

**FRIENDS OF OYSTERMOUTH CASTLE
(THE FRIENDS)**



Registered Charity No 1011377

Financial Statements Year Ended 31st December 2025



Registered Charity number:

1011377

Registered address:

7 Libby Way
Mumbles
Swansea
SA3 4LB

Trustees:

Michael Eames	Chairman & Trustee
Marie Hughes	Secretary & Trustee
Gerallt Williams	Treasurer & Trustee
Paul Lewis	Trustee
Gerald Thomas	Trustee
Clive Hughes	Trustee
John Marvelley	Trustee
Christopher Oldfield	Trustee

Independent Examiner:

Bevan Buckland LLP
Ground Floor Cardigan House
Castle Court
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9LA



Trustees Annual Report Year ended 31st December 2025

1. **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Friends is an unincorporated association registered with the Charity Commission. The management committee adopted its constitution in July 2012. The Friends members elect management committee members from its members at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

2. **Licence to operate**

The City and Council of Swansea (the 'Council') own the freehold premises of Oystermouth Castle.

Under the terms of a Licence to Operate (the 'Licence') The Friends and authorised guests are permitted non-exclusive use by the Council to use Oystermouth Castle as a Heritage Visitor facility. The Licence provides that the Friends may retain any income arising from the use and operation of Oystermouth Castle, less an annually agreed contribution towards the cost of maintenance of Oystermouth Castle.

3. **Financial Review**

3.1 **Income & Expenditure**

See attached appendix 1 accounts as independently examined for the Friends of Oystermouth Castle by Bevan Buckland LLP, Chartered Accountants, tax and financial planners.

Our receipts for the year, excluding grant monies, amounted to £91,922 (2024 £71,206)

Our payments for the year, excluding grant monies spent, amounted to £41,219 (2024 £37,836)

Resulting in a net excess of receipts over payments of £50,703 (2024 £33,370)

The accounts have been prepared on receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.



4. Bank Account

The Friends have banked with NatWest since 2015. We currently have a current account and 4 interest bearing deposit accounts.

A portion of income is held in the current account to cover:

1. Essential Costs
2. Prior agreed events at the Castle which are arranged by the Council
3. Materials purchased for the Friends use
4. All functions which are the Friends responsibility e.g. AGMs, insurance, accountancy fees
5. The Friends contribution towards the Castle conservation
6. Other sundry items

5. Public Benefit Statement

The Friends objectives are to provide access and presentation at the Castle. The Friends promote the history and heritage of the site to visitors and provide a venue for local schools, colleges and universities. The Castle hosts medieval re-enactments and living history societies, which recreate all aspects of life during the Middle Ages.

We have managed to run guided tours three times a week in April, May, June, July, August and September, organise Easter bunny, Halloween and Christmas events and have 9 educational school tours. We have liaised with the schools to ensure their visits fit into the school's curriculum, they have workbooks which have been compiled by the Friends and vetted by the schools to assist with the tour.

6. How we fulfilled our Aims

The Friends set up a training programme for potential new tour guides to shadow our experienced guides and we are continuing this by making a more structured approach. The programme of guided tours last year provided us with useful positive feedback for the trustees. As a result, this coming year we will be providing one tour on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and a Sunday.

The trustees have reviewed their strategic aims and objectives to enhance the way we do business. To enable us to comply with legislation regarding young and vulnerable people a number of the friends have been DBS checked and a further 3 more have applied.



7. Special Events and Year Highlights

The past year has seen the trustees engaging with local Swansea Council representatives to with the aim to enhance the profile of the castle.

The volunteer numbers have increased slightly since reopening but we are always looking for volunteers to join and commit whatever they can to help keeping the castle opening and functioning effectively.

This year has seen the Friends of Oystermouth Castle recognised by King Charles and have been awarded the Kings Award for Volunteer Services (KAVS). This is a prestigious award recognising all the hard work that the Friends do to keep the castle operating for the benefit of the visitors and community alike.

During the past year the Friends formed separate teams for tour guides, events organisation and odd jobs, extended their connections with the Ostreme Theatre Players who gave magnificent support when called upon and continued our ties with Mumbles Community Council.

The Friends and Swansea Council are still engaged with Hiraeth Architecture to carry out the next stage of our feasibility study / planning application. The plans for the proposed facility are now being assessed by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) which is RIBA stage 4, the proposals as per last years report included a new reception area, educational area, shop, toilet facilities and exhibition area. These proposals have been helped by a grant of £148,020.00p from the UK shared prosperity fund as part of the UK government levelling up agenda. The Friends have contributed to this project by paying for an additional ecology report which has cost £2,535.67p. We have engaged Hiraeth Architects to work on our behalf with surveyors, CADW and Swansea council. When this stage is completed, we will move onto the build stage which is estimated to be in excess of £1.5 million, the castle will then be in a position looking forward to giving a better experience for visitors, improved working conditions for the Friends and we will be able to put on more events.

8. Future Plans

- Ensure the Castle is a safe and presentable building for the Friends and its visitors
- Tent savings can be used as match funding with proposed improvements
- Grant Applications will be required when planning application for proposed building work has been granted.
- Wales Culture Grant to be set against Hiraeth fees and future improvements
- More structured training and recruitment procedures to apply
- More signage
- Use of QR codes in signs and leaflets
- Introduce improvements in line with the grant money received
- Continue to raise funds to give a secure future for our work.
- Continue to work in partnership with others to fulfil our aims.
- Continue to engage with the local community to further and enhance the knowledge of the Castle's history and continuing story



- Promote the Castle as a community attraction that local people want to visit on a regular basis

9. Volunteer Help in 2025

The trustees have been overwhelmed by the help and support that the Friends have given to the Castle and wish to record their sincere thanks to all who have kept the Castle open and enjoyed by the public.

Looking forward we presently have 65 'friends of Oystermouth Castle' for this coming year and recently held a recruitment campaign which has drawn interest from potential new members.

The events team are always looking for help with the productions they put on at the castle, no special skill is required only plenty of enthusiasm.

10. 2026

Looking forward, let us hope that this year is a successful one, and we continue to make progress. With a number of big issues in the pipeline we can look forward with great optimism to make the castle one of the cornerstones for attracting visitors for the county and benefiting our local community.

Appendix 1

Michael Eames
Trustee
17th February 2026



CC16 Receipts and payments accounts

From	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
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A1 Receipts					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Donations & legacies	1,785	-	-	1,785	1,934
Charitable activities	74,601	-	-	74,601	56,842
Other trading activities	12,554	-	-	12,554	10,472
Investments	2,982	-	-	2,982	1,958
Grants	50,805	-	-	50,805	99,957
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	142,727	-	-	142,727	171,163

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
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A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	142,727	-	-	142,727	171,163



	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A3 Payments					
Raising funds	19,839	-	-	19,839	17,824
Charitable activities	3,011	-	-	3,011	2,079
Castle maintenance	3,252	-	-	3,252	-
Admin expenses	6,697	-	-	6,697	14,986
Repairs and cleaning	545	-	-	545	1,175
Bank charges	853	-	-	853	720
Insurance	516	-	-	516	496
Sundry	353	-	-	353	556
Future Developments	56,958	-	-	56,958	99,957
Sub total	92,024	-	-	92,024	137,793

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	92,024	-	-	92,024	137,793
Net of receipts/(payments)	50,703	-	-	50,703	33,370
A5 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	221,400	-	-	221,400	188,030
Cash funds this year end	272,103	-	-	272,103	221,400



Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	1,860	-	-
	Bank account	115	-	-
	Bank account	42,484	-	-
	Bank account	77,146	-	-
	Bank account	150,433	-	-
	Cash	65	-	-
		Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	272,103	-
		OK Unrestricted funds to nearest £	OK Restricted funds to nearest £	OK Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Stock	Unrestricted	2,597	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent examination fee	Unrestricted	858	-
			-	-
			-	-



Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of Approval

Signature

Print Name

Date of Approval



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent
examiner's report
on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Friends of Oystermouth Castle

On accounts for the
year ended

31st December 2025

Charity
no
(if any)

1011377

Set out on pages

1 – 10

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2025**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts 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 the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body (if any):**

Address:

Bevan Buckland LLP
Ground Floor, Cardigan House Castle Court, Swansea Enterprise Park,
Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9LA