Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Village Hall

Annual Report of the Trustees

For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Charity Number: 525602

Chair's Introduction

The year ending 31 March 2026 has been a year of significant challenge, transition, steady progress, and real achievement for Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Village Hall.

Following a period of governance change part way through the year, the Hall has moved through a process of stabilisation and recovery, with Trustees focusing on restoring effective management, strengthening financial control, and supporting the Hall's long-term future as a community asset.

Despite the difficulties experienced early in the year, the Hall has once again begun to thrive as a vital community hub. This progress has only been possible thanks to the dedication of volunteers, Trustees, funders, community groups, and all those who continue to support the Hall.

On behalf of the Trustees, sincere thanks are extended to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and commitment over the past year.

Governance and Administration

The Trustees resumed full responsibility for managing the Hall on 3 June 2025 following a vote of no confidence in the Regeneration Group, which had been acting as the Village Hall Committee. This marked a difficult period of transition, and access to the building was not regained until 27 June 2025, when the Trustees changed the locks to regain access to the Hall after being locked out by the Regeneration Group.

Access to the Hall's banking arrangements was not gained until August 2025, as the necessary information was not provided by the Regeneration Group. Financial records were also delayed and only became available once returned via an accountant appointed by the former committee.

Once these immediate issues had been resolved, the Trustees focused on rebuilding stability and moving the Hall forward. Priorities included strengthening governance, improving financial controls, enhancing the building, expanding community activities, establishing a Hall website, and securing the Hall's long-term future.

Since June 2025, the Hall has been managed solely by the Trustee Committee in line with the charity's governing document and charity law. The Committee consists of 10 of the 12 Community Councillors, supported by an appointed Secretary and Treasurer.

One Councillor did not wish to complete the required waiver process relating to automatic disqualification rules, and a second Councillor's trusteeship was suspended following internal review, in line with the Trustees' duty to protect the charity's reputation.

The Trustees met monthly throughout the year to oversee governance, finance, maintenance, activities, and future planning. Minutes and decisions were formally recorded.

While Trustee meetings are not public meetings, the Trustees remain committed to openness. Approved minutes and monthly financial summaries continue to be published on the Community Council website.

A review of the governing document confirmed that membership of the management committee is restricted to Trustees and the appointed Secretary and Treasurer. Although the option of a separate Village Hall committee was considered, the Trustees concluded that the current arrangements remain the most effective model for managing the Hall at this time.

Volunteers continue to play an important role in supporting events and day-to-day activities, and the Trustees remain committed to encouraging wider community involvement.

An independent examiner was appointed to review the annual accounts at the end of the financial year.

Financial Overview

The Hall has remained financially stable throughout the year, despite ongoing investment in repairs, maintenance and improvements.

In May 2025, the Regeneration Group, which was acting as the Hall Committee at the time, raised concerns about the Hall's financial position and advised that, without additional financial support, the Hall could face closure. The Regeneration Group subsequently requested that the Community Council increase its annual contribution from £6,000 to £12,000. Following consideration, the Community Council decided not to amend its approved budget for the financial year.

Following the Trustees' return to full control in June 2025, financial stability improved through tighter management, increased hall hire income, fundraising activity and successful grant applications.

Hall hire rates were reviewed in August 2025 after it was identified that there was no consistent pricing structure in place, with different groups paying between £6 and £10 per hour. Rates were benchmarked against similar facilities/activities and the Hall's running costs were reviewed to establish a fair and sustainable charging structure. The revised rates came into effect in October 2025 and represented the first increase since May 2022.

It was also identified that the Snooker Club had been paying £33 per month for exclusive use of the upstairs room under an informal arrangement that had expired in 2020.

Accounts

INCOME	2025/26 (£)	2024/25 (£)	Variance (£)
Hall Hire & Clubs	£13,728.95	£11,601.50	£2,127.45
Community Council Direct Annual Contribution	£3,000.00	£6,000.00	-£3,000.00
Age Cymru Grant	£1,225.00	£0.00	£1,225.00
Llanbedr Beer Festival	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
Fundraising	£2,963.51	£0.00	£2,963.51

Bank Interest	£84.33	£92.58	-£8.25
Donations Towards Christmas Lunch	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Electricity Company Refund	£0.00	£5,239.11	-£5,239.11
TOTAL INCOME	**£22,501.79**	**£22,933.19**	**-£431.40**
EXPENDITURE	**2025/26 (£)**	**2024/25 (£)**	**Variance (£)**
Insurance	£1,287.69	£1,218.29	£69.40
Water Rates	£585.75	£446.16	£139.59
Commercial Waste	£718.31	£233.55	£484.76
Heat & Light	£2,867.03	£5,491.01	-£2,623.98
Telephone & Broadband	£591.38	£1,008.36	-£416.98
Postage & Stationery	£182.66	£55.48	£127.18
Cleaning Materials	£591.09	£683.65	-£92.56
Repairs & Renewals	£3,635.58	£4,121.99	-£486.41
Professional Fees	£462.02	£50.00	£412.02
Accountancy	£1,225.00	£0.00	£1,225.00
Caretaker & Cleaner	£3,878.20	£7,706.92	-£3,828.72
Pest Control	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00
Fundraising Costs	£1,158.12	£0.00	£1,158.12
Donations	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
Community Christmas Dinner	£1,844.78	£0.00	£1,844.78
Clwb Ardudwy	£202.88	£0.00	£202.88
Sundries	£315.34	£0.00	£315.34
CCTV	£184.87	£0.00	£184.87
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**£20,110.70**	**£21,015.41**	**-£904.71**
ANNUAL POSITION	**2025/26 (£)**	**2024/25 (£)**	
Total Income	£22,501.79	£22,933.19	
Total Expenditure	£20,110.70	£21,015.41	
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	**£2,391.09**	**£1,917.78**	

FUNDS HELD AT 31 MARCH	2026 (£)	2025 (£)	Change (£)
Current Account	£2,705.90	£6,511.87	-£3,805.97
Reserve Account	£11,089.92	£5,999.22	£5,090.70
SumUp Account	£370.09	£0.00	£370.09
Cash	£742.64	£511.97	£230.67
TOTAL FUNDS HELD	£14,908.55	£13,023.06	£1,885.49

Financial Summary

Total income for the year was £22,501.79, a decrease of £431.40 compared with the previous year. Although the Hall received only half of the Community Council's annual maintenance contribution directly and did not benefit from the one-off electricity refund received in 2024/25, this was largely offset by increased hall hire income, successful fundraising activities, and grant funding.

Total expenditure decreased by £904.71 to £20,110.70. Significant savings were achieved in heat and light costs, telephone and broadband charges, and cleaning/caretaking costs. Despite continued investment in maintenance and improvement works, the Hall recorded a surplus of £2,391.09 for the year. This will be reinvested in the hall.

Total funds held at 31 March 2026 stood at £14,908.55, an increase of £1,885.49 compared with the previous year, reflecting the Hall's stable financial position and prudent financial management.

This will enable the hall to build reserves for ongoing Hall maintenance and improvements.

Community Council Maintenance Contribution

The Hall continues to receive an annual maintenance contribution of £6,000 from the Community Council, paid in two instalments.

As the Council is the sole trustee of the charity, it is able to reclaim VAT on eligible expenditure. To maximise value, some works are now paid directly by the Council on behalf of the Hall from the annual £6,000 contribution.

The second instalment supported:

- External lighting improvements
- Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)
- Accessible toilet lighting replacement
- Installation of smart thermostats
- Comprehensive building survey
- Locksmith services

This work represented an investment of £3,466.19 including VAT.

The available documentation does not clearly demonstrate how the £3,000 received in May 2025 was spent by the previous committee.

Financial Records and Governance Matters

A significant amount of time during the year was spent reviewing historic financial records and ensuring that the Hall's accounts were accurate and complete.

In May 2025, the Trustees requested the Hall's financial records from the then Hall committee, but these were not provided despite further requests. It was subsequently discovered that the incomplete records had been submitted to an accountant in July 2025 without Trustee approval, resulting in a cost of £1,225 to the Hall.

The accountant identified gaps in the supporting documentation, including missing receipts and invoices. The newly appointed Treasurer undertook a detailed review in August 2025, reconciling the majority of transactions by obtaining copies of invoices directly from suppliers and seeking clarification from individuals named in the bank statement entries.

Transactions totalling £9,591.64 were reviewed where no corresponding invoices or receipts were initially held. After all reasonable avenues were exhausted, £605.51 of expenditure relating to four transactions remained unsupported by sufficient documentation. These payments were made to three individuals; however, the purpose of the payments could not be confirmed following requests for clarification.

The Trustees have strengthen financial controls to ensure all expenditure is properly authorised and recorded.

Recovery of Outstanding Funds

The Trustees pursued recovery of £300 owed to the Hall in connection with income from a booking from the college in January 2025 involving use of the Hall and its car park. The Regeneration Group invoiced the college in its own name and directed payment to its own bank account rather than to the Hall.

After extended correspondence, the matter was escalated with the intention of legal action if payment is not received by April 2026*.

**The outstanding amount was subsequently paid in full on 8 May 2026 without the need for legal action.*

Governance Review

Snooker Club

During the year, the Trustees carried out a review of the long-standing arrangements under which the snooker club had exclusive use of the upstairs room at the Hall.

Although this arrangement had existed informally since 1986, a written agreement was entered into in 2010. During the Trustees' review, it became apparent that the agreement had not been entered into in accordance with charity law and procedure. The agreement expired in August 2020, after which the club continued to use the room on an informal basis, paying £33 per month for exclusive use.

As part of the review, the Trustees considered their responsibilities in managing the charity's assets for the benefit of the whole community. In doing so, they identified several matters that needed to be addressed, including the expired agreement, the governance implications

of granting exclusive use of charity property, the level of income received by the Hall, and the importance of ensuring that the Hall's facilities remained accessible to all members of the community.

Having considered these factors, together with the low level of use of the room, the Trustees concluded that the sole-use arrangement could no longer be justified. They therefore resolved that, from 1 February 2026, the room would be made available to all users under the Hall's standard hiring arrangements, while the snooker club would retain priority booking for its regular club night with the light meter set to match mode. The snooker club was notified of this decision by letter dated 15 November 2025.

The Trustees also considered that this approach could help support the future of the snooker club. In reaching this view, they noted that the club had made a number of social media posts indicating that it was at risk of closing because of low membership. The Trustees anticipated that opening access to the facility and removing the need for prospective players to pay the club's £50 annual membership fee would reduce a barrier to participation and encourage wider community use of the room, while providing the club with an opportunity to attract new members. The Trustees arranged for a snooker coach to deliver sessions for young people in the community, teaching both the correct care of the table and the fundamentals of the game once the new arrangements came in.

At the time of notifying the snooker club of the revised arrangements, the Trustees understood that, although the Hall had always insured the snooker table and grant funding had been used to finance its maintenance, it was regarded as the property of the club. The Trustees therefore advised that, should the club choose not to continue under the revised arrangements, it could remove the table.

Before notifying the snooker club of the proposed changes, the Trustees obtained legal advice through the Hall's insurers regarding the club's occupation of the room. They were advised on charity law and leases and steps needed for charities to enter into sole use agreements. The snooker club subsequently disagreed with the Trustees' decision to end the exclusive-use arrangement and asserted that it held a tenancy of the room. On Christmas Eve 2025, injunction proceedings for 8 January 2026 were served on the Hall Secretary seeking to prevent the Trustees' decision from taking effect.

The Trustees spent their time holding emergency meetings over the Christmas period while attempting to secure legal representation at a time when solicitors' offices were closed. Breese Gwyndaf Solicitors were instructed on 5 January 2026, when offices reopened. A request for a short adjournment to allow additional time for preparation was declined by the snooker club, and the hearing took place at Caernarfon on 8 January 2026. The Court dismissed the Club’s application and encouraged the parties to attempt mediation. The Trustees are extremely grateful to Breese Gwyndaf Solicitors for accepting instructions at very short notice and for representing the charity on a pro bono basis, enabling the Hall's interests to be protected without legal costs to either the charity or the individual Trustees.

Following the court hearing, the Trustees carried out further investigations into the ownership of the snooker table. This identified evidence that the table had originally been purchased through grant funding at a time when the snooker club operated as part of the Village Hall committee. In addition, further grants awarded in the Hall's name had funded the table's ongoing maintenance, including replacement of the coin meter, overhead lighting, new balls and recovering of the table. Taken together, this evidence indicated that the table had consistently been regarded and managed as a community asset of the Hall rather than the property of the club.

The Trustees informed the snooker club that, in light of this information, they no longer considered their original understanding of ownership to be correct and that they regarded the table as a community asset. They also advised that, on this basis, they considered the table should remain within the LL43 or LL44 area and continue to be kept in a location accessible to the public rather than at a private residence if they did not wish to stay at the hall.

Mediation took place on 6 March 2026 but did not result in an agreement. The next day, following the breakdown of negotiations, the snooker table was removed from the Hall by the Snooker Club. During its removal, wiring associated with the table overhead lighting, scoreboard lighting and the coin meter was cut, resulting in damage to the room's electrical wiring. Following the table's removal, pieces of slate and wood splinters were found in the room, giving rise to concerns that the table may have been damaged during dismantling, although its current condition is unknown.

In light of the Trustees' understanding that the table was a community asset, they reported its removal to the police. The police advised that, because ownership of the table is disputed, the matter was civil in nature. The Trustees continue to maintain that the table is a community asset acquired and maintained using grant funding awarded to the Hall. Both the Trustees and the charity's solicitors have repeatedly requested evidence to support the club's claim of ownership. At the date of this report, no documentation supporting that claim has been provided, nor has confirmation been received of the table's current location or intended future use. In addition, the outstanding room hire charges for February and March remain unpaid, as do the costs of repairing the damaged electrical wiring.

The Trustees remain committed to fulfilling their legal duties by protecting the charity's assets, acting in the best interests of the Hall and the wider community, and seeking a fair and appropriate resolution to this matter.

Building Maintenance and Improvements

A comprehensive building survey was undertaken in October 2025 by a RICS Chartered Surveyor. The findings have helped plan a phased programme of works and is being used to support applications for grant funding, with the aim of securing the long-term future of the Hall.

The survey concluded that, although the Hall remains fundamentally sound for its age, a number of significant maintenance issues will need to be addressed over the coming years. including:

- Roof repairs
- Damp and condensation
- Structural cracking
- Stonework deterioration
- Ventilation and insulation improvements
- External joinery repairs

Alongside these essential repairs, the Committee has developed proposals to improve and modernise the Hall, these include:

- Cafe reopening
- New kitchen
- Accessible stage
- Improved garden access

The estimated cost of these improvements, together with the essential repair works, is just over £348,000 (including VAT).

Improvements completed during the year included:

- Removal of kitchen cupboards from the stage that had been used for storage
- Smart thermostats
- Repair to arched window
- External lighting
- CCTV installation
- Digital locks
- PAT testing of all hall equipment and that of hall users
- Deep cleaning
- Drain and gutter clearance
- Industrial dehumidifiers
- Stage door improvements
- Accessible toilet lighting repair
- Creation of a Hall website
- Refurbishment of Games Room

Games Room Refurbishment

The refurbishment of the upstairs room has been one of the most significant projects undertaken during the year. Modernising this space had long been part of the Trustees' plans, with considerable thought given to how new flooring could be installed while retaining the snooker table in situ.

Following the removal of the snooker table by the Snooker Club, the Trustees took the opportunity to transform the room into a recreational space for the wider community, rather than leave it as an empty room.

Engagement with local young people helped to shape the design of the project, with a pool table and dartboard identified as the most requested facilities. The refurbished room will broaden the range of recreational opportunities available within the village and provide a social space for the wider community.

The Trustees are committed to improving accessibility at the Hall wherever it is reasonably practicable to do so and, in developing the project, carefully considered access to the games room. The first-floor room was designed as a games room when the plans for the Hall extension were prepared in 1984 and has remained in that location, since the extension was completed. The Trustees concluded that, because of the physical constraints of the building, there is insufficient space to install a lift and that the existing stairways are too narrow to accommodate a stair lift while maintaining normal access and emergency evacuation requirements. Relocating the facilities to the ground floor was also considered but was not feasible, as the available rooms are already fully used for community activities and cannot accommodate a games room without displacing existing users.

The Trustees nevertheless remain committed to increasing accessible recreational opportunities within the Hall. Looking further ahead, subject to the availability of future funding, planning permission and the technical feasibility of altering the building's glazed frontage, the Trustees would like to explore the possibility of installing an external lift to improve access to the first floor.

<u>Games Room works completed or currently underway include:</u>

- Installation of a digital door lock
- Installation of insulated plasterboard and replastering
- Complete electrical rewiring
- New flooring
- Redecoration
- New equipment (pool table and dartboard)

Funding applications have also been submitted towards the cost of the new equipment.

Throughout the project, the Trustees obtained and compared competitive quotations and sought charitable discounts wherever possible to ensure best value for money and the effective use of the Hall's funds.

Grant Funding and Fundraising

Successful funding included:

- Age Cymru Gwynedd a Môn
- Llanbedr Beer Festival
- Community Christmas Lunch donations

Applications planned:

- Community Facilities Programme
- Adra Community Grant
- Welsh Water Community Fund
- Barchester's Charitable Foundation
- SPAR Community Cashback
- Gwynedd Arts and Wellbeing Programme
- Eryri Community Funds
- Welsh Church Fund
- Gwynedd Community Support Fund

Regrettably, the Hall is unable to apply for certain funding opportunities because of issues relating to late Charity Commission filings in previous years.

Cafe Funding Application

Unfortunately, the Community Council's application to Mantell Gwynedd for funding of over £48,000 to reopen the cafe, submitted in May 2025, was unsuccessful.

During the assessment process, the grant provider checked the Charity Commission register to confirm the eligibility of the applicant as Trustees of the building. At a later stage of the assessment, a discrepancy was identified between the Trustees named on the application (the Community Council) and the information recorded on the Charity Commission register.

Although the Hall's governing document provides that serving members of the Community Council act as Trustees of the charity, the Community Council was removed from the Charity Commission register as a Trustee shortly after the funding application was submitted. The removal followed actions taken by County Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams, former Community Councillor Denise Stone, and Mick Tibbetts.

The Trustees hold email correspondence which indicates that the removal of the Community Council as Trustees was carried out deliberately and that contact was also made with the grant provider regarding the application. These actions resulted in the grant provider raising concerns about the Hall's governance arrangements and the eligibility of the Community Council to submit the application.

Although the governance position and eligibility were subsequently clarified and resolved, the timing of these actions affected the grant assessment process.

Work is continuing to secure funding to support the reopening of the cafe through further grant applications. In addition, the Trustees have approached the Community Council to explore the possibility of a loan should external funding applications be unsuccessful. As the majority of Community Councillors are also Trustees of the Hall, the Trustees concerned have declared a conflict of interest and sought advice and guidance from the Monitoring Officer to ensure that the matter is managed appropriately and transparently.

Community Activities and Hall Usage

The Trustees have continued to draw on the findings of both the Community Council's Community Needs Survey and the Hall's own survey to inform the activities, events and services delivered throughout the year. The feedback received has been invaluable in ensuring that the Hall continues to respond to local needs, promoting social inclusion, learning, wellbeing and wider community engagement.

Clwb Ardudwy

Clwb Ardudwy was launched in November 2025 in partnership with Age Cymru Gwynedd a Môn, following the closure of the earlier social clubs, Clwb Cadwgan and Teulu Ardudwy, which did not resume after the pandemic. The Club has since grown steadily and provides an important space for social connection, wellbeing and community support.

Thanks are extended to Cafe Wenallt for preparing the monthly lunches, and to the volunteers who assist with the running of the Club.

College Courses

The Hall continues to host digital skills and adult learning courses with GLLM. While recruiting suitably qualified tutors locally remains a challenge for the college, efforts continue to expand the range of learning opportunities available at the hall.

Community Events

Events included:

- Bingo
- Christmas Lunch
- Theatre
- Workshops
- Magic show
- Pop-up cafe and bar

These events were well supported, generated additional income for the Hall and provided opportunities for residents of all ages to come together. Planning is already underway for an

exciting programme of future events, including comedy evenings, pop-up pottery, indoor car boot sales, arts and crafts workshops, live music, theatre performances, language classes and community fundraising events.

Regular Groups

The Hall continues to be well used by a wide variety of community groups and organisations.

Youth Club
Returned to the Hall from September until Christmas 2025 as part of Cyngor Gwynedd's travelling youth club programme. Under this model, youth provision rotates between communities each school term and is supported by pop-up activities and organised trips throughout the year. In addition, each secondary school has a dedicated youth worker who supports young people and coordinates participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Youth Club is due to return to the Hall from September until Christmas 2026.

Snowdonia Performing Arts
Began using the Hall in February 2026, offering ballet and tap dancing classes for local children and providing a welcome addition to the weekly programme.

The Hall also continued to provide facilities for a wide range of regular community groups, including:

- Batala Galêz
- Bowls Club
- Clwb Hwyl
- Craft Group
- Sequence Dancing
- Table Tennis Club
- Yoga

Sadly, after many years at the Hall, the Quilters group came to an end in January 2026 following the retirement of its Treasurer.

The Hall has also continued to be well used for a variety of community activities and private events. Regular bookings have included grading days for Dragon Martial Arts, Côr Meibion Ardudwy concerts, and the annual Barn Dance in aid of Parkinson's. In addition, the Hall has hosted numerous birthday parties, family celebrations and other private functions throughout the year, providing an important source of income while serving the wider community.

Over the coming months there will be several new activities added to the Hall timetable, including Ti a Fi, Tai Chi and Spanish classes, further expanding the range of opportunities available for residents of all ages.

Looking Ahead

Priorities for the coming year include:

- Opening the Games Room
- Securing funding to reopen the cafe
- Securing funding for essential building works
- Expanding community activities
- Growing volunteer involvement
- Strengthening financial sustainability

- Establishing where the snooker table is

Thank You

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has supported the Hall this year.

Volunteers:
Josie Atkins, Ben Bailey, Christian Bowater, David Clarke, Rhian Davenport, Christina Davis, Gwenno Edwards, Elgan Evans, Gavin Fitzgerald, Daf Foulkes, Alma Griffiths, Ioan Humphrey, Jac Jones, Kirstie Lumsdon, Chris Rees, Cassi Roberts, Julie Sullivan, Kim Swift, Ellen Taylor, Ella Thomas, Jim Tookey, Karen Platt, Annest Williams, Cadi-Haf Williams, Nedw Williams, Tomos Williams and Joe Mumford.

Local businesses:
Barmouth Road Service Station – Penny on the Move, Breese Gwyndaf, Caffi Hen Crydd, Children's Farm Park and Play Barn, Dioni Holiday Cottages, Dyffryn Seaside Estate, Foxes One Stop and Post Office, Gwenlli Shepherd's Hut, Islawrffordd Caravan Park, Llanfair Slate Caverns, Llety Clyd, Nine & Tides, Park Isaf Caravan & Camping, Smithy Garage, The Sands Bar & Grill and Ty Cerrig Holiday Let, Caffi Wenallt.

Contractors:
Barmouth Property Maintenance, Elliott Electrical, Top to Bottom Cleaning Solutions, Wenallt Cafe and Williams Cleaning Services.

Grant providers and donors:
A.F. Blakemore & Son Ltd, Age Cymru Gwynedd a Môn, Bethan Williams, Daryl Edwards, Dyffryn Ardudwy & Talybont Community Council, Egni Eirian, Gareth John, Gavin Fitzgerald, Islawrffordd Caravan Park, Jen Yuill, Llanbedr Beer Festival, North Wales Police & Community Trust (PACT), Tracy Brookes and Vaughan Roberts.

Thanks also to all hall users, community groups and event attendees whose continued support keeps the Hall thriving.

Approved by the Trustees

Trustee Edward Griffiths (Nedw) (Chair), Trustee Nia Rees (Vice)
Trustee Deilwen Anderson, Trustee Beth Bailey, Trustee Gwynfor Evans, Trustee John Ceri Evans, Trustee Sian Edwards, Trustee Edward Williams, Trustee Sion Ifor Williams, Trustee Jennifer Yuill.

Treasurer Ffion Thomas, Secretary Heather Williams

To be presented to the Annual General Meeting 27th July 2026