,577

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2023

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 28 February 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 October 2023

Mr D Robinson
Trustee

Ms C Sullivan
Trustee

Company registration number 08404014

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	22		184,429		(17,118)
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(32,198)		-	
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		15,750		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			(16,448)		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			167,981		(17,118)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			168,350		185,468
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			336,331		168,350

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Flying Seagull Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1, Aldbury's Farm, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grant income received for projects is deferred to the balance sheet and recognised in the statement of financial activities when the work is undertaken.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure is recognised when there is an obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the appropriate heading and includes irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, fixtures and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Fixtures and equipment costs above £2,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	269,703	5,892	275,595	171,563	527	172,090
Grants	25,000	239,335	264,335	16,900	62,441	79,341
	294,703	245,227	539,930	188,463	62,968	251,431
Donations and gifts						
Donations and gift aid	269,703	5,892	275,595	166,148	527	166,675
Donations from Trading Subsidiary	-	-	-	5,415	-	5,415
	269,703	5,892	275,595	171,563	527	172,090

4 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Party, Theatre Show and Workshop Income	1,350	1,692

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	5,403	-
Other income	-	5,750
	5,403	5,750

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and publicity				
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	25,213
Staff costs	35,965	20,000	55,965	3,932
Fundraising and publicity	35,965	20,000	55,965	29,145
	35,965	20,000	55,965	29,145

7 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	27,683	40,765
Depreciation and impairment	11,504	12,991
Projects expenditure	185,771	140,355
Consultancy fees	15,167	13,298
	240,125	207,409
Share of support costs (see note 8)	71,676	42,835
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	3,000	2,640
	314,801	252,884
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	171,592	201,200
Restricted funds	143,209	51,684
	314,801	252,884

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	32,766	-	32,766	23,364	-	23,364
Insurance	1,299	-	1,299	1,211	-	1,211
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	13	-	13
Bookkeeping	15,900	-	15,900	8,820	-	8,820
Charity administration expenses	17,799	-	17,799	7,051	-	7,051
CRM setup	3,912	-	3,912	2,376	-	2,376
Accountancy	-	2,050	2,050	-	1,680	1,680
Independent examination	-	950	950	-	840	840
Payroll	-	-	-	-	120	120
	71,676	3,000	74,676	42,835	2,640	45,475
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	71,676	3,000	74,676	42,835	2,640	45,475

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Charitable Activities	2	1
Admin	1	1
Total	3	2

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	107,545	61,361
Social security costs	6,935	6,231
Other pension costs	1,934	469
	116,414	68,061

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 Property, plant and equipment

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 March 2022	33,947	52,504	86,451
Business combinations	-	32,198	32,198
Disposals	-	(20,694)	(20,694)
At 28 February 2023	33,947	64,008	97,955
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 March 2022	27,757	41,437	69,194
Depreciation charged in the year	3,095	8,409	11,504
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(10,347)	(10,347)
At 28 February 2023	30,852	39,499	70,351
Carrying amount			
At 28 February 2023	3,095	24,509	27,604
At 28 February 2022	6,190	11,068	17,258

12 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments
Cost or valuation	
At 1 March 2022 & 28 February 2023	1
Carrying amount	
At 28 February 2023	1
At 28 February 2022	1

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Investments in subsidiaries	21	1	1

13 Trade and other receivables

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade receivables	750	942
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	9,405	10,702
Other receivables	2,775	2,775
	12,930	14,419

14 Current liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	4,541	2,822
Trade payables	5,831	6,989
Accruals and deferred income	3,000	2,640
	13,372	12,451

15 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £1,934 (2022 - £469).

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 March 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 March 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 28 February 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Refugee Support Fund	50,000	10,000	(20,418)	-	39,582	-	(4,788)	(34,794)	-
Children's ride	-	7,500	-	(7,500)	-	-	-	-	-
ELR Choose Love	-	22,017	(7,975)	-	14,042	267	(19,465)	5,156	-
Arts Council - workshops & festivals	-	13,500	(13,500)	-	-	21,341	-	(21,341)	-
Lottery Community Fund - festivals & play	-	9,691	(9,691)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	260	(100)	-	160	13,619	(44,230)	30,451	-
Anon	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Mark Leonard Trust	-	-	-	-	-	45,000	(45,000)	-	-
Anon - Playtime Poland	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Anon - Balkan Laughaton	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	(11,968)	-	(6,968)
Choose Love	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	(37,758)	-	22,242
	50,000	62,968	(51,684)	(7,500)	53,784	245,227	(163,209)	(70,528)	65,274

16 Restricted funds (Continued)

Refugee Support Fund - A fund to provide assistance and support for running costs during the pandemic. The £10,000 income in 2021-22 was earmarked for a project in Greece and was all spent in the year.

Children's Ride - This was a gift to cover the cost of a children's swing ride which had been purchased in February 2021. The transfer out represents the capitalised cost of the ride which was included in the 2020-21 accounts.

ELR Choose Love - This fund is to provide Emergency Laughter Relief (ELR) sessions to refugees and displaced people living in temporary accommodation in the UK.

Arts Council - workshops and festivals - This funding from the Arts Council is for community festivals and workshops in the UK.

Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All - This funding is from the National Lottery for community festivals and shows in the UK.

Miscellaneous - This fund includes small donations for specific projects.

Anon- Funding to cover salaries and purchase of a new Showmobile vehicle.

Mark Leonard Trust - This is restricted funding towards salaries of some of the staff.

Anon - Playtime Poland Fund - this fund includes grants given specifically to shows that will be undertaken in Poland.

Anon - Balkan Laughathon Fund - this fund contains monies given to us to work in Bulgaria, primarily with refugees. There was an overspend on this fund in the year, but additional funding has been received in 2023/24 which will cover this, therefore the fund has been left with a negative balance.

Choose Love - This fund is for work with refugees in Poland.

17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			
	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 March 2022	Transfers	Balance at 28 February 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset fund	-	-	27,604	27,604
Operation and winding up	-	-	150,000	150,000
Needed but not known	-	-	60,000	60,000
Fleet & equipment: Maintenance, Development & Innovation	-	-	35,000	35,000
	-	-	272,604	272,604

Fixed asset fund - the trustees have decided to designate the value of the fixed assets. This reflects the charity's need to retain these assets in order to be able to operate. They therefore do not represent free reserves.

Operational and winding up costs - The trustees have set aside at least 6 to 9 months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. Based on current annual activity and future development plans, the Board have determined to hold £150k in unrestricted funds for this purpose.

Needed but Not Known - Funds to work in areas where we are desperately needed but that are often unknown or are difficult to fundraise for. In addition there can be a need to quickly respond to events and the Board wish to hold funds, to ensure that those in crisis are supported in line with our mission.

It is anticipated that where we have the resources this will be a rolling designation for the Charity.

Fleet & Equipment: Maintenance, Development and Innovation - Funds to enable the charity to meet additional vehicle maintenance costs, and replacements, moving towards a more environmentally friendly fleet. Along with resources to replace equipment as necessary, the charity wishes to innovate equipment to offer access for those with disabilities.

It is expected that this will be a rolling designation whilst ever we hold vehicles and equipment within the Charity.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Designated funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances are represented by:							
Property, plant and equipment	-	27,604	-	27,604	17,258	-	17,258
Investments	1	-	-	1	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	25,615	245,000	65,274	335,889	116,534	53,784	170,318
	25,616	272,604	65,274	363,494	133,793	53,784	187,577

19 Operating lease commitments

The charity has a leased on the property at Aldbury's Farm which is used as our base of operations. This is on a rolling licence with a 3 month notice period.

The rental payments are currently made by the trading company.

20 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	29,445	36,894

During the year a salary was paid to Mr A Perrin, as disclosed above. Mr Perrin is a Director of the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd.

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

Transactions with related parties

During the year the Charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

At the balance sheet date, the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd, owed the Charity £9,405 (2022: £10,702).

21 Subsidiaries

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 28 February 2023 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd	England	Recreation	Ordinary	100.00	

During the year to 28 February 2023, the trading company made profit of £12,330 (2022: £5,415) and had closing reserves of £19,789 (2022: £7,459)

22	Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	175,917	(23,156)
	Adjustments for:		
	Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(5,403)	-
	Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	11,504	12,991
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	1,490	(6,022)
	Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	921	(931)
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	184,429	(17,118)

23 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no debt during the year.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152433

Accounts

Charity registration number 1152433

Company registration number 08404014 (England and Wales)

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs P S Mustill Miss S V Wade Mr S Wynne Ms N F Briercliffe Mr B McAlinn
Chief Executive	Mr A Perrin
Charity number	1152433
Company number	08404014
Principal address	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY
Registered office	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY
Independent examiner	John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 13
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	14
Independent examiner's report	15
Statement of financial activities	16
Statement of financial position	17
Notes to the financial statements	18 - 28

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Trustees' report contents

	Page
Welcome to our annual report 2021-22	2
A message from our founder	
Our mission	
What we have achieved	3
2021-22 at a glance	
Our new initiatives	
Get Up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests	
Emergency Laughter Relief	
Seagulls return to Greece	
Seagull Seasons	
How we monitor and evaluate	4
Our team	
Our Board of Trustees	
Our CEO and founder	
Our team leaders	5
Our core team	
Our office team	
2021 projects	5
Spring In Your Step	
Laugh 'n' Play UK	6
Get Up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests	7
The Flying Showmobile Sunshine Tour	8
Emergency Laughter Relief	
Seagull Seasons	9
Get Giggling Greece	
The Festive Cheer Up	10
Thank you to our valued donors and supporters	
Future plans	11
UK projects and activities	
European projects	
Middle Eastern projects	12
Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees	
Public benefit	
Financial review	
Structure, governance and management	
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	

Welcome to our annual report 2021-22

Through music, circus, clowning, theatre, dance, magic and art, The Flying Seagull Project brings laughter and happiness to children in crisis. We work in refugee camps, care homes, hostels and hospitals in the UK, the Middle East and across Europe.

A message from our founder

"Over the last year, in spite of every difficulty, we have tried to focus all our energy into finding ways that we can still connect with those most in need, both here in the UK as well as internationally. I'm proud to say that we have reached 13,721 children in 2021 via in-person shows, workshops and sessions through our UK and international work.

"Through the extensive launch of our operations across the UK we have been reaching communities that have faced even harder crises than most, as well as delivering emergency support for those evacuated from Afghanistan. We have expanded our operations, but most importantly we have deepened our impact by being there when it mattered most: as children arrived in the country, or as they came out of lockdown.

"Over the next months, and arguably years, the fallout of the harsh impact that Covid-19 has had on all children in terms of their lost childhoods will become more and more evident. That is why we see it as not only our job but also as our duty to make sure that any missed, lost or stolen moments of childhood, whether due to poverty, war or the pandemic, will be urgently remedied through rehabilitative laughter and community connection through play."

Ash Perrin
CEO and entertainer, founded The Flying Seagull Project in 2008

Our mission

We share joy worldwide through music, art, circus and dance. Working with vulnerable, abandoned, displaced and poorly people, we run creative sessions to help build confidence, aid childhood development and strengthen communication.

We believe everyone has the right to laugh, socialise and enjoy their life, no matter their financial, physical, psychological or societal situation.

We believe every child should have the right to play freely without risk or threat.

We believe play, creativity and laughter are essential to a child's development and therefore to the community as a whole.

To ensure we achieve our mission, we set these objectives:

1. Take laughter and play to more children in crisis.
2. Train more staff and volunteers to reach more people.
3. Record and demonstrate our reach and impact.

What we have achieved

2021-22 at a glance

- Spring In Your Step: 1,400 children reached in April and May 2021.
- Laugh 'n' Play UK: 5,394 children reached in three sessions from May 2021 to February 2022.
- Get up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests: 1,215 children reached during summer 2021.
- The Flying Showmobile Sunshine Tour: 1,200 children reached during summer 2021.
- Emergency Laughter Relief: 2,031 children reached since September 2021.
- Seagull Seasons: 465 children reached from October-December 2021.
- Get Giggling Greece: 2,357 children reached from October-December 2021.
- The Festive Cheer Up: 1,042 children reached in December 2021.

Our new initiatives

This year we have added new projects to our existing commitments in the UK, and resumed our international work after the end of the worst period of disruption in the pandemic.

Get Up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests

The first year of the pandemic had disastrous effects on children's levels of play, activity and social interaction. In response, we launched a programme of free summer festivals in partnership with community organisations across the country.

Emergency Laughter Relief

In August, the collapse of the government of Afghanistan and takeover by the Taliban resulted in more than 13,000 people suddenly seeking refuge in the UK after a chaotic and traumatising evacuation.

Despite the tireless work of charities across the UK, new arrivals have been met with shelter and support services which were already under huge strain.

To address the urgent need for safe and rehabilitative childhood activities for young people evacuated from Afghanistan, we launched an ongoing programme of visits to hotels and temporary accommodation centres in the UK.

Seagulls return to Greece

Though the pandemic has seriously affected children everywhere, its impact has been especially severe in the refugee camps of Greece where we'd previously run regular play projects.

Refugee camps have been under permanent lockdowns and the few educational and recreational services available to children have often been suspended.

We were able to resume our work in the refugee camps in Greece in September, with rigorous procedures for avoiding the spread of Covid-19.

Seagull Seasons

In the UK, the pandemic has not only resulted in acute difficulties facing children across the country, but has exposed and exacerbated serious, long-term problems where children and young people are deprived of the opportunities for play and recreation that others are able to take for granted.

This year, we've introduced programmes of circus and skills workshops in areas where children are facing chronic problems in accessing high-quality, enriching activities that promote confidence, wellbeing and development.

How we monitor and evaluate

Everything we do is about making a positive difference for children who are going through the toughest of times. That is why effective monitoring and evaluation is of the highest importance to us: first, because audience and partner feedback helps us make sure that our offering remains as relevant and impactful as the day we started and that children are still captivated and inspired by our work; second, so that we can demonstrate the importance of our work to stakeholders and supporters through real-life data and stories.

We record and measure the impact of what we do through case studies, partner feedback, audience and family feedback, numbers attending the shows, photographs, videos, interviews with attendees and partners, anecdotes and comments, quotes and partner observations.

These anecdotal, qualitative and quantitative data sets show which elements of our sessions are valued by our beneficiaries, partners, staff and parents/carers, and whether there are any comments for improvement or amendment, which we take seriously.

After every session, our crew write a project report clearly discussing any comments, sensitivities, issues and highlights from that session, how these were managed and to what effect. They identify and record impact and difference made for individuals and for the whole group for every session, considering and recording difference against the impact categories of wellbeing; skills; arts; community, so that we can record and monitor the difference we make across a range of indicators and measures.

We also record positive engagement case studies and testimonials from partner organisation staff: for example, a very shy, sad or removed child who is not participating at the start of the session but smiling and joining in by the end.

All this feedback as well as numbers reached are discussed at staff and trustee level, to continuously make sure we are fulfilling our mission and vision.

We know from our feedback to date that our sessions result in increased trust, confidence, and an improved sense of freedom and positivity. This positive impact is evidenced by anecdotal feedback from beneficiaries, families and partner organisations, and through academic research.

In addition to our own internal reviews, a PhD research project on the impact of our work is due to be completed in September 2022, providing further evidence for the difference we make. This research involves a collaboration between the University of Birmingham, the University of Nottingham and The Flying Seagull Project, and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Our team

Our Board of Trustees

Sarah Wade, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Bala McAlinn
Naomi Briercliffe
Penelope Mustill
Steve Wynne

Our CEO and founder

Having founded the project in 2008, Ash Perrin AKA Bash is still involved with every aspect of the charity from board meetings to beard greetings. Ash is a passionate advocate for children's rights and is devoted to making sure the project always delivers high-standard dynamic play.

Our team leaders

Beckie Briley AKA BB has an energy only matched by the size of her heart. Over the past years Beckie has led teams in some of the toughest situations we work in. With her team she's faced that challenge with the widest of smiles and a depth of warmth that can and has literally changed lives.

Bendik Nordgaard AKA Benno holds the title of most cheerful and jolly human since life began. He's also incredibly hard-working, absolutely committed to providing play in the most impossible of circumstances and plays a mean clarinet too. He is one of a kind, and luckily for us has now launched The Flying Seagulls Norge branch.

Izzy Wolff AKA Wolfy is a true force of nature and a classic example of a Seagull team leader. She balances grit and graft with compassion and warmth, and is an absolute favourite of all the kids she meets. As well as leading teams, Isobel has taken on the role of Director of UK Programmes and Operations, leading all our management and logistics for our UK projects.

Our core team

Following last year's apprentice scheme, we have developed and created a core team to ensure our projects and operations worldwide remain of the highest standard. The core team supports all areas of the organisation, including operations, welfare, team support, planning and logistics, and are also a positive and energetic addition to the organisation as a whole.

Our office team

This year we said goodbye to Georgina Faulkner, who left for a new opportunity after three years as our Finance Manager, and welcomed Shirley Dinsmore into the role in April. We wish Georgina well and are grateful for her considerable efforts since joining in 2018.

Martin Platais joined The Flying Seagull Project in 2018 as Communications Assistant. He takes care of social media and all things digital.

Our Events Coordinator Sarita Plowman left the Seagulls in December, after many years raising funds through our not-for-profit parties company and overseeing our charitable work in the UK. Penny Mustill, from the Board of Trustees, has taken over the role on a caretaker basis and is overseeing the recruitment of an Events Manager. We thank Sarita for her years of hard work and all the resourcefulness and creativity that she's contributed to making The Flying Seagull Project what it is today.

Tania Skae joined the Seagulls as Donor Relations Manager in 2020, overseeing fundraising, reporting, looking after our supporters and engaging new donors. After a year when we expanded our long-term charitable commitments in the UK, Tania has taken on the role of Director of Development, responsible for making sure the charity continues to grow and reach more children in need of light and laughter.

2021 projects

Spring In Your Step

1,400 children participated in 40 sessions
7th April to 1st May 2021

Spring In Your Step was our first project of the year, following the third Covid-19 lockdown.

To minimise health risks, we used a small team of two: veteran Seagull team-team leaders Wolfy and BB. Two additional Seagulls joined rehearsals to provide cover in case of any need to isolate following exposure to Covid-19.

We shared 40 sessions with 1,4000 children across England, working mostly in adventure playgrounds, children's holiday clubs, community centres and two schools in areas with additional need for uplifting children's activities.

The sessions consisted of a show, with additional circus freeplay workshops in locations which had sufficient space for social-distancing. We also shared a sensory session with a group of neurodiverse young people.

We found that what we offer was in greatest demand during the Easter school holiday, when partner organisations were trying to arrange food and activity provision for children who get free school meals during term-time. In response, we focused our subsequent Laugh 'n' Play UK projects on holiday play provision.

A consistent theme in feedback from partners, parents and carers across our 40 Spring In Your Step sessions was that the children we met desperately needed to get out of their houses, play and relax without inhibition, and engage with new adults they had not met before.

> "The Flying Seagull Project have continued to provide a vital service to our community over the short time we have been working together. Through their work, the Flying Seagull team have injected joy and fun into the lives of families and children who have suffered immensely throughout the pandemic. Families who have little or no access to public funds, whose lives have been stretched over the course of this last year.
>
> "The Flying Seagull Project provide vital respite to the children who have faced a year of confusion, anxiety and fear, reminding them that the magic of play and imagination can take us all away for a short while."
> —Georgia Wright, Brixton People's Kitchen
>
> "Seeing the happy faces and hearing the cheering and laughing brought a feeling of lightness and hope that we've not seen for a long time. In fact, it brought a tear to my eye. The feedback we have received from our invited audiences has been glowing: 'just what we needed,' 'we never get invited to anything like this ... thank you.'
>
> "And I know from my personal knowledge that one of our families is moving on with their lives following the darkest of times and the Seagulls brought them some sunshine. Thank you so much. We wish you could perform for us every day. The Flying Seagulls truly make the world a better place."
> —Lucie Murphy, The Bridge
>
> "It was the most funniest performance ever. It was so silly!"
> —Child, PACE Fortune Green

Laugh 'n' Play UK

5,394 children participated in 233 sessions
Three projects, in May-July 2021, October 2021 and February 2022

During 2021-22 we've made two changes to the Laugh 'n' Play UK programmes we introduced in the previous year. We now focus on delivering this project during school holidays, when the need for play and smiles is greatest. And by concentrating on delivering light and laughter during school holidays, we've been able to send out several teams across England during each holiday and expand our impact well beyond our base in London and the South East.

Over the course of our three Laugh 'n' Play projects, we've shared holiday play with children in London, Essex, Kent, Oxfordshire, the West Midlands, south-west England, and the north-west.

In each region, we've focused on activity and food provision hubs supporting who receive free school meals, organisations that run services for children with specific needs, hospices, and hotels accommodating children evacuated from Afghanistan.

"It was a delight to meet the Flying Seagull team who attended our senior respite service on Saturday. They did a fantastic job in entertaining both young people and support staff. Not many of our young people get to experience these types of shows as they are in public, and due to the current circumstances they tend not to go out in the community. To have The Flying Seagull Project in a safe and secure environment was brilliant."

—Sabba Parveen Shahid, Families United Network

One of the children in particular has struggled to find positivity and enjoyment in life following a sequence of traumatic events with his birth mother who he no longer sees. He was reluctant to attend the event, but couldn't stop smiling when he was here and said afterwards he had really enjoyed it and it was the best thing he had done!

—Kathy Fryatt-Banks, Home-Start Dorset

"The Flying Seagull circus was an outstanding opportunity for the children. This was one many of the children would not have the opportunity to be a part of in their everyday lives. Families here cannot afford cultural experiences such these every day or do not often venture out of the locality to seek such experiences.

"Many wouldn't get the chance to visit a circus or similar entertainment activity ... One child said "this was the best thing that has ever happened in my life."

—Lydia Gandaa, Bubble & Squeak

Get Up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests

1,215 children participated in five free community festivals
July to August 2021, and November 2021

The first year of the pandemic deprived children of opportunities for outdoor play and interaction, a situation made worse for many by the uncertainty and financial difficulties facing many families across the UK.

In response, we decided to add free community events alongside the return of our regular festival fundraising roadshow.

We partnered with community organisations in Clacton, Jaywick, Brixton and Kennington to share our Seagull summer festival experience with children who otherwise might not get to enjoy something like this.

We also partnered with the Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) in Altrincham, which supports children with disabilities, disadvantages, and terminal illnesses, to put on a summer festival in July and a Seagull twist on the winter wonderland experience in November.

"Somehow you found the last gem of childhood she had and made it shine. Seeing her laugh, play and just run carefree through a field has been magical. She's gone to bed with a beaming smile, a button grasped in her hand and a full heart. Dreams are going to be of her 'The Bedroom Seagull Project' where she plans to master storytelling, pirate antics and circus skills to keep passing on the joys of childhood."

—Parent at the Family Fun Fest with CAFT

"This is the best day ever!"

—Child at the Family Fun Fest in Jaywick

"The circus is so cool at Max Roach. They have everything to do and it's lots of fun for everyone."

—Six-year-old child at the Family Fun Fest with the Loughborough Community Center at Max Roach in Brixton

The Flying Showmobile Sunshine Tour

1,200 children participated in 45 sessions
July to September 2021

To tackle the need for uplifting play and energetic activities during the school summer holiday, we made full use of our Flying Showmobile stage to embark on a summer tour across England, forming new partnerships and meeting more children across the country.

We shared smiles and sunshine in Manchester, Bolton, Middlesbrough, Liverpool and Coventry, working with refugee support groups, councils, SEND providers, children's centres, hospices and disability support groups.

> The show was amazing and the inclusivity was second to none. We would highly recommend it.
> —Lisa McLoughlin, WHISC

> The Afghan families we have been supporting ... have had three weeks of sitting with the trauma of separation and loss, being pulled out of their known environment and living with a sadness of currently simply "existing" in an unknown and familiar space. The visit from The Flying Seagull Project brought genuine laughter and delight to both children and adults. Being able to simply be playful, transform the otherwise vast and drab outside space and bring both girls and boys from over 60 families together was just great.
> —Adele Spires, SOLA ARTS

> One of our non-verbal children spoke for the first time during the performance as she was so engaged and enjoying it. The same child went up to the front and joined in the performance, dancing with one of the ladies with a piece of material in front of others, which is a major achievement for this child.
> —Anonymous

Emergency Laughter Relief

2,031 children participated in 104 sessions
Ongoing, beginning in September 2021

After the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August, more than 13,000 people were evacuated to the UK.

Although they've reached a place of safety, they've since faced a long and difficult resettlement process, with support services already stretched to capacity.

Among these evacuees, children have faced particular challenges.

Many have been traumatised by their chaotic and dangerous evacuation from Afghanistan. Since arriving in the UK, they've spent months isolated in hotels and bridging accommodation with very little provision for activities and education.

In these situations, a regular routine of structured play creates a sense of normality and safety that is essential for rebuilding a childhood taken away by violence and displacement.

> "We have seen how the children have grown in confidence and how they so look forward to you coming on a Thursday. They ask us every day of the week, 'when is the circus coming?' ... Thank you so much again for your time, support and wonderful, inspirational energy and compassion, that you and your team show and give to these children."
> —Samantha Lord, Hammersmith and Fulham Council

> The look on the parents' faces watching their children running around, squealing with joy was one I will not forget. After the show the excitement was still infectious and I watched as the kids showed other adults at the hotel what games they had played and acted out parts of the show together. The Flying Seagulls' visit bought great positivity into the hotel which lasted long after they had left.
> —Abigail Stroud, Migrant Help

Achievements and performance

> "I am absolutely blown away by the workshop we had today! Thank you so much. It was incredible. Every child was included and it was the first time ever I have seen all of the Afghan children participating in a group like that with the whole class ... The new children came out their shells today for the first time, all thanks to your brilliant, inclusive workshop!"
>
> —Ruby Stolerman, Netley Primary School

Seagull Seasons

465 children participated in these programmes
October to December 2021

To deepen our relations and impact in areas where play and laughter are especially needed, we have introduced longer programmes of regular sessions with a broadened range of activities tailored to the needs and interests of the children we're working with.

In partnership with Families United Network supporting children and families with disabilities in Luton, the Pavilion pupil referral unit in Barnet, the Magpie Project supporting children and mothers in refuges in Newham, Autism Bedfordshire, and Inclusion Ventures in Clacton and Jaywick, we have designed and delivered bespoke programmes over a number of weeks.

The response has been fantastic, and we look forward to rolling this model out further in 2022 and beyond.

> Thank you so much for what you've done for them – you've helped them more than you'll know. They'll be back next year.
>
> —Resident in Jaywick

> Love The Flying Seagull Project and Inclusion Ventures, so lucky to have this on our doorstep for free to keep the kids entertained and active and making memories. Thank you guys.
>
> —Claire, resident in Jaywick

Get Giggling Greece

2,348 children participated in 46 sessions
September to December 2021

At the start of the pandemic, we had to immediately suspend our work in refugee camps in Greece, due to the risk of spreading Covid into refugee camps where health problems are already rife and medical access is extremely limited.

Since then, we've been working constantly to come up with ways of safely and responsibly returning to refugee camps and navigating the increasingly onerous bureaucratic obstacles to access.

After trialling our fully social-distanced Showmobile and testing our biosecurity protocols in our UK work between winter 2020 and the end of summer 2021, we concluded that we had a safe method to once again deliver shows, circus and play sessions in a refugee camp.

To navigate travel restrictions and ensure our project delivery was resilient and sustainable in the face of likely disruption, Ash developed a new partnership with Greek circus groups who had collaborated with us on previous projects. After completing full Seagull training, we launched together as Kalimera Circus.

From September through to December, we shared shows, circus and play sessions in refugee camps and accommodation centres in Athens, Lesbos and most of the main camps on the Greek mainland.

Conditions in the refugee camps have deteriorated during the pandemic. A number of the children we met were those we'd worked with in our previous Greek project in Samos in 2019.

Years of their childhoods have now been spent in camps, and it's essential that we build from our new partnerships with NGOs in Greece to make sure that we once again deliver regular projects that share hope and friendship in what are very often extremely miserable environments.

"Every visit filled the site with joy, laughter and music, and adults and children alike have been enthralled by their performances. We have even spotted members of the community who rarely leave their accommodation units and engage with activities in the crowd, laughing and taking pictures. The children ask us daily when the clowns are coming back. They have created so many special moments on site."
—Tamara Salhab, Danish Refugee Council

"The tightrope walking was the best one for us! We loved it! We want to try it more times and to get better at it. It was an amazing exercise to train our focus! Thank you so much for this day."
—Anonymous children

"We loved the hula hooping! We want to do it with the Flying Seagulls every week!"
—Anonymous children

The Festive Cheer Up

1,042 children participated in 44 sessions
December 2021

Following the success in 2020 of our "food support, mood support" partnership with Kitchen Social, a Mayor's Fund for London initiative, this year we aimed to reach even more children and deliver festive "mood support" alongside Kitchen Social's food support for families facing food poverty.

We also shared festive cheer in hotels housing refugees, with support groups for neurodiverse children, and at community Christmas parties.

59 shows were cancelled and re-arranged for early 2022 due to Covid outbreaks and changing restrictions. Yet we still managed to deliver 44 shows, sharing play and laughter with 1,042 children.

"The Flying Seagull Circus was an amazing treat for the children of Lockleaze. Many wouldn't get the chance to visit a circus or similar entertainment activity. The performers were engaging and exciting, getting the children involved in the performance and even the shy ones came out of their shell to join in. They loved learning circus tricks too – something we will try to continue! Thank you!"
—Bharti Patel, Lockleaze Adventure Playground

Thank you to our valued donors and supporters

It has been a challenging year, as of course it has been for everyone, and we are delighted that the vast majority of our core donors and supporters have remained dedicated to getting behind us and believing in us, continuing to support us despite the difficulties that the pandemic has thrown at everyone.

We are extremely grateful for the support of Arts Council England, Awards for All, Barnet Council and John Lyons Charity for their belief in us and support.

We have also developed a number of new relationships with individual donors, to whom we are most grateful and appreciate their expertise and dedication to our cause.

We would like to thank everyone who continues to follow, share and like our content on social media, your support in sharing our message is also extremely important to us and we are grateful that you take the time to keep our messages going.

We will continue to diversify and increase our fundraising efforts, making sure that we maximise all opportunities to secure funds, as we continue to develop and deliver new initiatives in the UK and internationally.

Thank you to all our supporters for continuing to believe in us and for enabling our fantastic team to reach as many children as possible.

Future plans

UK projects and activities

In the coming year, we look forward to expanding our UK projects, with Tania Skae building new partnerships with organisations across the country in her role as Director of Development.

At the conclusion of the year ending 28th February 2022, the uncertain economic outlook facing families across the UK threatens to compound the social damage of the pandemic and the difficulties many children have faced over the last two years.

In these circumstances, we see it as our responsibility to make sure we reach as many children as possible who risk missing out on activities that are essential to their wellbeing and development.

Additionally, the invasion of Ukraine on 24th February will certainly mean more displaced children arriving in the UK after the traumatising experience of war. We remain committed to supporting displaced children, wherever they're from, in the most dignified way we can: the connection, respect and warmth contained in our universal language of play and laughter.

Planned projects across the year from 1st March 2022 include:

Emergency Laughter Relief
We will continue our regular sessions at hotels and accommodation centres housing displaced children in the UK. We expect growing need in this project due to the displacement of children by the invasion of Ukraine.

Laugh 'n' Play UK
We aim to continue this project's expansion across England, maintaining its focus on holiday play provision to make that we reach children at the time of greatest need.

Get Up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests
A full Seagull festival experience provided free of charge in community centres and support hubs across the country. We plan to organise more events in addition to a new summer season with our existing partners from last year.

Prison Family Days
A new initiative to provide support for children visiting a family member in prison. This project will be delivered in collaboration with organisations and prison staff working to reduce recidivism rates.

Schools Partnerships Programme
A new partnership programme with schools, to get urgently-needed play out to children across the country. The partnerships will also raise awareness of our work and mission, and provide opportunities for people to get involved in fundraising.

Seagull Seasons
We are continuing our programmes of longer-term, tailored circus and skills workshops with children in areas of need. This year our focus will be on our existing partnership with Inclusion Ventures in Clacton and Jaywick, and a partnership with New Citizens Gateway, who support unaccompanied child refugees and asylum seekers in London.

The Flying Showmobile
A summer Flying Showmobile tour will focus on participatory show experiences, structured play and workshops in communities where there are problems with isolation or a lack of infrastructure for children's play and recreation.

Skills Share Circus Clubs
Our longer-term, regular session with neurodiverse groups, and young people and families facing multiple adverse childhood experiences, including food insecurity, poverty, lack of access to arts and activities, mental and physical health issues, exclusion from school or other parts of life, temporary or insecure housing, and abuse or trauma. Likely partners include groups we worked with last year in our Seagull Seasons, including Families United Network Luton, the Magpie Project in Newham, the Pavilion pupil referral unit in Barnet, and Autism Bedfordshire.

The Festive Cheer Up
As Christmas approaches, we will revisit groups that find the festive season more challenging and provide support with some full-throttle love, light and laughter.

European projects

We will continue the resumption of our pre-pandemic international projects working with children affected by the refugee crisis in Europe.

It is likely that our work in Europe will also expand to bring relief to children displaced by the invasion of Ukraine.

Miles of Smiles
Visiting camps and refugee shelters across Europe, delivering play, workshops and shows.

Get Giggling Greece
Working with children in the overcrowded refugee camps in Greece throughout autumn and the difficult winter months.

Ukraine response
An emergency response to share play relief with children from Ukraine in the greatest need. This project will likely be delivered in Poland in Autumn.

Middle Eastern projects

Laughter to Lebanon
Since our last project in Lebanon in 2019, conditions have markedly deteriorated and the country has been on the brink of economic and political crisis. In addition, children and families displaced by the civil war in Syria remain in a precarious position. Many live in refugee camps, are unable to work legally, and face serious problems with child labour and exploitation: they are unable to return home and live in a permanent state of impermanence.

In spring, we plan to return to Lebanon for the first time since the pandemic, to share play with displaced children and children with disabilities. The Flying Seagulls Norway will lead the project with crew and support from The Flying Seagull Project and the Flying Seagulls Nederland.

Public benefit
The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Financial review
The Charity had a deficit of £26,940 on general funds during the financial year.

Reserves
The Charity seeks to set aside at least 3 months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. This is calculated to be in the order of £50,000 depending upon annual activities.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 February 2013, and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Flying Seagull Project has a Management Committee made up of the Board of Trustees. The Management Committee meets a minimum of twice annually and keeps full minutes. In addition, smaller working groups of Trustees with particular professional skills work on projects relevant to their experiences to support the Charity's activities. The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring the public benefit of the Charity's activities is clear and adhered to at all times. Strategic direction, expenditure and policy is discussed and decided on as a group. No decision entailing a substantial change in direction by the Charity is taken unless it has been approved by a majority of the Management Committee members.

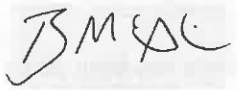
The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A S Johns (Resigned 1 March 2021)
Mrs P S Mustill
Miss S V Wade
Mr S Wynne
Ms N F Briercliffe
Mr B McAlinn

New trustees with suitable gifts and experience are appointed at the discretion of the existing trustees. Appropriate induction and training procedures are followed.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mr B McAlinn
Trustee

8 November 2022

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Flying Seagull Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Flying Seagull Project (the Charity) for the year ended 28 February 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE

Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Dated: 8 November 2022

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	188,463	62,968	251,431	131,351	79,800	211,151
Charitable activities	4	1,692	-	1,692	8,946	-	8,946
Other income	5	5,750	-	5,750	20,781	-	20,781
Total income		195,905	62,968	258,873	161,078	79,800	240,878
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	29,145	-	29,145	19,688	9,000	28,688
Charitable activities	7	201,200	51,684	252,884	138,445	29,565	168,010
Total expenditure		230,345	51,684	282,029	158,133	38,565	196,698
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(34,440)	11,284	(23,156)	2,945	41,235	44,180
Gross transfers between funds	15	7,500	(7,500)	-	(8,765)	8,765	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(26,940)	3,784	(23,156)	(5,820)	50,000	44,180
Fund balances at 1 March 2021		160,733	50,000	210,733	166,553	-	166,553
Fund balances at 28 February 2022		133,793	53,784	187,577	160,733	50,000	210,733

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Property, fixtures and equipment	10		17,258		30,249
Investments	11		1		1
			17,259		30,250
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	12	14,419		8,397	
Cash at bank and in hand		168,350		185,468	
		182,769		193,865	
Current liabilities	13	(12,451)		(13,382)	
Net current assets			170,318		180,483
Total assets less current liabilities			187,577		210,733
Income funds					
Restricted funds	15		53,784		50,000
Unrestricted funds			133,793		160,733
			187,577		210,733

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 28 February 2022.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8 November 2022

BMcA

Mr B McAlinn
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08404014

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Flying Seagull Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1, Aldbury's Farm, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grant income received for projects is deferred to the balance sheet and recognised in the statement of financial activities when the work is undertaken.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure is recognised when there is an obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the appropriate heading and includes irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Property, fixtures and equipment

Property, fixtures and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Fixtures and equipment costs above £2,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.10 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.13 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	171,563	527	172,090	111,351	7,738	119,089
Grants	16,900	62,441	79,341	20,000	72,062	92,062
	188,463	62,968	251,431	131,351	79,800	211,151
Donations and gifts						
Donations and gift aid	166,148	527	166,675	111,351	7,738	119,089
Donations from Trading Subsidiary	5,415	-	5,415	-	-	-
	171,563	527	172,090	111,351	7,738	119,089

4 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Party, Theatre Show and Workshop Income	1,692	8,946

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Job Retention Scheme Furlough Income	5,750	20,781

5 Other income (Continued)

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and publicity				
Other fundraising costs	25,213	19,688	9,000	28,688
Staff costs	3,932	-	-	-
	29,145	19,688	9,000	28,688

7 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	40,765	33,710
Depreciation and impairment	12,991	14,008
Projects expenditure	140,355	81,753
Travel and motor expenses (non-project)	-	837
Consultancy fees	13,298	14,165
	207,409	144,473
Share of support costs (see note 8)	42,835	16,529
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,640	7,008
	252,884	168,010
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	201,200	138,445
Restricted funds	51,684	29,565
	252,884	168,010

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	Total 2022	Support costs	Governance costs	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	23,364	-	23,364	-	-	-
Insurance	1,211	-	1,211	1,167	-	1,167
Sundry expenses	13	-	13	229	-	229
Bookkeeping	8,820	-	8,820	6,729	-	6,729
Charity administration expenses	7,051	-	7,051	5,142	-	5,142
Rent	-	-	-	3,262	-	3,262
CRM setup	2,376	-	2,376	-	-	-
Legal and professional	-	-	-	-	4,500	4,500
Accountancy	-	1,680	1,680	-	1,500	1,500
Independent examination	-	840	840	-	840	840
Payroll	-	120	120	-	168	168
	42,835	2,640	45,475	16,529	7,008	23,537
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	42,835	2,640	45,475	16,529	7,008	23,537

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Charitable Activities	1	1
Admin	1	-
Total	2	1

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	61,361	30,686
Social security costs	6,231	3,024
Other pension costs	469	-
	68,061	33,710

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Property, fixtures and equipment

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 March 2021	33,947	52,504	86,451
At 28 February 2022	33,947	52,504	86,451
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 March 2021	23,568	32,634	56,202
Depreciation charged in the year	4,189	8,802	12,991
At 28 February 2022	27,757	41,436	69,193
Carrying amount			
At 28 February 2022	6,190	11,068	17,258
At 28 February 2021	10,379	19,870	30,249

11 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 March 2021 & 28 February 2022	1
Carrying amount	
At 28 February 2022	1
At 28 February 2021	1

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Investments in subsidiaries	18	1	1

12 Trade and other receivables

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade receivables	942	898
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	10,702	4,724
Other receivables	2,775	2,775
	14,419	8,397

13 Current liabilities

	2022 £	2021 £
Other taxation and social security	2,822	-
Trade payables	6,989	10,922
Accruals and deferred income	2,640	2,460
	12,451	13,382

14 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

The charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes was £469 (2021 - £-).

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 March 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 28 February 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bangladesh	814	(3,597)	2,783	-	-	-	-	-
Refugee Support Fund	50,000	-	-	50,000	10,000	(20,418)	-	39,582
Arts Council - online theatre	22,062	(22,062)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holland Fund	6,924	(12,906)	5,982	-	-	-	-	-
Children's ride	-	-	-	-	7,500	-	(7,500)	-
ELR Choose Love	-	-	-	-	22,017	(7,975)	-	14,042
Arts Council - workshops & festivals	-	-	-	-	13,500	(13,500)	-	-
Lottery Community Fund - festivals & play	-	-	-	-	9,691	(9,691)	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	260	(100)	-	160
	79,800	(38,565)	8,765	50,000	62,968	(51,684)	(7,500)	53,784

15 **Restricted funds (Continued)**

Laughter in Lebanon and Bangladesh Funds - These funds incorporate monies donated for trips to refugee camps in Lebanon and Bangladesh to provide welfare and emotional well-being to refugees, particularly helping children suffering from trauma.

Refugee Support Fund - A fund to provide assistance and support for running costs during the pandemic. The £10,000 income in 2021-22 was earmarked for a project in Greece and was all spent in the year.

Arts Council - online theatre - A fund to provide an online theatre show.

Holland Fund - A fund to support a tour of Holland.

Children's Ride - This was a gift to cover the cost of a children's swing ride which had been purchased in February 2021. The transfer out represents the capitalised cost of the ride which was included in the 2020-21 accounts.

ELR Choose Love - This fund is to provide Emergency Laughter Relief (ELR) sessions to refugees and displaced people living in temporary accommodation in the UK.

Arts Council - workshops and festivals - This funding from the Arts Council is for festivals and workshops in the UK.

Lottery Community Fund - festivals and play - This funding from the Arts Council is for festivals and shows in the UK.

Miscellaneous - This fund includes small donations for specific projects.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances are represented by:						
Property, plant and equipment	17,258	-	17,258	30,249	-	30,249
Investments	1	-	1	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	116,534	53,784	170,318	130,483	50,000	180,483
	133,793	53,784	187,577	160,733	50,000	210,733

17 Trustee and Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2022	2021
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	36,894	33,710

During the year a salary was paid to Mr A Perrin, as disclosed above. Mr Perrin is a Director of the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd.

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

Transactions with related parties

During the year the Charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

At the balance sheet date, the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd, owed the Charity £10702 (2021: £4724).

18 Subsidiaries

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 28 February 2022 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd	England	Recreation	Ordinary	100.00	

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1152433

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1152433

Company Registration No. 08404014 (England and Wales)

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mr A S Johns Mrs P S Mustill Miss S V Wade Mr S Wynne Ms N F Briercliffe Mr B McAlinn
Chief Executive	Mr A Perrin
Charity number	1152433
Company number	08404014
Principal address	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY
Registered office	Unit 1 Aldbury's Farm Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7JY
Independent examiner	John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 13
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	14
Independent examiner's report	15
Statement of financial activities	16
Statement of financial position	17
Notes to the financial statements	18 - 28

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Contents

Welcome to our annual report 2020-21 2
- A message from our founder 2
- Our mission 2

What we have achieved 3
- 2020-21 at a glance 3
- Our new initiatives 3
  - The Flying Seagulls Nederland 3
  - The Flying Showmobile 3
  - The Flying Seagull Circus Shop 4
- Seagulls go online 4
  - Website 4
  - Conferences 4
  - Clowning and energy workshops 5
  - Podcasts 5
  - Seagull Sunshine TV, the Seagull Dojo, Roly Poly, the Flying Seagull Spectacular, festival shows 5

How we monitor and evaluate 5

Our team 6
- Our Board of Trustees 6
- Our CEO and founder 6
- Our team leaders 6
- Our core team 6
- Our office team 7

2020 projects 8
- Seagull Sunshine TV 8
- Happy Holland 8
- Roly Poly online 8
- The Seagull Dojo 8
- Operation Diversity 9
- The Flying Seagull Spectacular 9
- The Flying Showmobile 9
- Laugh 'n' Play UK 9
- The Festive Cheer Up 10

Thank you to our valued donors and supporters 10

Future plans 11
- UK projects and activities 11
- European projects 11

Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees 12

Public benefit 12

Financial review 12

Reserves 12

Structure, governance and management 13

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities 14

Welcome to our annual report 2020-21

Through music, circus, clowning, theatre, dance, magic and art, The Flying Seagull Project brings laughter and happiness to children in crisis. We work in refugee camps, care homes, hostels and hospitals in the UK, the Middle East and across Europe.

A message from our founder

This year has been an extremely challenging one for everyone, especially the children. Though the obstacles were even bigger than usual, we were determined to honour our commitment to spread smiles and lift energy where they're needed. From online shows and resources for families struggling as lockdown continued, to keeping play in the refugee camps, we tried in every which way we could to deliver on our mission of a childhood for everyone.

Needless to say, it wasn't always easy and it wasn't always clear how best to proceed. But we stuck with it and still managed to engage more than 25,000 people in fun and play.

I think what we've been reminded of in the most vivid way is that human connection is not only pleasant but is vital for mental wellbeing. The social elements of community, friendship, companionship and unity are not something we should ever move away from, and as we come out of the clouds of 2020 we must remember how important we are to each other, and how real-life, human-to-human support is the most powerful tool we have to heal, love and build a world we can be proud of. Zoom calls have been a great temporary solution, but we can't wait to see you all in what we've started to call "actual reality"!

I want to thank our supporters for sticking with us, the team for their flexibility and determination, and all the communities we shared time with for their energy and warm welcome.

Ash Perrin
CEO and entertainer, founded The Flying Seagull Project in 2008

Our mission

We share joy worldwide through music, art, circus and dance. Working with vulnerable, abandoned, displaced and poorly people, we run creative sessions to help build confidence, aid childhood development and strengthen communication.

We believe everyone has the right to laugh, socialise and enjoy their life, no matter their financial, physical, psychological or societal situation.

We believe every child should have the right to play freely without risk or threat.

We believe play, creativity and laughter are essential to a child's development and therefore to the community as a whole.

To ensure we achieve our mission, we set these objectives:

1. Take laughter and play to more children in crisis.
2. Train more staff and volunteers to reach more people.
3. Record and demonstrate our reach and impact.

What we have achieved

2020-21 at a glance

- Seagull Sunshine TV: A YouTube playlist of shows to keep kids entertained.
- Happy Holland: Our new Dutch tour around the Netherlands.
- Roly Poly: Recordings of our usual Samos refugee camp shows.
- The Seagull Dojo: A digital resource pack of activities and shows.
- Operation Diversity: A partnership of shows for neurodivergent children.
- The Flying Seagull Spectacular: An online theatre show reaching 6,144 kids.
- The Flying Showmobile: A Covid-secure mobile show stage.
- Laugh 'n' Play UK: A tour of high-energy shows for isolated children.
- The Flying Seagull Festive Cheer Up: A mood-and-food-boosting partnership.

Our new initiatives

In addition to a full revamp of our internal resources, marketing and website, we have developed new projects and partnerships, delivered online shows and virtual festivals, launched Seagull tours in the Netherlands, converted a van into our new Flying Showmobile mobile stage, and reached thousands of children through our social-distanced Laugh 'n' Play shows. Read on to find out more ...

The Flying Seagulls Nederland

Having worked in some of the most difficult situations globally over the past 10 years, we have developed a "find a silver lining" philosophy and a continuous determination to make the best of any situation. So when the pandemic sent all our teams home, we quickly started searching for the possibilities hidden within this huge disruption.

We found one: Pieter van Baardewijk is a Dutch team member who has been with the Seagulls for the past four years and is a recent graduate of our apprenticeship scheme. It was apparent very early on that international travel and working in vulnerable communities were going to prove difficult, so Pieter researched how we could safely support groups in the Netherlands.

Two successful projects were subsequently delivered, reaching thousands of children. The need is present and the impact is clear, so we have begun the process of creating a third international branch: The Flying Seagulls Nederland.

The Flying Showmobile

In July 2020, with social-distancing restrictions still in place, Ash set about thinking of new and creative ways to reach people in a safe and social-distanced way. We purchased a secondhand Luton van and started converting it into the UK's first Covid-secure mobile stage.

With the help of two artists and two structural engineers, the transformation was complete within four weeks and our Flying Showmobile was ready to hit the road, visiting communities, care homes, refugee support centres, playgrounds and parks across the country.

The Flying Seagull Circus Shop

With everybody ordered to stay at home it felt like the perfect time to launch a new initiative that made sure everyone was able to play through lockdown, as well as raising vital funds.

One of the instant impacts of the stay-home order was that screens and digital entertainment became an even more intrusive part of the play-scape of childhood. We felt an urgent responsibility to find high quality, reasonably priced physical play materials and make them available. We launched the Flying Seagull Circus Shop, initially selling only in the United Kingdom and shortly afterwards across all of Europe.

The shop is run on an entirely not-for-profit basis: not only are we able to provide really good materials for home play, but any profit from those sales goes directly back into delivering direct play interventions with communities facing challenges and in areas of crisis.

We also wanted to make sure that the shop was more than just a place where people spent money to buy circus games and props that they would never use. So in parallel with our sales, we recorded and shared the Flying Seagull Circus School, a library of tutorials covering an introductory level through to more developed skills. This way, we know there is a good chance people will really engage with their purchases.

The shop was an immediate success and we are looking forward to the exciting prospect of expanding the product range and making these materials and equipment even more widely available.

Seagulls go online ...

Website

With a brief moment of downtime, we immediately set about rebuilding our website and online presence. Advocacy and public engagement are key parts of what we do. With the ever-diminishing focus on the humanitarian crisis facing refugees in Europe as well as the huge changes and developments within the organisation over the past five years, we felt it was the right time to ensure we communicated well.

We hope our web presence can be a catalyst for conversation, an encouragement to act for others, and a way to show all our supporters the work they make possible. We'd like to thank our friends at Enigma Digital Enterprises and GFC Tech, who generously donated their time and expertise to design, develop and maintain our new websites free of charge.

Conferences

With prestigious events such as the Children's Media Conference focusing more than ever on play and active participation, we were only too happy to join panels and provide keynotes for conferences around the world. It is essential that play stays active, and that was the message we shared with thousands of delegates and attendees worldwide.

Clowning and energy workshops

As training and workshops went online so did the Seagulls. Although it was a big leap from live shows to digital, it was an unlikely success. We took part in numerous online training sessions as part of seminars and gatherings including the Youth Initiative Program and Clown School International. Playing is important, and raising the energy for artists and practitioners in this time of inactivity felt a good use of our skills.

Podcasts

It's rare that we have time to sit and talk, but over the past 12 months this has been possible and a good way to keep engaging people in the focus of our work, the impact a simple game or show can have, and the reality of the situations facing children and young people. We have been proud and honoured to have had many invitations to join some world-class podcasts, and feel it was the perfect way to keep compassion high and make sure that communities in need are not forgotten.

Seagull Sunshine TV, the Seagull Dojo, Roly Poly, the Flying Seagull Spectacular, festival shows

The restrictions on physical proximity do not restrict the need for play, energetic expression and a good bit of laughter. We tried in as many different ways as we could to help support a stay at home, play at home scheme. We offered creative workshops, play sessions, comedy shows, craft projects, and clown conflict resolution ideas, catering for different needs, languages and situations.

How we monitor and evaluate

Everything we do is about making a positive difference for children who are going through some really hard times. That is why effective monitoring and evaluation is of the highest importance to us: first, because audience and partner feedback helps us make sure that our offering remains as relevant and impactful as the day we started and that children are still captivated and inspired by our work; second, so that we can demonstrate the importance of our work to stakeholders and supporters through real-life data and stories.

We record and measure the impact of what we do through case studies, partner feedback, audience and family feedback, numbers attending the shows, photographs, videos, interviews with attendees and partners, anecdotes and comments, quotes and partner observations.

These anecdotal, qualitative and quantitative data show which elements of our sessions are valued by our beneficiaries, partners, staff and parents/carers, and whether there are any comments for improvement or amendment, which we take seriously.

After every session, our crew writes a project report clearly discussing any comments, sensitivities, issues and highlights from that session, how these were managed and to what effect. We also record positive engagement case studies from partner organisation staff: for example, a very shy, sad or removed child who is not participating at the start of the session but smiling and joining in by the end.

All this feedback as well as numbers reached are discussed at staff and trustee level, to continuously make sure we are fulfilling our mission and vision.

We know from our feedback to date that our sessions result in increased trust, confidence, and an improved sense of freedom and positivity. This positive impact is evidenced by anecdotal feedback from beneficiaries, families and partner organisations, and through academic research.

In addition to our own internal reviews, a PhD research project on the impact of our work is due to be completed later in 2021, providing further evidence for the difference we make. This research involves a collaboration between the University of Birmingham, the University of Nottingham and The Flying Seagull Project, and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Our team

Our Board of Trustees

Sarah Wade, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Bala McAlinn
Naomi Briercliffe
Adam Johns
Penelope Mustill
Steve Wynne

Our CEO and founder

Having founded the project in 2008, Ash Perrin AKA Bash is still involved with every aspect of the charity from board meetings to beard greetings. Ash is a passionate advocate for children's rights and is devoted to making sure the project always delivers high-standard dynamic play.

Our team leaders

Beckie Briley AKA BB has an energy only matched by the size of her heart. Over the past years Beckie has led teams in some of the toughest situations we work in. With her team she's faced that challenge with the widest of smiles and a depth of warmth that can and has literally changed lives.

Bendik Nordgaard AKA Benno holds the title of most cheerful and jolly human since life began. He's also incredibly hard-working, absolutely committed to providing play in the most impossible of circumstances and plays a mean clarinet too. He is one of a kind, and luckily for us has now launched The Flying Seagulls Norge branch.

Izzy Wolff AKA Wolfy is a true force of nature and a classic example of a Seagull team leader. She balances grit and graft with compassion and warmth, and is an absolute favourite of all the kids she meets. Keeping her teams going with a mix of inspiring energy and chocolate brownies, Wolfy is one to watch.

Our core team

Following last year's apprentice scheme, we have developed and created a core team to ensure our projects and operations worldwide remain of the highest standard. The core team supports all areas of the organisation, including operations, welfare, team support, planning and logistics, and are also a positive and energetic addition to the organisation as a whole.

Lauren
Molly
Liz
George
Luke
Donna
Antigone (Greece coordinator)
Pieter (Netherlands leader)

Our office team

Georgina Faulkner joined the team in 2018 as our Finance Manager.

Martin Platais joined The Flying Seagull Project in 2018 as Communications Assistant. He takes care of social media and all things digital.

Sarita Plowman coordinates our charitable work in the UK. She also manages our events business which raises funds for the charity.

Tania Skae, our Donor Relations Manager, joined the team in January 2020 and is responsible for all things fundraising, reporting, looking after our supporters and engaging new donors.

2020 projects

Seagull Sunshine TV

9,541 views, 403 hours watched in total
16th March 2020 to present

Seagull Sunshine TV was broadcast at the very start of lockdown to immediately offer some quick, fun options to help people through the new set of challenges they faced.

The selection of 23 videos focused on three main areas: energy burners, clown crisis resolution, and family fun. These were filmed in our warehouse which we converted into a bright and bold Seagull TV studio. The films were performed by Ash, edited by our trustee Steve Wynne and his team, and were shared widely online.

Happy Holland

2,221 children reached through 80 shows
Two tours, in July-August and October-November 2020

With different countries opening and lifting restrictions in different ways at different times, we were able to create a new team in the Netherlands made up of some long-term Seagull performers and two Seagull team leaders.

The team ran two tours, in July to August 2020 and again in October to November. The team visited centres supporting asylum seekers, schools, disability support groups and care homes around the Netherlands with their new, high-energy and social-distanced shows.

Roly Poly online

443 views
March 2020 to February 2021

Roly Poly is our kids' club in Vathy, Samos, which ran every day in the refugee camp. When the Covid-19 crisis hit, we had to make an extremely sharp exit from the camp. One day we were saying "see you tomorrow", the next we were gone.

We needed to reach out and support these children, both in order to heal that wound and to offer continued playful activities. So we recorded a 45-minute, full-length morning Roly Poly session including songs, games and activities, which we sent to our delivery partners and network of NGOs and aid agencies in Samos.

The Seagull Dojo

400 views
March 2020 to February 2021

This is an online resource pack of activities, shows, circus workouts and character-led participation shows intended for community groups, schools and other collectives. It is aimed at 11- to 16-year-olds and features more than four hours of material across 20 videos. Some require no equipment, and those that do include a tutorial on how to make the equipment, like juggling clubs made of newspaper and tape.

> "This is absolutely fantastic! More than we expected ... and we can't wait to show the videos to our young people! Thank you so much to all of you for this incredible effort and creative material. We are planning to run the first juggling session next week, on Zoom, using your videos."
>
> —Gloria Geretto, Barnet Refugee Service

Operation Diversity

1,350 views per show for five shows
June 2020 for five weeks

Operation Diversity runs an online platform with almost 12,000 regular visitors, supporting neuro-divergent people across the country. Operation Diversity approached us to partner up and deliver weekly 45-minute sessions including magic, music, games, puppets, yoga, a pirate story and a wild west hoedown!

Headed up by team leader Wolfy, the crew shared interactive craft, performance and music-based activities via Zoom to the network of Operation Diversity. Running once a week for eight weeks, viewing numbers per session reached between 1,200 and 6,000, with numbers regularly going over 5,000.

The Flying Seagull Spectacular

6,144 children watched the online show

This theatre show tells an encouraging and uplifting story that touches on some of the more difficult parts of life in general, including life with Covid-19 and its restrictions. We partnered with Applecart Arts to live-stream the show across the country.

The show brought together thousands of children from as far afield as Australia, Germany and Argentina to enjoy a Seagull Spectacular performance!

More than 6,000 participants from community groups and social programmes tuned in to join us for the live broadcast!

The Flying Showmobile

450 children and families reached through seven shows
December 2020

As part of our Festive Cheer Up project, the Flying Showmobile whizzed around the UK, performing Covid-secure shows in refugee shelters, schools, community centres, and within communities with extra need. We teamed up with some amazing partners providing food support to add Seagull mood support. The result was shows, laughter and positivity at a time when they were sorely missing, performed safely and in accordance with restrictions and guidelines.

Laugh 'n' Play UK

2,600 children reached through 80 shows
August to December 2020

Our free, social-distanced Laugh 'n' Play shows are fun, creative, one-hour shows that acknowledge the limitations we have in the world without allowing these to restrict our imaginations. These high-energy shows explore travel, meeting new people, solving problems and staying positive.

In partnership with children's centres, community groups, disability support groups and refugee support groups, we delivered high-energy, uplifting shows to audiences around England, from Essex and London to Birmingham, Luton and Peterborough.

The Festive Cheer Up

£13,300 raised for 28 shows reaching 650 children
December 2020

Alongside children's centres, youth centres, community groups, refugee support centres and disability support groups across London and farther afield, we ran our social-distanced Festive Cheer Up campaign, delivering over 28 shows to more than 650 children and families in one month alone!

In partnership with Kitchen Social, a Mayor's Fund for London initiative, we delivered upbeat, positive, mood-and-food parcels to families experiencing food insecurity and hardship. Our high-energy shows brought fun and laughter to hundreds of children and families throughout December.

Thank you to our valued donors and supporters

2020-21 has been a very different year for us, as of course it has been for everyone. Throughout the year, as restrictions hit, lifted, renewed and lightened, we have adapted and reviewed, flexed and amended, to make sure that we could still deliver as much as possible wherever we're needed most.

We are pleased to say that alongside developing and delivering new initiatives in new communities around the country, we have also made scores of new partnerships, secured more trust and foundation funding than ever before, and managed to protect our reserves to make sure we can hit the ground running with our international work as soon as restrictions lift. Most importantly, thanks to our fantastic supporters, we have also managed to safeguard and maintain the vast majority of our regular donor and supporter income, which, in such a challenging year for everyone, is a truly humbling achievement.

We are absolutely in awe of all our fantastic fundraisers and supporters who, while going through such a difficult year themselves, have managed to bake, cycle, yard sale and run their way to securing precious funds to help keep us flying. From children donating funds from selling their old toys, to legacy donations and fundraisers, we could not be more proud and grateful to all our donors and supporters.

Thank you to everyone who has followed us on social media and liked our posts, to those who have donated towards others' fundraisers, to our new donors, new followers and to our seasoned and regular supporters. We promise to keep going that extra mile and chasing every opportunity to make sure we can keep delivering on our all-important mission of bringing play, positivity and smiles to all those children who need us now more than ever.

Thank you.

Future plans

UK projects and activities

The past year has seen our UK operations expand and we are committed to maintaining this growth. The needs of many communities across the UK are vast, especially after the emergence of the Covid-19 crisis. We feel it is our responsibility to support them. To make this happen, we plan to refocus some of our key personnel to research, develop and deliver Seagull sessions where they are most needed. As international travel is likely to be very limited, the first part of the year will be mainly UK-based. Planned projects across the year include:

Spring In Your Step
A small team providing emergency play interventions for the audiences and groups most affected by the Covid-19 crisis.

Laugh 'n' Play UK
Two teams delivering shows, workshops and play for vulnerable groups across the UK in communities and centres.

The Flying Seagull Spectacular (online show)
A new interactive, live-streamed show promoting positive messaging and reassurance through storytelling.

Get Up 'n' Giggle Family Fun Fests
A full Seagull festival experience provided free of charge in community centres and support hubs across the country.

The Flying Showmobile
Reaching more remote areas, the Flying Showmobile will focus on participatory show experiences, structured play and workshops in isolated communities.

The Festive Cheer Up
As Christmas approaches, we will revisit groups that find the festive season more challenging and provide support with some full-throttle love, light and laughter.

European projects

Although dependent on travel restrictions and access to refugee camps, we are determined to return to support refugee families caught in the humanitarian disaster across Europe. Our focus will be on projects with smaller set-ups and teams in order to allow a more efficient and Covid-safe delivery. Planned projects include:

Miles of Smiles
Visiting camps and refugee shelters across Europe, delivering play, workshops and shows.

The Flying Showmobile
As a Covid-secure option, The Flying Showmobile should gain us permission to reach some of the camps across Greece, where no children's activities have been permitted for more than 12 months.

Emergency play interventions in Lesbos
Developing the concept of a play clinic, we hope to offer emergency play sessions for the island's most vulnerable children.

Stay at Home, Play at Home

Working in partnership with the HOME Project, we will deliver creative activities, play and performances for unaccompanied minors in the Greek capital of Athens.

Statement from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Though this past year has been turbulent, and we have been tested as an organisation, I feel that we have struck the right balance between caution and creative problem-solving. It would have been very easy to simply shut down and wait, but that is not the style of this organisation, and I am proud to say that the team achieved quite the opposite.

The project expansion across the UK has proved the rising needs of too many of the world's children. As Chair of the Board and a lifelong advocate for children's rights worldwide, I want to see the Seagulls continue to reach the most vulnerable and deliver the highest standards of play provision possible.

The next 12 months will continue to challenge us. However, with strong planning, robust evaluation and a commitment to making sure we pull together as a team and support as many young people in crisis as possible, I have no doubt we can weather the storm while spreading smiles at the same time.

I would like to thank all those who supported the organisation through this rocky time, and the team on the ground for their flexibility, hard work and good humour.

Sarah Wade
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Financial review

The Charity had a deficit of £5,820 on general funds during the financial year.

Reserves

The Charity seeks to set aside at least 3 months' operating expenditure as a suitable reserve sum. This is calculated to be in the order of £50,000 depending upon annual activities.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 February 2013, and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Flying Seagull Project has a Management Committee made up of the board of trustees. The Management Committee meets a minimum of twice annually and keeps full minutes. In addition smaller working groups of Trustees with particular professional skills work on projects relevant to their experiences to support the Charity's activities. The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring the public benefit of the Charity's activities is clear and adhered to at all times. Strategic direction, expenditure and policy is discussed and decided on as a group. No decision entailing a substantial change in direction by the Charity is taken unless it has been approved by a majority of the Management Committee members.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr A S Johns
Mrs P S Mustill
Miss S V Wade
Mr S Wynne
Ms N F Briercliffe
Mr B McAlinn

New trustees with suitable gifts and experience are appointed at the discretion of the existing trustees. Appropriate induction and training procedures are followed.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

13 Oct 2021

Miss S V Wade
Trustee
Dated: .....

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Flying Seagull Project for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Flying Seagull Project (the Charity) for the year ended 28 February 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or

4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

John Caladine FCCA CTA FCIE

Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Dated: 14 Dec 2021

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	131,351	79,800	211,151	199,186	55,384	254,570
Charitable activities	4	8,946	-	8,946	36,241	-	36,241
Other income	5	20,781	-	20,781	-	-	-
Total income		161,078	79,800	240,878	235,427	55,384	290,811
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	19,688	9,000	28,688	6,360	-	6,360
Charitable activities	7	138,445	29,565	168,010	199,182	96,394	295,576
Total resources expended		158,133	38,565	196,698	205,542	96,394	301,936
Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources before transfers		2,945	41,235	44,180	29,885	(41,010)	(11,125)
Gross transfers between funds	15	(8,765)	8,765	-	(34,685)	34,685	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(5,820)	50,000	44,180	(4,800)	(6,325)	(11,125)
Fund balances at 29 February 2020		166,553	-	166,553	171,353	6,325	177,678
Fund balances at 28 February 2021		160,733	50,000	210,733	166,553	-	166,553

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FLYING SEAGULL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Property, fixtures and equipment			30,249		9,741
Investments			1		1
			30,250		9,742
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables		8,397		17,292	
Cash at bank and in hand		185,468		147,971	
		193,865		165,263	
Current liabilities		(13,382)		(8,452)	
Net current assets			180,483		156,811
Total assets less current liabilities			210,733		166,553
Income funds					
Restricted funds			50,000		-
Unrestricted funds			160,733		166,553
			210,733		166,553

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 28 February 2021.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13 Oct 2021

.....

Miss S V Wade
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08404014

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Flying Seagull Project is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1, Aldbury's Farm, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 7JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the date of this report, there exists uncertainty regarding the potential impact of the Coronavirus and the economic consequences which may result from government policies to contain the spread.

Future government policies are unknown. However, the Trustees are confident that the Trust has sufficient reserves to continue operations and continue to use the going concern basis as appropriate in the preparation of these accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grant income received for projects is deferred to the balance sheet and recognised in the statement of financial activities when the work is undertaken.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is an obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the appropriate heading and includes irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Property, fixtures and equipment

Property, fixtures and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. Fixtures and equipment costs above £2,500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Foreign exchange

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	111,351	7,738	119,089	199,186	-	199,186
Grants	20,000	72,062	92,062	-	45,384	45,384
Donated goods and services	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
	131,351	79,800	211,151	199,186	55,384	254,570

4 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Party and Theatre Show Income	8,946	36,241

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2021	2020
	£	£
Job Retention Scheme Furlough Income	20,781	-

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Fundraising and publicity				
Other fundraising costs	19,688	9,000	28,688	6,360

7 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	33,710	35,132
Depreciation and impairment	14,008	12,259
Projects expenditure	81,753	187,223
Travel and motor expenses	837	2,959
Consultancy fees	14,165	14,344
	144,473	251,917
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	-	10,000
Share of support costs (see note 9)	16,529	31,055
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	7,008	2,604
	168,010	295,576
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	138,445	199,182
Restricted funds	29,565	96,394
	168,010	295,576

8 Grants payable

	2020
	£
Other	10,000

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	Total 2021	Support costs	Governance costs	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	1,167	-	1,167	1,132	-	1,132
Telephone	-	-	-	72	-	72
Sundry expenses	229	-	229	712	-	712
Bookkeeping	6,729	-	6,729	14,912	-	14,912
Charity administration expenses	5,142	-	5,142	4,956	-	4,956
Rent	3,262	-	3,262	9,271	-	9,271
Legal and professional	-	4,500	4,500	-	-	-
Accountancy	-	1,500	1,500	-	1,620	1,620
Independent examination	-	840	840	-	840	840
Payroll	-	168	168	-	144	144
	16,529	7,008	23,537	31,055	2,604	33,659
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	16,529	7,008	23,537	31,055	2,604	33,659

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Charitable Activities	1	1

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	30,686	34,099
Social security costs	3,024	1,033
	33,710	35,132

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

11 Property, fixtures and equipment

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 29 February 2020	21,567	30,369	51,936
Additions	12,380	22,135	34,515
At 28 February 2021	33,947	52,504	86,451
Depreciation and impairment			
At 29 February 2020	18,362	23,832	42,194
Depreciation charged in the year	5,206	8,802	14,008
At 28 February 2021	23,568	32,634	56,202
Carrying amount			
At 28 February 2021	10,379	19,870	30,249
At 28 February 2020	3,204	6,537	9,741

12 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 29 February 2020 & 28 February 2021	1
Carrying amount	
At 28 February 2021	1
At 28 February 2020	1

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Investments in subsidiaries	19	1	1

13 Trade and other receivables

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021 £	2020 £
Trade receivables	898	12,472
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	4,724	-
Other receivables	2,775	4,820
	8,397	17,292

14 Current liabilities

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade payables	10,922	5,992
Accruals and deferred income	2,460	2,460
	13,382	8,452

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 28 February 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 29 February 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 28 February 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Laughter to Lebanon	-	15,000	(20,239)	5,239	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	6,325	40,384	(76,155)	29,446	-	814	(3,597)	2,783	-
Refugee Support Fund	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Arts Council Fund	-	-	-	-	-	22,062	(22,062)	-	-
Holland Fund	-	-	-	-	-	6,924	(12,906)	5,982	-
	6,325	55,384	(96,394)	34,685	-	79,800	(38,565)	8,765	50,000

Laughter In Lebanon and Bangladesh Funds
These funds incorporate monies donated for trips to refugee camps in Lebanon and Bangladesh to provide welfare and emotional well-being to refugees, particularly helping children suffering from trauma.

Refugee Support Fund
A fund to provide assistance and support for the running cost during the pandemic.

Arts Council Fund
A fund to provide an online theatre show.

Holland Fund
A fund to support a tour of Holland.

Transfer
A transfer of £8,765 was made from general funds to cover the deficit on the restricted funds expenditure.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances are represented by:						
Property, plant and equipment	30,249	-	30,249	9,741	-	9,741
Investments	1	-	1	1	-	1
Current assets/ (liabilities)	130,483	50,000	180,483	156,811	-	156,811
	160,733	50,000	210,733	166,553	-	166,553

17 Trustee and Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	33,710	39,080

During the year a salary was paid to Mr A Perrin, as disclosed above. Mr Perrin is a Director of the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd.

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

Transactions with related parties

During the year the Charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

At the balance sheet date, the subsidiary company, The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd, owed the Charity £4724 (2020: £nil).

18 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	-	3,116

19 Subsidiaries

Details of the Charity's subsidiaries at 28 February 2021 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
The Flying Seagull Trading Company Ltd	England	Recreation	Ordinary	100.00	