



PERFORMERS **WITHOUT** BORDERS



IMPACT

REPORT

1ST JULY 2024 - 30TH JUNE 2025

WWW.PWB.NGO

ESTABLISHED: JULY 2007

CHARITY NUMBER CIO - 1182403

PREVIOUS CHARITY NUMBER: 1121236



TRUSTEES

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PRINCIPAL ADDRESS:

52 OLD HOSPITAL LAWN, STROUD, UK GL54GA

NAME	Office	Comments
Claire Bader	Secretary	Appointed at AGM 3rd March 2025
George Massey	Treasurer	Appointed at AGM 6th Oct 2019
Emily Ball	Chair	Appointed at AGM 3rd March 2025
Jonathan Forbes	Founder	
Mathew Morris	Founder	
Liz Stones	MEARL Adviser	
Andy Hodkin	Safeguarding Lead	Appointed at AGM 6th Nov 2022



CONTACT ADDRESS:

72 PETERBOROUGH DRIVE, NETHERTON, LIVERPOOL L305QP

2. HEADLINE FIGURES – INTERNATIONAL

In operation since 2007 Performers Without Borders (PWB) has completed **43 International Tours** over **18 years** in at least **10 different countries**.

PWB-International: After our first successful tour in the **Philippines** with our new partnership with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN)** Where we delivered **13 workshops** to **1432 participants** and **14 shows** to **10,443 audience members** in **2023**! In **2024** we went back and revisited **11 locations** and connected with **9 new** locations creating new partnerships, expanding excitement and reaching a total of **6554 participants**!

After the **India 2024 Legacy Tour** which had a big impactful influence on our students from the **Kashi Fire Warriors (KFW)**. They have now opened and built (by hand) a flow school in the mountains in **Nepal (Flow Open School)**! They also continue to be hired across **India** for performances and are still teaching circus skills with our longstanding partner **Asha Deep Vidyashram** in **Varanasi**. Go Team!!

With a total of 6554 people reached on the 2024 Philippines tour, thats a cost of £0.47 per person, talk about value for money!



HEADLINE FIGURES — PWB-UK


PWB-UK: Pandemic restrictions in the UK were lifted around July 2021, which meant we were able to focus on our outreach in the UK. In regard to bigger grant applications, new projects happened with **Care4Calais**, the **Isle of Man Douglas Council**, **Shropshire Supports Refugees** and **Blackburn Young Peoples Services**; new funded projects in 2022-2023 were with **Manor Academy** and **New College Worcester**. Please see our revamped **YouTube channel** for more project videos!

Since conception in 2018 we have successfully delivered **106 UK workshops** using the same **4 workshop leaders** involving **82 funded hours**, reaching **1377 participants*** and doing **24 shows** to an audience of **over 1702**

In **2021** we launched our '**PWB Produces**' project with a first successful partnership with **Circus Central** in Newcastle. Funding was achieved through **Sports England** and with support in kind from the **Percy Hedley Foundation**. We are currently looking to expand this project to new partner organisations.

www.youtube.com/@PWB_charity

www.pwb.ngo/blackburn



'PWB Produces' Delivered
**10 circus intervention
workshops** with ***41 SEN
students** and their **36
support staff** using **2 paid
facilitators** and **3
volunteers**



HEADLINE FIGURES – FINANCIAL

TURNOVER:

July 2023-2024 = £5139 (unrestricted £5130, project spending £17,041)

July 2024-2025 = £5349 (unrestricted £3949, restricted £1400, Tour Costs £4045)

Project Spending:

PWB Philippines Tour = £3070.98



www.pwb.ngo/pwb-uk/pwb-produces



www.pwb.ngo/category/pwb-central



3. CHARITY OBJECTS & VISION

WE TEACH PERFORMING ARTS AND CIRCUS SKILLS TO YOUNG PEOPLE FACING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS IN THE UK AND ABROAD.

"They thought only of the circus. They didn't think anymore about the tragedy of their lives." Zalinda, Los Quinchos, San Marcos – PWB Nicaragua Tour 2013

Vision: To teach performance arts and circus skills to young people who lack access to the artform, in the UK and Internationally in order to contribute to improving their physical, social and mental wellbeing.

Charity Objectives: To advance in life and relieve the needs of children and young people in such parts of the world as the trustees shall determine, and in particular those who are socially and/or economically disadvantaged, including by physical or mental disabilities through:

- (a)** The provision of recreational and leisure time activities in the performing arts and circus skills provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life.
- (b)** Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- (c)** Raising awareness of the positive psychological and physical impact of training in, and experience of, performance arts and circus skills for children and young adults.



4. YEAR-YEAR



In **2007** Matt Morris and Jonny Forbes launched **Performers Without Borders (PWB)** with the first tour of **India in 2008** with **8 volunteers** and we returned **every year** until **2020** then again in **2024**. In **2013** Rob Thorburn led the first **PWB Nicaragua Tour**, followed by **Sierra Leone's** only tour in **2014** led by Peter King. **Kenya** was added to the regular tour list in **2016** led by Abi Cooper. In between this, Francesca Dunford and Jess Herman, did short tours to **Calais and Dunkirk** bi-annually for **4 years**. All these **International Tours** were Managed by long time PWBer Emily Ball, who is now a Trustee, first as Secretary and now Chair!



JONNY FORBES

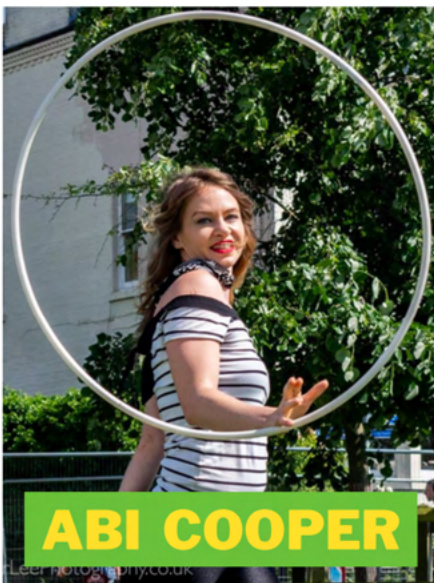


MATT MORRIS



EMILY & ROB

In January **2018 PWB-UK** was launched with Peter King contracted to manage its development. The idea being that it would allow us to recruit a different variety of volunteers and access different funding streams, especially UK Trust Funds. In **2018** We started to receive our first UK based **grant funding** to delivery projects to a variety of access groups. In **2019/2020** PWB transformed to a **CIO** with a refreshed board of Trustees. Delivery and progression continued up until the arrival of **Covid19** restrictions in March **2020** we had to delay delivering that programme until Autumn **2021**, as well as suspending our **2021 - 2023** International Tours.



ABI COOPER



CHEZ & JESS



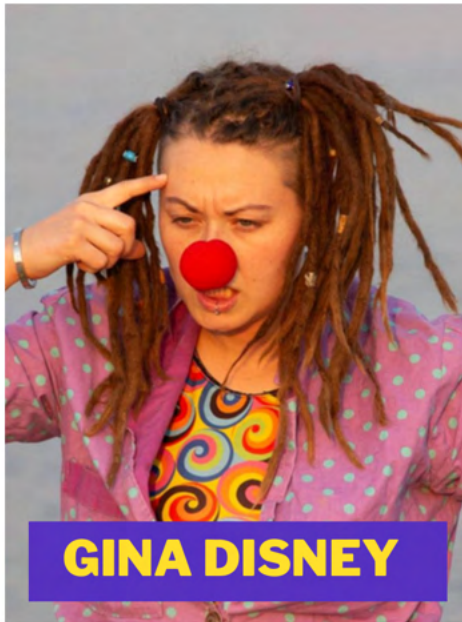
DR PEACHI

4.1 YEAR-YEAR

During **2021** PWB appointed Jamie Moore as the new Artistic Director and Gina Disney as the new General Manager, this saw a renewal of energy to PWB with some big ideas of where to go in the future! We also saw Julia Cooke and Iain McDonald appointed to UK regional manager status with intentions of achieving more grant funded work up north and in **Scotland**. In **2023** we restarted our international tours with launching our Philippines project working with the **UN SDSN**.



JAMIE MOORE



GINA DISNEY



JULES COOKE

www.pwb.ngo/case-studies



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WWW.PWB.NGO

5. OPERATIONS SUMMARY

PWB delivers **high-quality circus skills** and **performance arts workshops** and shows in the **UK** and **internationally**. We have 3 part-time contracted managers, and everyone else is a **volunteer**. We advertise for volunteers for our international tours every year online between **March** and **August** and in person throughout the year. Our UK operations only operate with funding where we pay our workshop leaders an average industry rate for their work. We successfully introduced our **Partner Organisations** (PO's) on our longstanding tour in India to our **legacy students** in **2024** with the hopes to handover these connections to them. We are continuing to explore new locations and partnerships globally, currently pursuing **United Nations** relations.

5.1 - PWB-International (P-Int)

Historically we have supported over **100 volunteers** to go on tours to India, Nicaragua, Kenya, the Philippines, France and Greece. We work with **local POs** to deliver a series of arts based skills workshops and performances to vulnerable children and communities in their care. On some projects we help them create their own performance, which is delivered to the **local community** at the end project. **Our new projects progress with sustainability in mind**, with the intention of delivery to be handed over to local youth leaders and teachers to continue the work amongst their communities.





5.1 PWB-INTERNATIONAL (P-INT)

We had to stop our international tours from **2020-2023** due to the pandemic, including being unable to revisit our **Calais and Dunkirk** project because, due to the increasing cost of living crisis, we want to restart our projects here but will have to wait until it can become fundable or affordable, as after the covid crisis and then subsequent relief funding ending, it has become increasingly difficult to fundraise.

However, we have managed to make a comeback between **2023 and 2024** with our new project starting in the **Philippines**, our managers travelling to **Thailand** to work with **Spoon Circus**, and delivering the 4-year gap-planned handover **legacy tour** in India.

We are looking forward to the next **4 years** in the **Philippines** working with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**

Youth Philippines Division (UN SDSN), and starting to persue expanding new projects.

TOUR	# Workshops	# Hours	# Participants	# Shows	# Audience	# PWBers
GREECE NOV 2019	15	18	1500	4	610	4
KENYA 2020	32	75	458	4	180	6
INDIA 2020	39	84	3182	13	2380	6
PHILIPPINES 2023	13	40	1432	14	10,443	6
THAILAND 2024	9	11	249	1	89	2
INDIA 2024	39	88	1544	26	7661	7
PHILIPPINES 2024	16	53	1208	18	5346	6
TOTALS	163	369	9573	80	26,709	31

With a total of 6554 people reached on the 2024 Philippines tour, thats a cost of £0.47 per person, talk about value for money!

5.2 PWB-UK (PUK)

Since January 2018 PUK has been delivering both **self-funded** and **grant-funded** sessions to **Partner Organisations** (POs) across the UK. Working with POs such as the **Royal Society for Blind Children**, the **Manchester Deaf Centre**, **St Vincent's School for the Visually Impaired**, **Shropshire Supports Refugees**, **Blackburn's Foster Carers Association**, **Mannor Academy** and **New College Worcester**. We are continuously searching for partnerships and applying for project grants backed by these sessions and our research into **Circus Arts Instruction** (CIA).



Swiss Cottage School for Special Needs Project - Network for Social Change £7,200

In March 2019, For more see: www.pwb.ngo/pwb-uk/ & www.pwb.ngo/swisscottage/

Looked After Children Blackburn - Awards for All Grant £9,660

On 25th Oct 2019 PWB delivered a free taster session at **Blackburn With Darwen** (BwD) Children's Services Participation Relaunch Event, attended by Looked After Children (LAC) and associated professionals. It proved popular and after conducting surveys we managed to get more funding to return via **National Lottery Community Fund of £10,000**.

For more on this evaluation please see: www.pwb.ngo/blackburn/



New College Worcester - National Lottery Community Fund £10,000

After self-funding 4 workshops at Visually Impaired residential school **New College Worcester** in 2022 we managed to obtain funding to return for a longer intervention with the aim of teaching fire skills at the end of the project. We have delivered half this project in 2023 and will finish in 2024.

'PWB Produces' Percy headley & Circus Central - Sports England £4900

In 2023 we launched 'PWB Produces' and working alongside **Circus Central** in Newcastle and the **Percy Hedley Foundation** we managed to obtain partial funding from **Sports England**, and the **Percy Hedley Foundation** contributed **£1500** to meet the full funding target.

For more on this evaluation please see: www.pwb.ngo/pwb-uk/pwb-produces/

PWB-UK

The table below lists our main impact figures for PWB-UK, but please see our website for more details of our work in the UK: www.pwb.ngo/pwb-uk/

In January 2022 we received a further **£10,000** from the **National Lottery Community Fund** to continue this project. The project was delivered successfully in line with the budget and time frame. During this project we introduced fire performing to the older participants, for a memorable experience.

Link to our YouTube channel PUK-Playlist: www.youtube.com/watch?v=N90AFFBhzKs&list=PLV9fEOI1blggc00FLXC8QTGl57wT9IJ&index=3

TOUR	# Sessions	PWB Hours	# Attended	# Shows	# Audience	# PWBers
PUK 2018-2019	7	19	62	6	69	6
PUK 2019-2020	11	25	380	5	152	8
PUK 2020-2021	2	0	60	2	250	4
PUK 2021-2022	53	90	920	7	355	4
PUK 2022-2023	17	82	1377	3	726	2
PUK 2023-2024	16	54	327	1	150	4
TOTALS	106	370	3126	24	1702	28



6. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

PWB is mainly funded by **individual monthly donations** from various sources that raise about **£250pm**. Ex-PWB volunteers also run fundraisers, which can vary from year to year but are between **£500 to £1000**. We currently run one tour to the **Philippines** a year where **volunteers** raise money to pay for their own costs. Our main financial outgoings are the Tour Costs (**£4000**) and for Contractors (**£1800**) to manage the day to day business of the charity. PWB will need some increased fundraising efforts to make this **sustainable** in the future.

Apart from that, our only other income stream is restricted from **project grants** and one-off workshops for **PWB-UK**. In 2023 PWB made a decision to use our surplus from previous years to self-fund a few projects. Which is why our balance has dropped below **£6000**



PERFORMERS WITHOUT BORDERS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30th June 2023

	2025		2024	
Fixed assets	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets - workshop kit	0		75	
Depreciated to zero		0		0
Current Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand		4,190		5,977
Creditors		0		0
Net current assets		4,190		5977

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

PERFORMERS WITHOUT BORDERS (July 2024-2025)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2025

		Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
<u>Incoming Resources</u>			
Incoming resources & generated funds			
	Donations	3351	5130
	Fundraisers	598	0
	Volunteer contributions	1400	0
	PWB-UK earned income		0
	Grants		0
	Total incoming resources	5349	5,130
<u>Resources expended</u>			
	Marketing	690	1,035
	Admin		115
	Charges	360	0
	Safeguarding checks		0
	Training	62	0
	Contractors	1800	2,400
	PWB-UK costs	180	0
	Grant expenditure		9,050
	Tour costs	4045	7,991
	Total resources expended	7136	20,592
	Net income for the year	-1787	-15,462
	Fund balances at 30th June 2025	4190	5,977

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The charity is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the financial year ended 30 June 2025. No member of the charity has required an audit of these accounts under section 476 of the Act.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities under the Companies Act 2006 for: ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records in accordance with section 386; and preparing financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with sections 394 and 395, and that otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act as they apply to small charitable companies.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to small entities under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 2 March 2025

03/03/25

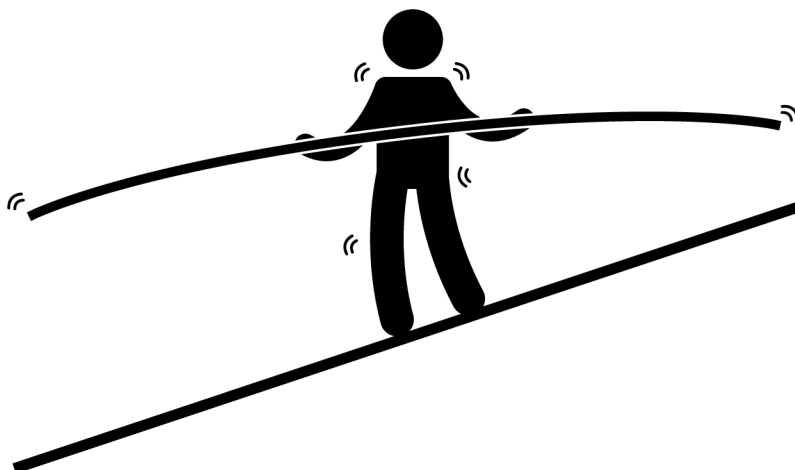
Emily Ball

Chair of the Trustees

Charity Number: 1182403



Independent Examiners report not required this year as turnover is under £25,000.



7. FUTURE PLANS

Writing this in March 2026 after submitting our accounts to the Charity Commission, I can say that restarting our international touring again with our new partnerships and project goals has been an overall success despite the difficulties. We have come back after the pandemic with new energy, people and ideas to look forward to in the coming years! In the UK we have been met with funding difficulties due to the current political climate but are looking at launching new avenues of funding streams. We continue to work on expanding our operations with some exciting prospects listed below.

7.1 – Future Prospects

PWB Philippines – After a successful reconnaissance tour and first year of delivery in the Philippines (2023 & 2024). We have produced our first-ever feature-length documentary for our tours; we are planning on submitting this to international film awards and using it to display our work at events and support fundraising. We produced this with the hopes of proving the project impact and solidifying connections for further work with UN-SDSN. This is part of a 5-year project commitment to bring circus arts to youth champions around Negros Island until 2027!

PWB SDSN - We are currently applying for a membership with SDSN to raise awareness of our project goals and attend conferences to make new connections in other countries that they operate their youth programs within.

PWB India - We will keep mentoring the India project from afar, supporting its development to a legacy continuation where our longstanding students from Asha-Deep Vidyashram (The Kashi Fire Warriors) will continue to deliver social circus projects supported by PWB.

PWB Produces - Having already completed one PWB Produces project successfully we are continuing to find and support more Partner Organisations in the UK.

PWB Residential's - This is a new idea we are looking to release to volunteers in 2027/28, we have already trialed this idea in 2024 with Spoon Circus. Connecting Social Circus groups around the globe with PWB volunteers for 10 days. The aims will be supporting teacher training, equipment distribution and further outreach, working alongside the Social Circus group and supporting their needs.

**We look forward to increasing the depth and range
of our outstanding legacy of impacts
in 2025 and onwards!**

