FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS (PORTSMOUTH) CIO 1194005



"Banner created for the Portsmouth 100 celebrations as a collaboration between FWB and Splodge Designs."

Annual Report 2025 (Sept 25-August 2026)

(Published August 2026)

FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS

PORTSMOUTH

Annual Report of Friends Without Borders (Portsmouth) CIO for the Year 2025

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER- 1194005

Trustees 2025- 2026:

Coleen Le -Chair (until March 2026)
Anthony McCarthy (from March 2026)
Geoff Wilson - Treasurer (until March 2026)
Folasade Efuwape (from March 2026)
Charles Leddy-Owen - Access to Justice
Lia Deyal
Yenga Ikuse (until March 2026)
Janet Probert
Majid Dhana

Advisers to the Board

Nahom Legesse
Sintia Oyana

Patron

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Abdul Kadir.

Aims and Organisation

Friends Without Borders helps people seeking asylum to access support when few other services remain accessible to them. We provide two ongoing projects which aim to problem-solve, reduce isolation and challenge the discrimination faced by our clients: our Drop-in provides advocacy and advice without appointment and our Access to Justice project provides legal advice.

The organisation is managed by an executive committee, consisting of the trustees and advisory board, which meets every two months. Client Services Manager Rachel McCormick and Administrative Assistant Sam Bell assist the trustees with operational management.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees have paid due regard to the guidance issued by Charity Commission on public benefit.

a) Friends Without Borders relieves poverty through the provision of payments to meet particular needs, granting allowances to destitute clients for limited periods and assistance with traveling expenses.

b) Friends Without Borders provide free legal advice, regulated by the IAA, on immigration matters through Access To Justice.

c) Public Benefit is served by the education of the general public through the use of social media, and with collaboration with local press and liaison and network with relevant groups in the city.

Chair's Report

It is a great privilege to have been appointed Chair of Trustees at Friends Without Borders. I have known about the organisation and its work since it was set up as Haslar Visitors Group around 32 years ago and visited Haslar with Michael Woolley several times. In those days I worked for Refugee Action and was a Community Development Worker and I worked alongside a team of caseworkers, supporting asylum seekers sent to Portsmouth and Southampton by the Home Office. Funding was withdrawn for this support, leaving the voluntary sector to pick up the pieces.

Although I have only been in post for six months it's good to see that Friends Without Borders has gone from strength to strength over the years – securing core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and employing both an Admin Worker and a Service Manager. We have been responsive to the needs of the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in the city and have developed new services and support and at the same time providing a welcoming and safe space.

We have seen some significant changes over the last six months – not least the relocation of the drop in from the All Saints Church to the Church of the Holy Spirit. Many thanks to the welcome and support we've received from the Church and the congregation. The drop in continues to welcome around 60 clients per week and is gradually increasing in visitor numbers as word spreads through the community. There are an increasing number of agencies attending to offer their support.

We are fortunate to work with Dr. Charles Leddy-Owen and his team who run Access to Justice and are the only providers of free immigration advice across a large part of the region. The drop in is not only a place for advice, but provides the opportunity to take up English lessons for parents and children to play, and to enjoy a hot meal and the company of friends. We rely so much on the great contribution of all our volunteers. Our case work team provide expert advice and work with increasingly complex cases – often involving destitution and homelessness. Thanks to the many other volunteers who help with English lessons, art activities, the community allotment, children's activities and preparing food.

It seems strange that after closing ten years ago, preparations are underway for the reopening of Haslar Immigration Removal Centre and its expansion to 600 spaces. It shows how little has changed in the ensuing years and the injustices that were the starting point for setting up our organisation continue. I'm very pleased that the Trustees are now set to meet regularly with Portsmouth City of Sanctuary to ensure that we work together in partnership and consistently together.

Thanks to support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation we have been able to call on some expert advice from consultants and to facilitate a workshop to enable the trustees to undertake a review of our strategy. This gives us the opportunity to shape the direction of the organisation over the next five years and ensure we are financially sustainable and have plans in place to continue and develop our services, ensuring that the voices of refugees and asylum seekers are at the heart of everything we do.

Many thanks to our regular donors – through their support we are to use unrestricted funds to support refugees who are amongst the most vulnerable, those with no recourse to public funds who are facing destitution. The difference that these small grants can make to individuals is immeasurable.

It is very important that we acknowledge the great contribution of our Service Manager, Rachel McCormick to the ongoing success of Friends Without Borders. Thanks to Rachel, we continue to provide a wide range of services at the drop in, recruit and manage lots of volunteers, securing long term funding from the Lottery and the efficient running of the drop in each week.

Thank you to my fellow trustees for making me feel so welcome and for the wealth of experience and insight they bring to the organisation.

I would like to thank my predecessor as Chair, Coleen Le for all her work and dedication over the years, her effective management of the organisation and leaving the organisation is such good shape. Also, thanks to Geoff Wilson, who has stood down as Treasurer for leaving the organisation in a healthy financial situation. Thanks to both Coleen and Geoff for leading Friends Without Borders through some very difficult times and ensuring that the organisation not only survives but continues to flourish and serve our community effectively.

On behalf of Friends Without Borders I'd like to say particular thanks to Julie Ayling and Jodie Coles for organising the two amazing and lucrative fundraisers for us during the Summer. The events at Becketts and the Family Farm Day were not only great fun but raised much need funds. Thanks to you both for the time and work put in to organising these successful events.

I would like to say a special thank you to The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Abdul Kadir who became our new patron in June this year. Having his support and commitment is a great encouragement and helps shine a light on our work and recognises the positive difference we make to the Portsmouth community.



Three of our volunteers, Alison, Coleen and Sue, were delighted to be invited to the Lord Mayor's 'Thank you' Garden Party. This was an opportunity to recognise all the hard work and time they have given for many years.

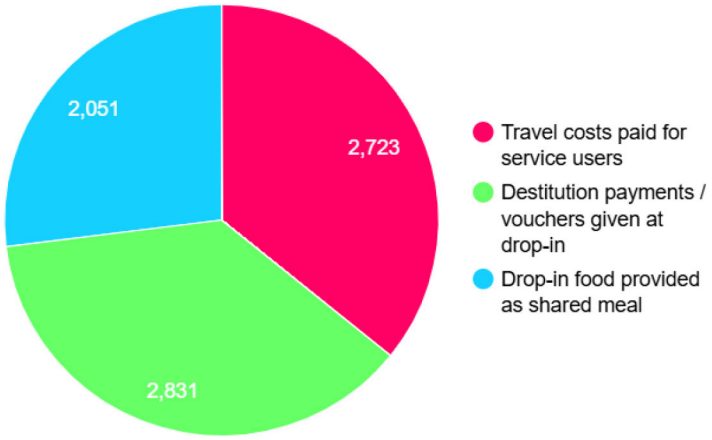
Tony McCarthy
Chair of Trustees

Service Manager's Report on the Drop-in

The period between our last AGM in September 2025 and this year's AGM has been one of significant and positive change. In March we were delighted to welcome Tony as our new Chair of trustees and Folasade as our new treasurer. This followed the successful application for a five year grant from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, which has provided welcome stability and support for our work. In May, we relocated our drop-in service to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Southsea and I would like to pass on my thanks to the warden Ruth for welcoming us and helping to ensure a smooth transition.

The change of location and weekday initially resulted in a slight decline in attendance as people adjusted to the new arrangements. However, numbers are steadily increasing, and we now welcome around 50–60 people each week. We are also pleased to be reaching new people from the Southsea area. Our caseworkers support around 20–25 people each week, while our English classes attract around 15–20 students. Our family support group has also been well attended, recently engaging 16 children in a single session.

Thanks to the funding largely covering our core costs, we are able to direct a greater proportion of donations from our supporters towards providing practical assistance to our service users, including destitution payments, vouchers and travel costs.



The pie-chart depicts how we distributed your money at the drop-in service during the period between our 2025 and 2026 AGMs, by percentage. Volunteer travel is now funded through grants but we lost funding for food, so this has been included. The largest proportion is given as destitution support to clients in financial hardship. The second biggest expenditure is given as financial assistance with travel, for example to attend a solicitor's appointment or court appearance, bus fare to hospital, or to travel to a Home Office reporting centre. We provide free food at our drop-in to ensure people get a meal as well as bringing a sense of welcome and community.

We have increased outreach from partner agencies and we now have regular support at the drop-in from Homestart, the Southern Affordable Immigration Advice Service (Citizens Advice Portsmouth), Portsmouth Central Library, Portsmouth Mental Health Hub, Community Connectors, NHS Speech and Language Therapy and Hampshire Constabulary Community Engagement Advisers. Friends Without Borders continues to work alongside Portsmouth City of Sanctuary, Action Asylum Portsmouth and the Rural Refugee Network.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of these organisations for their ongoing help and support for us and for our service users. We would also like to thank the many Portsmouth organisations who support us via referrals.

This year we celebrated 100 years of Portsmouth as a city, and through a grant we were able to partner with Splodge Designs to offer a series of workshops. We created a fabric banner as a lasting tribute, celebrating the rich maritime history of Portsmouth and its associated immigration and vibrant multicultural community.
We had some exciting academic collaborations with university research projects this year:

"The F-images Study" University of Southampton
The F-images Study was a doctoral research project exploring foot health among adult South Asian people seeking asylum with type 2 diabetes. It examined how post-migration factors and diabetes stigma shape everyday self-care, footwear decisions, and the ability to seek support.

"It Takes a Village": Mapping parents' access to health advice for babies aged 0-2yrs University of Southampton

This project looked to improve healthcare by talking to parents to find out where they looked for help and advice when they were worried about the health of their baby. It was especially interested in families who were less familiar with the UK services, who had English as a second language, or who struggled with poverty, realising that these parents might struggle to access help when they needed it.

"Developing a Homelessness Action Plan for Immigration Advice" University of Portsmouth
The project aimed to build capacity for a more effective provision of immigration advice to migrants experiencing homelessness. Ultimately, the goal is to benefit migrants experiencing homelessness, the recipients of this advice, and empower them financially.

"Children and Families With No Recourse to Public Funds" University of Birmingham
Exploring the long-term impact of the denial of recourse to public funds on childrens' s health, welfare and development.

"Everyday Paths: An Ethnographic Study of Urban Environments and Mental Well-Being after Forced Migration" University College London
Looking at how people experience everyday urban environments in Portsmouth, including public spaces, local services, transport and movement through the city.

Thank you to Nadera Assim, Amy Dobson, Marianela Barrios Aquino, David Stark and Alessandro Patel for offering us the opportunity to participate in research which we hope will ultimately improve the lives of our community.

Rachel

ANNUAL CASEWORK REPORT.

1) The past year has been a period of significant demand for our Casework Team. We navigated major policy updates from the Home Office while continuing to provide front line support to our Service Users.

2) The team has managed a high volume of complex cases:

ASYLUM and REFUGEE SUPPORT

EVISA's

SIGNPOSTING and ASSISTANCE with LEAVE TO REMAIN EXTENSIONS

SUPPORT WITH LEAVE TO REMAIN / INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN

HOUSING AND DESTITUTION SUPPORT

REFERRING SERVICE USERS FOR LEGAL ADVICE (in particular to ACCESS TO JUSTICE - Dr. Charles Leddy - Owen and SAIAS - Ms. Marta Beltram).

3) HOME OFFICE POLICY CHANGES AND OPERATIONAL IMPACT.

Navigating H.O. regulations have been a challenge. Especially in the areas of Eviction Time Lines and Destitution.

There have been increases in fees for various applications and stricter fee waiver requirements.

Delays in processing asylum applications.

4) MAIN CHALLENGES FACING SERVICE USERS

Without doubt the biggest issues are:

Obtaining legal representation.
Housing and accommodation.
Mental health and wellbeing.
Food security / material support.

All the above we try to address through the aims of our organisation; Public Benefit Statement, and the care and concern we have for our Serviceusers.

I still feel it is a huge privilege to serve the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Community.

I want to say a great big " thank you " to the Casework Team. You are an inspiration to me and " my people ".

Best wishes,

Coleen

Access To Justice

Access to Justice offers the only completely free high-level immigration law advice and casework in the Portsmouth area. In 2025 we saw 63 new clients, and at the time of writing (mid-July 2026) we have already seen 60 new clients in 2026.

Most of our clients are relying on human rights claims, particularly article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights which protects the right to a family or private life and applications relating to the best interests of children. These applications can be very complicated and require large amounts of very specific supporting evidence to be gathered. They are also very expensive unless you successfully apply for a fee waiver, which is again a complicated and evidence-heavy process.

Other applications we help with include leave to remain applications for survivors of domestic abuse and survivors of trafficking or slavery. We also assist with citizenship applications and applications to access public funds.

Since the suspension of the refugee family reunion route in September we have taken on several clients looking to bring their partners and children to the UK through the standard family route. These applications are reliant on human rights arguments, and it remains to be seen how they will be considered by the Home Office. We are also not looking forward to the 'earned settlement' and very harsh new immigration bill being rolled out because of the further distress and harm they will cause our clients and so many others in the local community. Free advice and casework will be needed even more than it already is with the introduction of these ever-more-punitive immigration rules and laws.

Some recent feedback received from Access to Justice clients:

"Before I got immigration status I was completely reliant on my ex-partner and his mother for money and accommodation. Now I can get my own tenancy. I can stand on my own, independently, without having to be scared about what will happen to me. Since getting my immigration status I feel safer."

"When I received the news [of a successful immigration application] it felt like my worries and my problems were over. I told my boys the news when they got home from school. We were rolling on the floor in the house, crying and jumping around celebrating. I can now sleep with no worries."

"Everything is running smoothly now. Everyone says I am lucky. I have access to public funds. I can afford most things that I need. The accommodation I am living in would not have been possible without leave to remain and access to public funds."

Charles



Spreading The Word And Engaging Local Groups

At FWB we see the importance of contact with local communities and groups. We often attend events representing the charity and sharing information about our important work and the lives and issues of our clients.

A few of us attended the international event recently at the University of Portsmouth – their Flagship Event – the "Festival of Culture Exhibition', as part of the one world festival. This was a large event with a vibrant, positive atmosphere. It was great to be part of it. There were a lot of stalls with (mostly) students, some in national dress, representing and promoting their home countries and cultures, which really resonated with our clients' stories.

We focused on chatting and sharing information with our quiz on common misconceptions about asylum seekers and refugees. Our game 'what would you take?' was very popular engaging passers by in understanding the real plight of lots of those fleeing persecution. We have a suitcase with props – a book, photo, soft toy and we ask – with 20 minutes notice to flee from your home, probably in a war zone, which three items would you take? The students really engaged with this, we had 94 people respond. There was lots of emphasis on phones (!) but also some really thoughtful answers - prayer beads, photos, passport, cat (!) This is a fun activity but importantly in makes the participant imagining themselves in the shoes of an asylum seeker in a pivotal moment.

Alison







Working Together With Communities Through Foot Health and Research

My involvement with Friends Without Borders continued beyond my time as a trustee through regular participation in the weekly drop-in. Within this familiar community setting, conversations about foot health developed naturally. My approach was guided by listening to what people identified as useful, rather than assuming that everyone required the same response, because each person had followed a different journey and faced different circumstances.

Brief foot checks and creative activities provided opportunities for people to discuss pain, while later conversations showed how this support could influence daily care. Some people returned to explain that foot cream or clean socks had eased their discomfort, while another attendee said that our discussion had encouraged them to arrange a GP appointment for a foot problem they had previously ignored.
The final drop-in session of 2025 used Christmas creativity to continue these conversations, with handmade cards by Nahom and paper trees created by Lydia and Mahnaz. A large 3D-printed foot became a Footmas tree, around which people responded to the question, "How are your feet today?" Some responses described cold and damp feet, while others referred to pain or the effort required to keep walking. During the wet weather of early 2026, requests for shoes increased before further requests were made for socks. Support from Shoe Aid and local volunteers enabled more than 87 people to receive new footwear, while 106 insoles donated by the University of Southampton were also distributed; however, we could not meet every request.

During Refugee Week 2026, people attending the drop-in explored how the idea of courage could be expressed in different languages and decorated bottles that later became vases at the F-images exhibition. The exhibition took place at St Luke's Church on Friday 19 th June 2026 and shared my doctoral research about foot health inequalities among adult South Asian people seeking asylum who are living with type 2 diabetes. A Community Advisory Group helped shape the project and how its findings were presented, ensuring that community knowledge influenced the exhibition. The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Abdul Kadir, attended alongside Councillor Chris Attwell, while visitors engaged with the research through conversation and creative activities. The central message of F-images was that, "The foot is not the problem. The problem is what stands around it."

Separately from F-images, I am involved in Raising Voices in Research, a programme funded by NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care. Working through Friends Without Borders, the project involved two workshops where community members shared how they understand health and social care research, what may prevent participation and what support would make involvement more accessible. Their insights contributed to the Raising Voices in Research Local Plan for Research, helping researchers understand how communities want to be approached and involved.

It has been a privilege to collaborate with Friends Without Borders, particularly with Rachel McCormick and Sam Bell, whose kindness, patience, flexibility and support have enabled my research to become part of the everyday life of the drop-in. I am equally grateful to the trustees and volunteers, as well as all the wonderful people who attend each week and make the space welcoming through the knowledge and generosity they share. This work has shown that collaboration is strongest when communities are listened to and able to influence how support or research develops.

By Nadera , Podiatrist and Black Futures and NIHR ARC Wessex Postgraduate Researcher at the University of Southampton, with Rajni K



Figure 1 With sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, ideas, knowledge and practical support to the workshops throughout the year. These shared contributions helped create welcoming spaces shaped by the community.

Sarita Dhongle is pictured creating henna designs during the F-images exhibition.

The Allotment

This year has been a little different at the Community Allotment. We meet every Wednesday and are a group of local Portsmouth people and asylum seekers that we meet at Friends Without Borders where a few of us are volunteers.

The first thing that was different was that we decided to raise some money for our expenses by holding a plant sale in May. Although we run on a shoe string there are always things like allotment rent to pay for and seeds, compost etc to buy.

We had great fun sowing seeds and potting them on at the allotment. In between times my mum looked after the plants in her conservatory and greenhouse. The plant sale of tomato plants, Marigolds, courgettes, lettuces sunflowers, runner beans and herbs was a great success. Will we do it again next year? I need to ask my mum!

The second thing that was different was the heat of course! So we have often been meeting in the evening when it is a lot cooler. It has been difficult for some crops such as runner beans. But tomatoes and cucumbers have loved it.

But the point of our Community allotment is not only the harvest but our weekly get together where we learn about each others cultures and grow friendships and look after our mental health. We stop half way through our sessions for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee together. We often listen to the birds, and notice other nature around us such as the slow worms, crickets and butterflies and moths.
We are an international group of gardeners and enjoy learning about each others cultures and sometimes we try and learn a little bit of each others language although of course the predominant language is English.
I feel that groups like ours are a fantastic way for local people and asylum seekers to meet and get to know each other without the politics. Just as people growing vegetables together and enjoying nature.
If you would like to come and join us contact me at Janet@friendswithoutborders.org.uk

Jan







English classes

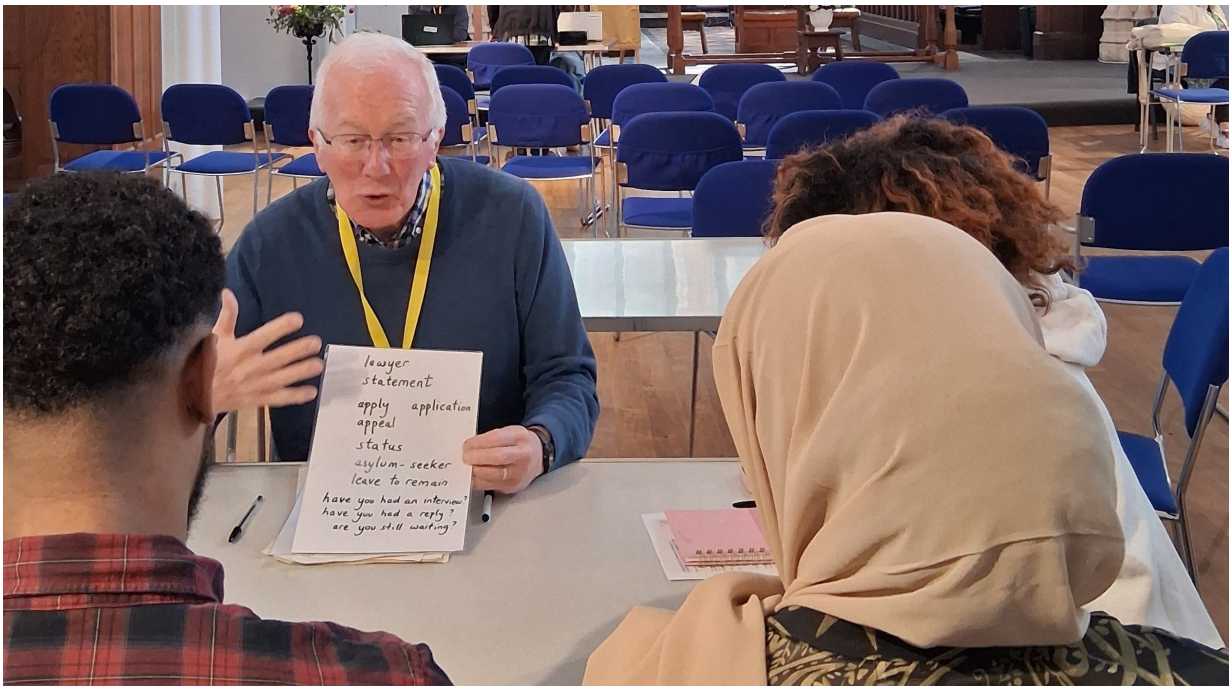
English classes happen in two spaces at our new venue, just as they did at All Saints. The mums' class happens in the main socializing area, where mums are helped with communication skills, while their children play close by, supervised by wonderful volunteers from Home Start. The essence of the class is- 'turn up when you like, mixed levels, children often on mum's knees…all good fun. Flexibility is everything!'

The more structured classes happen in a quieter room next door. Being able to hear clearly makes learning easier. We try to 'triage' them if they are new – beginner, intermediate or advanced table? Length of time in the UK is not always a good indicator of how much English they can hear, speak, read and write.

Some teachers remain constant, others come and go. In 2025 we sometimes had over 30 students. That could mean 10 – 15 round a table, especially if we're short of teachers. In our new venue, numbers have been smaller, maybe 15. At one table, there could be students from 6 or 7 different countries. Beginners fare much better in a small class of 2 - 4.

We sometimes use the English for Everyone course books. It's great that our 'library' of resources has recently been expanded, giving us fresh ideas, including games. Each teacher has their own preferred style, but we aim to be flexible, tailoring the lesson to the students' needs: learning to write the English alphabet, a conversation about English culture, how to explain your ailment to a doctor…or getting to grips with those irregular past tenses. These classes can be great places for laughter and warm human interaction, not just learning English but learning each other's names, learning and sharing from our backgrounds and experience. As a teacher, I also count myself among the learners.

Clive



Friends on the Farm July 4th

The weather was beautiful, a marquee was sent up in a field adjacent to the garden with a large tree enabling somewhat needed shade. A bar and BBQ provided refreshments, with many bringing their own picnics. It was a family friendly event with young children to great grandparents in their 90's!

Starting at 3pm until late, it was estimated over 150 attended. The day commenced with Rachel playing her bagpipes, she walked across the garden into the field much to the amazement of many, a surreal moving sound in the quiet of the countryside with occasional bleating of lambs in the background!

Following Rachel, Zak played an acoustic set with guitar, songs and some poetry. The Africapella choir sang some arousing African harmonies. A few local musicians had got together for the first time to play at the event, a selection of folk/eclectic songs (Ayling Islanders). In between the music sets, Tai Chi lessons were given in the garden, plus face painting.

The music continued into the evening with Rob Johnston and Tim Gower who are well known locally for their amazing acoustic guitar and percussion set. The tempo increased and a local band the Freestones played some garage rock followed by Elephant Cage, with their Art Rock songs, getting everyone dancing. The evening ended with many sitting around a firepit listening to the soothing sounds of a hand drum.

The event raised from donations £2610 for Friends Without Border.
Julie









Portsmouth Cultural Festival

This year the Portsmouth Cultural Festival took place on 1st August, organised by Urbond. Friends Without Borders hosted a stall at the event alongside the Portsmouth Twinning Association. Being part of this event felt like something special, surrounded by other organisations and societies truly showing the richness of culture in Portsmouth, an event brimming with diversity, music, dance, food and happy faces.

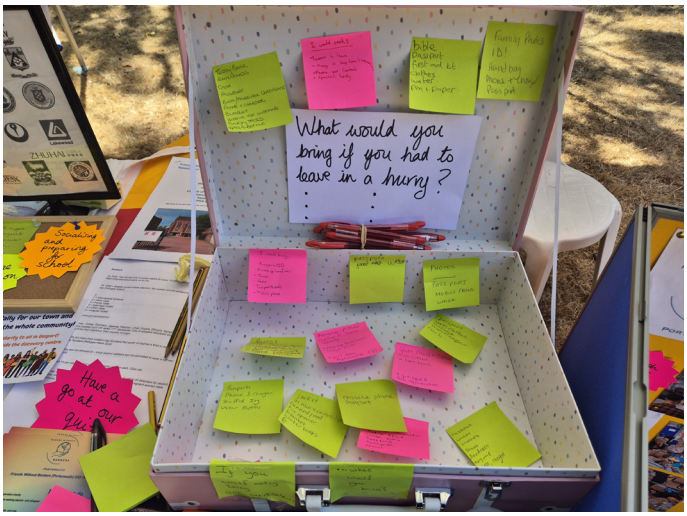
At the Friends Without Borders stall, we offered information to the public and used our popular activity 'what would you take?' in which people were asked which 3 items they would pack in a suitcase if they were given 20 minutes notice to flee their home. Many people wrote down their suggestions, including children eager to add to our suitcase. I personally met a few refugees who came to the UK through the 1960s and 1970s who told me of how they came to this country, and although they were harrowing stories, it was warming to see they were safe and secure with their lives now.

The Portsmouth Festival of Culture was a fantastic event that truly saw the community coming together. Often people I spoke to did not know just how many cultural organisations reside in Portsmouth. Many people loved being part of such a multicultural city, and it was a beautiful thing to be part of.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the volunteers who worked at the stall throughout the day, Andrew, Sintia, Aurora, Jenny, Maricar, Mary and Peter. You all offered welcoming smiling faces and helped inform the public of Friends Without Borders' work.

I hope Friends Without Borders will be invited to next year's event.
Sam







Treasurers Report for 2025

From a financial perspective, 2025 was a year of significant challenge and transition. We experienced a growth in the demand for our services and in addition other aspects of our expenditure also increased.
As the year progressed it became increasingly apparent that we could no longer rely exclusively on the amazing generosity of our donors to fund our operation. We formed a Finance Working Group with the dual objective of raising additional funds through grants and fund-raising activities and looking to reduce our expenditure. Despite the success of this focus, as our statement of FWB Assets and Liabilities shows, our Assets decreased by over 40% in the year.
However as a result of the above focus and efforts, it became apparent towards the end of the year that we had secured our financial future in 2026 and beyond. A lot of the credit for this lies with Rachel McCormick who supported and assisted by other members of the organisation was able to obtain a National Lottery Grant which we were informed about in December 2025 and received the first element in February 2026.
Once again an Independent Examination of our accounts has been carried out by Trevor James and his report confirms that he has no concerns with these accounts. We should like to thank Trevor for his support and wise counsel. I should also like to thank Alex Guzman for his work in producing the accounts and in another element of change Folasade Efuwape will be taking over from me as Treasurer in 2026.

Geoff Wilson

Treasurer.

Friends Without Borders CIO (Charity Number 1194005)

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2024 £
Income Receipts				
From Voluntary Sources				
Regular Donations	19,798	-	19,798	19,490
Unique Donations & Grants	8,279	25,651	33,930	32,378
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	788	-	788	3,959
	28,865	**25,651**	**54,516**	**55,827**
Interest	**497**	**-**	**497**	**1,032**
Transfer from Friends Without Borders	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,223**
Total Receipts	**29,362**	**25,651**	**55,013**	**58,082**
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Grants and Direct Support				
Destitute Asylum Seekers	16,287	3,473	19,760	24,372
Client Travel	5,549	4,122	9,671	5,906
Social Activities	5,172	-	5,172	3,864
Fees	-	-	-	680
	27,008	**7,595**	**34,603**	**34,822**
Other expenditure				
Salaries and freelance fees	24,213	15,340	39,553	34,327
Volunteer Travel and Expenses	1,379	-	1,379	1,514
Rent	7,804	-	7,804	8,095
Telephone and other administration costs	3,245	-	3,245	3,538
Independent Examiner's fee	1,200	-	1,200	1,100
Insurance	1,032	-	1,032	936
	38,873	**15,340**	**54,213**	**49,510**
Fund-raising costs				
Just Giving fees	216	-	216	216
	216	**-**	**216**	**216**
Other Payments	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total payments	**66,097**	**22,935**	**89,032**	**84,548**
Net receipts for the year	**(36,735)**	**2,716**	**(34,019)**	**(26,466)**

Friends Without Borders CIO (Charity Number 1194005)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Bank and Cash in hand		
Bank Deposit Account	40,435	72,238
Bank Current Account	3,835	5,952
Cash in hand	230	329
	44,500	78,519
Debtors		
Gift Aid recoverable	1,836	200
	1,836	200
Liabilities		
Harbour Church Room Hire	875	605
	875	605

Approved by the Trustees of Friends Without Borders

on **and signed on their behalf by:-**

Chairperson .....

Treasurer .....

Pictures From The Year

















Friends Without Borders
Registered Charity no 1194005
This is a multi-purpose form. Please fill in such parts as are relevant

Count Me In As A Supporter

Please add me to your support list to receive the Occasional Newsletter

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

I agree to be contacted by Friends Without Borders by post and email for fundraising purposes. ☐

I give consent to Friends Without Borders to keep my information (as above) for the purpose of administering our supporters mail list in accordance with our privacy policy. ☐

I give consent to Friends Without Borders contacting me by post and email with, for example, the occasional news and annual report. ☐

I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting office@friendswithoutborders.org.uk ☐

Gift Aid Certificate

- **Donations from UK taxpayers are supplemented by a grant from the treasury.**
- **Our Treasurer will make the claim, the only thing needed for the donor is their address and signature below that they are paying income tax.**

I am a UK taxpayer paying tax at least equivalent to this claim and claim Gift Aid on this and future donations to Friends Without Borders. I have given my address above and understand this information will be kept by Friends Without Borders for six years, from the date of my last donation.

Signed _____ **Dated:** _____

FRIENDS WITHOUT BORDERS

We are a completely independent charity which has served asylum seekers and refugees in Portsmouth for the last 32 years.
We have no Government contracts
and rely entirely for support on the contributions of local people.

See our website for more information- https://www.friendswithoutborders.net

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Become A Supporter

email: office@friendswithoutborders.org.uk
and we'll send you an occasional newsletter.

Give Money For Grants

Asylum seekers still only get £49.18 a week
and any small emergency can becomes a crisis.

Set Up A Standing Order

One of our strengths is a network of local supporters who pay small amounts each month (whatever you like but £5 to £25 is typical)
Friends Without Borders bank account is with Lloyds Bank.
Sort Code- 30-98-97. Account number: 59923463.

Remember to add Gift Aid

Gift Aid adds 25p to every £1 you give, so anybody who pays income tax and donates should sign the form provided.

Leave a Legacy

Legacies enable us to plan for the future. They help us to run our support group, where we help typically around 60-70 refugees each week with casework and English lessons, as well as the safe social space to make friends, join in with art and craft, share a meal or get family support.

Volunteer

Volunteering can be extremely rewarding. So if you would like to join us, whatever your availability please contact office@friendswithoutborders.org.uk
FWB always needs willing volunteers and we have a variety of jobs and tasks to suit most people.

For those who have supported us in the past we want to thank you for all your contributions!

Standing Order

To the manager: Please pay Friends Without Borders the sum below by standing order untill further notice.

Friends Without Borders account is with

Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-98-97, Account Number: 59923463.

Monthly amount in figures:

Monthly amount in words:

Date of First Payment:

My Bank:

My Account Number:

My Account Name:

Signed

Date:

Please send this form to your bank.

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Friends Without Borders CIO (Registered charity number 1194805) on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

This report is made solely to the trustees of Friends Without Borders CIO, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees of Friends Without Borders CIO those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Friends Without Borders CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Act. You consider that the audit requirements of the Act do not apply.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts of Friends Without Borders CIO for the year ended 31st December 2025 set out on the attached pages carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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 accounts to be reached.

T E James

Trevor James FCA DChA
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO18 3PR

18 July 2026

Friends Without Borders CIO (Charity Number 1194005)

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2024 £
Income Receipts				
From Voluntary Sources				
Regular Donations	19,756	-	19,756	19,490
Unique Donations & Grants	8,279	25,651	33,930	32,378
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	786	-	786	3,959
	28,865	25,651	54,516	55,827
Interest	497	-	497	1,032
Transfer from Friends Without Borders	-	-	-	1,223
Total Receipts	29,362	25,651	55,013	58,082
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Grants and Direct Support				
Destitute Asylum Seekers	16,287	3,473	19,760	24,372
Client Travel	5,549	4,122	9,671	5,906
Social Activities	5,172	-	5,172	3,864
Fees	-	-	-	680
	27,008	7,595	34,603	34,822
Other expenditure				
Salaries and freelance fees	24,213	15,340	39,553	34,327
Volunteer Travel and Expenses	1,379	-	1,379	1,514
Rent	7,804	-	7,804	6,095
Telephone and other administration costs	3,245	-	3,245	3,538
Independent Examiner's fee	1,200	-	1,200	1,100
Insurance	1,032	-	1,032	936
	38,873	15,340	54,213	49,510
Fund-raising costs				
Just Giving fees	216	-	216	216
	216	-	216	216
Other Payments	-	-	-	-
Total payments	66,097	22,935	89,032	84,548
Net receipts for the year	(36,735)	2,716	(34,019)	(26,466)

Friends Without Borders CIO (Charity Number 1194005)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Bank and Cash in hand		
Bank Deposit Account	40,435	72,238
Bank Current Account	3,835	5,952
Cash in hand	230	328
	44,500	78,518
Debtors		
Gift Aid recoverable	1,838	200
	1,838	200
Liabilities		
Harbour Church Room Hire	875	805
	875	805

Approved by the Trustees of Friends Without Borders

on 10 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:-

Chairperson .....

Treasurer .....

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Friends Without Borders CIO (Registered charity number 1194805) on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025

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