ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026



Statement from the Chair

It is a privilege to present this year's report and to reflect on the continued strength, commitment, and evolution of Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team.

Over the last twelve months, the Team has continued to deliver a vital mountain rescue service, supported by strong working relationships with our peer Mountain Rescue Teams across the North Wales Region, partner agencies, and the local communities we serve.

Although Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team is a volunteer-operated charity, reliance on Mountain Rescue Teams both locally and nationally continues to increase.

The 2025 calendar year proved to be the busiest year on record for the Team, reflecting higher levels of outdoor activity and growing demand for emergency support in remote and challenging environments.

With this increased demand comes heightened expectation from the public and partner agencies in relation to professionalism, accountability, and organisational resilience.

Organisational Development and Governance

Alongside sustained operational delivery, the Team has continued to make important progress in strengthening its organisational foundations.

A key milestone during the year was the team's transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st July 2025. This represented a significant step forward in positioning the charity on a more secure and sustainable footing for the future.

CIO status established Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team as a legal entity in its own right, enabling it to hold assets, enter into contracts, and manage its affairs independently of individual Trustees.

It also provides greater legal protection for Trustees, Officers, and members acting on behalf of the charity, and supports clearer governance and accountability in a complex and increasingly regulated environment.

In support of this transition, Trustees and Officers have taken further steps to strengthen governance arrangements, including the review and development of key policies and procedures.



These measures are intended to improve clarity, consistency, and resilience across the organisation, ensuring that decision-making is transparent, proportionate, and aligned with regulatory and safeguarding expectations.

This work has been complemented by ongoing improvements in financial planning, forecasting, fundraising alignment, through committee structures.

While meaningful progress has been made, The Management Committee and Trustees are clear that governance is not a static exercise. There remains further work to do to ensure that policies are fully embedded in practice, governance arrangements continue to mature, and the organisation remains well equipped to respond to changing demands.

Taken together, these changes strengthen both accountability and resilience, ensuring that the organisation remains compliant, transparent, and sustainable as demand continues to increase

Appointment of External Trustees

During the year, the Team also took an important step in strengthening its governance through the appointment of new external Trustees.

The appointment of external Trustees reflects a deliberate move towards a more balanced and resilient governance structure, helping to ensure that strategic decisions are made with due regard to risk, compliance, and long-term sustainability.

External Trustees also play an important role in supporting accountability and transparency, providing assurance that the organisation's activities remain focused on delivering its charitable objectives while meeting regulatory and safeguarding expectations.

External Trustees bring independent challenge and experience that complements the operational knowledge within the organisation.

Looking Ahead – Premises, Assets, and Organisational Risk

Looking ahead, a key strategic priority for the Team will be to secure a more sustainable and suitable operational base. At present, vehicles and equipment are stored at two locations. While this arrangement has served the Team to date, it presents challenges in terms of efficiency, oversight, and long-term resilience as operational demand grows, and the scale and value of assets continues to increase.

As a CIO, The Team has a clear responsibility to ensure that assets are managed prudently and in a way that supports the Charity's objectives.

Over the coming year, the Team will continue to explore options to centralise assets within a single operational base, with any future solution assessed carefully against defined criteria including operational suitability, affordability, accessibility, and long-term sustainability.

The Management Committee and Trustees are mindful of the need to balance ambition with caution and will ensure that financial and organisational risks are fully understood before any commitments are made.

In parallel, Trustees will continue work to define and strengthen the Team's approach to organisational risk. While risk management is already embedded within operational rescue activity, there is a growing need to articulate and manage wider organisational risks, including those associated with governance, finance, safeguarding, facilities, compliance, and volunteer sustainability.

Developing a clearer and shared understanding of these risks will support better decision-making, inform future planning, and help ensure that risks are managed proportionately rather than reactively.

Together, this work on premises, assets, and organisational risk forms a core part of the Team's wider efforts to future-proof the organisation, strengthen resilience, and ensure Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team remains capable of meeting the demands placed upon it.

Operational Capability and Volunteer Commitment

Operational capability continues to be underpinned by regular training, skills development, and investment in equipment and procedures. Improvements to the onboarding process for new members, alongside enhancements in technical competence, have helped maintain the Team's readiness during a year of exceptional demand.

To conclude, I would like to express sincere thanks to:

- All Team members, for the time they give as volunteers attending call-outs, training, and maintaining operational readiness. In particular, I wish to acknowledge those members who additionally serve as Officers and Committee members on the Management and Operations Committees. The significant extra time, effort, and responsibility these roles require, often undertaken alongside full operational duties should not be underestimated. Their contribution is critical to the long-term resilience of the Team.

- Families, friends, and employers, for their understanding and continued support, without which our volunteers could not respond at all hours.
- Members of the public, local businesses, and partner organisations, whose financial support and generosity enable the Team to remain operational.
- Our non-operational supporters, who provide invaluable administrative and organisational assistance when called upon.

While challenges remain, the dedication of our volunteers, the support of our communities, and the continued strengthening of governance arrangements give confidence that Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team is well placed to meet the future and continue delivering its charitable objectives responsibly.

Ian Pilcher, ASART Chair.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The Trustees of Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team held their inaugural meeting on 11th December 2025. The Charity Commission's requirement is for a minimum of three Trustees and no maximum number.

ASART currently has two external trustees, and four Trustees who are also full team members. New Trustees may be elected by the members at a general meeting or appointed by the Trustees in accordance with the constitution.

The role of Trustees is to support their charity and to assist in achieving their aims. They can be considered a 'critical friend'. Trustees are responsible for the overall control of a charity and must ensure that it's doing what it was set up to do. The Trustees must maintain a clear vision to ensure the team upholds its charitable purposes.

A period of familiarisation for all new Trustees included a study of the legal requirements for Trustees and an understanding of their main duties. Trustees were made aware of the charitable status of the team as a CIO, which was registered in July 2025. All Trustees are encouraged to become familiar with the general running and operation of NWMRA and MREW and, ASART in particular.

The Trustees recognise that ASART faces many challenges and changes in the years ahead particularly the acquisition of a new team base.

In line with legislation, the Trustees will continue to update themselves on all issues relevant to the team. Going forward, they will request further, more detailed information from team Officers and Committee to fully understand the challenges and manage the risks.

Finally, the Trustees would, once again, like to thank all team members for their outstanding dedication and support over the last year.

Martin Stephenson, On behalf of the Trustee.

TEAM LEADER'S REPORT

From the 1st April 2025 to the 31st March 2026 the team responded to 63 call outs, of which, 50 led to deployments. The remaining 13 call outs were either dealt with by the call handlers or the team was stood down following further investigation. This compares with 54 and 43 in 2024/2025, 50 and 37 in 2023/2024 with 50 and 41 in 2022/2023.

As with all other rescue teams incidents are increasing but as previously reported, at this time, I believe the callout rate to be sustainable for Aberdyfi SART. This increase is no doubt driven by social media and the increased awareness of the accessibility of our hills and mountains whilst not necessarily having the skills and experience to make good judgement calls. This is reflected in a couple of rescues of walkers benighted and trapped by bad weather in the summit hut on Cadair Idris. However, it should still be noted that many of our injured casualties are still experienced hill walkers who are just having a bad day.

Active team membership is at 49 members. The previous intake of trainees from January 2024 are now full team members and fully integrated into the team and are making valuable contributions. The most recent intake of trainees from December 2025 are showing great commitment to the team and it is great to see future generations of rescuers developing skills and commitment to carry the team forward. The search for a base has continued throughout the year and we are hopeful that this search will come to a conclusion in the coming year.

Aberdyfi SART featured in some of the episodes of the second series of SOS Extreme Rescue which was first aired in summer of 2025. There is no doubt that the series raises the profile of Mountain Rescue in North Wales. This is highlighted by members of the public having seen the programme approaching the team at various events we have been present at. The third series is being filmed over the coming year.



The main challenge for the team remains the time commitment required to maintain equipment, governance, paperwork, inspection and training. The majority of this comes from external sources, a recent example is having to have CRB checks completed for all team members by the end of 2026.

The team moves into the coming year in a strong position and hopefully at the next AGM, will be in our own base.

Phil Britton, ASART Team Leader

TREASURER'S REPORT

The team accounts have been complicated this year due to the Team's transfer to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status which took effect on 1st July 2025. The previous unincorporated charity and the new CIO are technically different charities and so it was necessary to open new bank accounts and maintain accounts for each charity separately while they overlapped through this financial year.

Therefore, two balance sheets are attached. These show the balance in the legacy accounts are zero at the end of year and the balance in the CIO is a very healthy £81,395.39. Overall expenditure and income for the team are the combined totals from the two accounts, i.e. expenditure of £44,109.64 and income of £71,534.29. Both these figures are higher than in recent years.

Expenditure was raised by the following exceptional one-off items: 2 Cascade stretchers (£14,206); waterproof trousers for all team members (£4,625) (jackets were purchased in the previous financial year); contributions towards boots for team members (£2,667). Excluding these items gives a "routine" expenditure of £22,611.

Income has been boosted by several large, unexpected donations plus grants of £12,755 from NWMRA to cover the new stretchers (excl. VAT) and servicing of one of the old stretchers.



VAT of £953 has been reclaimed for expenditure by the legacy charity and a claim for £4,702 is now being submitted to cover the CIO expenditure in this financial year. There is also £751 to be claimed in Gift Aid.

During the year the Committee has decided to put aside reserves for specific anticipated future expenditure. The expectation is that these will be added to as funds become available. These are a vehicle replacement fund standing at £15,000 and funds of £30,697 towards a new base. Residual reserves stand at £32,989. The VAT and Gift Aid claims mentioned above, an outstanding grant commitment from NWMRA of £1,245 and a promised donation of £6,000 "in the pipeline", will bring this reserve up to £45,687 which matches the target reserve of twice routine annual expenditure.

The annual income for each charity exceeds the Charity Commission threshold of £25k which requires us to submit independent examiner's reports from a suitably qualified financial professional.

Paul Aslin, ASART Treasurer

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

There have been four major purchases of equipment this year:

- A large batch of replacement helmets
- Two new cascade stretchers to replace the old Bell stretchers.
- Consolidation of hill ropes to be all EN1891-A type.
- Two new clutches so technical rope kits are now interchangeable.

We are very appreciative to NWMRA for giving us the funds to purchase the clutches and stretchers.

There have been some challenges with equipment this year. The old Bell stretcher servicing was very delayed by the servicing company, Lyon, and then this was compounded by the concurrent news from MREW that they were stopping funding for stretcher services. The delays in servicing meant that we were left without an in-service stretcher for almost two months at the end of 2025. Whilst our stretchers were still safe for extracting casualties on solid ground, they did not meet the safety standards for a technical rope rescue or helicopter winching. Fortunately, a neighbouring team stepped in, and the Ogwen Mountain Rescue Team loaned us a spare Bell stretcher and NWMRA paid for the service that MREW did not.



The recent batch of team issue waterproof trousers bought in the previous year appear to not be very waterproof. It transpires that this is an industry wide issue with new regulations regarding materials used for waterproofing. There have also been some issues with team issue torches, which is still being investigated.

Having two separate bases for our vehicles has meant maintaining equipment is quite an onerous and lengthy task requiring a 40-mile round trip. We are hoping this problem will be resolved in the coming year with the possibility of one central base location.

I will be stepping down as equipment officer this year and want to thank all team members who have contributed to looking after and inspecting equipment over recent years. I wish my successor an easy and hassle-free time for the next year.

Tom Hooley, ASART Equipment Officer

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

The aim of the team's annual training programme is to deliver a broad, relevant, and engaging schedule that continually revisits our core competencies while maintaining operational capability, efficiency, and, above all, safety.



The team operates across a large and often remote geographical area of almost 1,000 square kilometres. Our 50 volunteer members are dispersed throughout this area and beyond, with some travelling up to an hour to attend training sessions. In this context, it is essential that training is not only purposeful but also motivating, so that members' significant voluntary commitment is valued and sustained.

To achieve this, we ensure that the training programme remains varied, practical, and engaging. Delivery methods include online lectures, demonstrations, structured taught sessions, and realistic scenario-based exercises. We also enhance the programme by working with external partners, such as the Welsh Ambulance Service (WAST), to bring additional expertise and realism to our training.

Training activities throughout the year addressed a wide range of subjects aligned with our core competency framework, including:

- Fatal incident protocols, wellbeing support, and effective communication
- Steep ground skills and casualty extraction
- Navigation and search techniques
- Medical and trauma assessment and treatment
- Casualty packaging and transportation
- Area orientation and local knowledge
- Common issues encountered during callouts

Over the reporting period, the team delivered 29 whole-team training sessions, with an average attendance of 18 members per session. In addition, 17 specialist group training events were held, including sessions for Remote Rescue Medical Technicians (RRMT) and Technical Rope Rescue (TRR) personnel.



Across all whole-team training events, there were 599 individual attendances, equating to approximately 998 volunteer hours of training. These figures do not include the considerable time invested in planning, preparation, and delivery by team members, nor additional group training sessions, specialist courses, or travel to external facilities such as the Bristow Coastguard helicopter base.

Attendance levels vary across the team, and this remains an area for continued improvement. Encouraging less regular attendees to maintain their competencies and remain engaged in team development will be an important focus going forward.

The introduction of a new competency tracking system has already begun to strengthen our ability to identify training gaps, both in terms of subject coverage and individual skill maintenance. This will allow training to be targeted more effectively in the future and ensure operational readiness is maintained across the team.

Goals for the coming year

- Maintain and improve attendance at training events
- Continue development of competency recording and monitoring

Finally, I would like to thank all those involved in supporting, planning, and delivering training over the past year. This includes both internal team members and our external partners, whose contributions are vital to the success of the programme.

Rob Goodsell, ASART Training Officer

WINTER TRAINING REPORT



Winter skills were identified as a training priority, and in response ASART organised a week-long training course in the Cairngorms, Creag Meagaidh, and West Highlands in February 2026. With Newtonmore Hostel as a base, a group of 7 undertook training in the use of ice axe and crampons, winter and poor visibility navigation, avalanche awareness, avoidance and rescue, and emergency snow shelters. A highlight of the trip was completion of the Ring of Steall ridge walk to be greeted by a Pine Marten in Glen Nevis. The team now has three qualified Winter Mountain Leaders and it is hoped that the course can be expanded next year alongside training organised at the regional level.

Sam Doyle, ASART Rope Rescue Officer

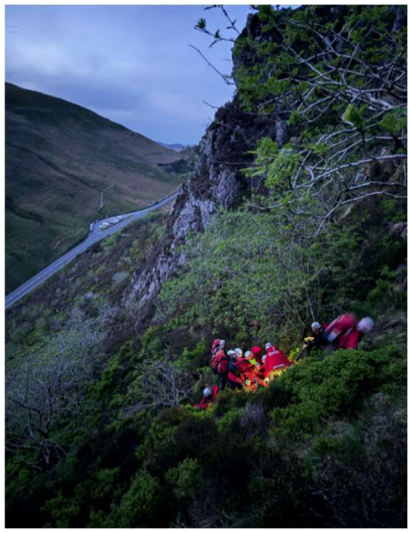
RECRUITMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The team recruited seven new team members in October 2025. These trainees had five months of extra training sessions and since the end of March have been put on the call-out system to attend callouts in a trainee capacity. This will be reviewed after the summer to determine their appropriateness for moving onto becoming full team members.

Since our recruitment day in October 2025, we have had nine people contact us asking about joining the team. We are not expecting to recruit in 2026, and we will review this situation in 2027.

Jade Phillips, ASART Recruitment Officer

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT



This has been another busy and productive year for the team, with a wide range of call-outs involving both traumatic injuries and medical emergencies. We have attended to anaphylaxis, asthma, angina, and cardiac arrest, alongside the ongoing yet challenging task of treating cold, exhausted, sore, and often uncomfortable casualties in harsh environments. As usual, lower-limb injuries predominated, often requiring extended casualty care while managing pain, comfort, and morale during lengthy carry-offs. These scenarios underscore the value of strong clinical skills, teamwork, and communication on the hill. We also managed some unusual events this year, including an intoxicated walker, reminding us that no two call-outs are ever the same.

A notable number of incidents this year have involved ambulance assistance. These were especially rewarding, as they allowed us to apply lessons learned during joint training sessions with WAST colleagues. This preparation resulted in smoother handovers, shared clinical understanding, and coordinated, confident teamwork at the scene.



The medical structure within the team has continued to develop, now supported by a small leadership group including a medical equipment lead, a remote rescue medical training lead, and a clinical governance lead. This has improved resilience, shared responsibility, and oversight across medical activity.

We are proud to have 21 operational Remote Rescue Medical Technicians, following a joint training course delivered alongside South Snowdonia, Aberglaslyn, Ogwen Valley, Llanberis, and Cave Rescue teams, kindly hosted by Magnox. The RRMTs who were newly qualified in 2025 have worked hard, attended training, and responded to call-outs, and are already putting their skills into practice within the team.

Training is central to everything we do. Over the past year, we delivered 20 medical training sessions, ranging from full-day scenario exercises and practical skills sessions to clinical governance meetings. We now offer a greater variety of training for the whole team and RRMTs, enabled by more qualified leaders. This has enriched learning, boosted engagement, and strengthened the team's shared understanding. Training topics have been varied and realistic, including medication reviews, ten-second triage, and scenario-based care for fallen climbers, anaphylaxis in remote settings, and some lighter but surprisingly useful exercises, such as treating Santa's elves during stormy December training. This training directly influences our hillside operations, refining our response to incidents and our ability to work together under pressure.

This year, we have taken substantial steps to upgrade medical equipment and readiness. All RRMT personal kits have been reviewed and improved, and every RRMT has received the updated medication formularies. Training capability increased with a second full medical equipment set mirroring operational kits, supporting more realistic sessions and

parallel group training. We also added airway and intramuscular injection mannequins for hands-on practice of critical skills.

I am especially proud of how the team has continued to improve at supporting one another in making sound clinical decisions. There has been a noticeable strengthening of clinical discussion, shared reasoning, documentation, and accountability, all of which underpin safe and effective patient care.

Looking forward, our focus will be on continuing to polish and expand our skills. This will include further updates to the medical kit, ongoing review of medications and equipment, and continued training development, both for RRMTs and the wider team. We aim to build on the strong foundations already in place, maintaining high standards while continuing to learn, adapt, and support each other in delivering safe, effective medical care in testing environments.

Thank you to our volunteers and partners for their dedication and support, which made this excellent year possible.

Esther Tew, ASART Medical Officer

IT OFFICER'S REPORT

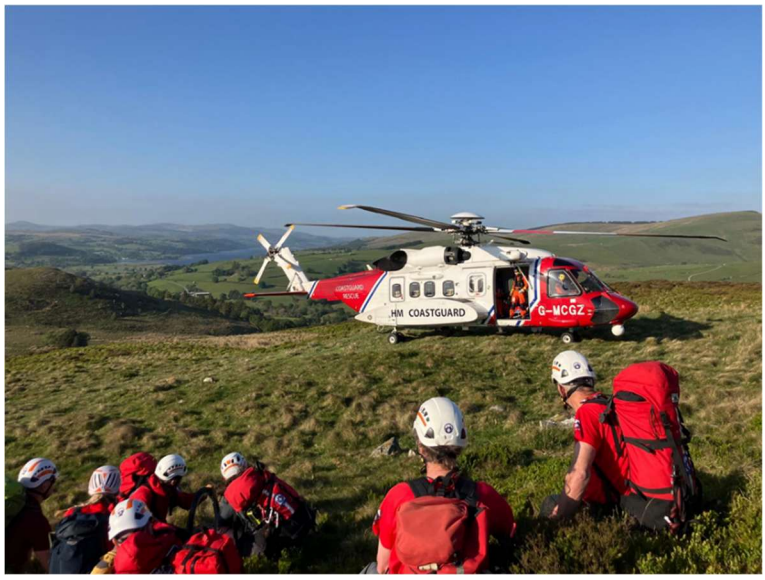
MREW Team members, along with other Search and Rescue agencies such as Cave Rescue and SARDA are allocated an official team email address and access to the MREW G-suite to ensure that communications and storage of MR related matters are kept in a secure controlled environment.

This ensures compliance with the GDPR and eliminates the potential of sending confidential data to an incorrect personal email address. It also confirms to outside Agencies and other bodies that the email is a formal Team correspondence.

The new trainee members have been assigned a Team email address for all correspondence on MR matters. For security, all recently retired Team member email addresses are removed from the system. The seven new trainee Team members have all signed up to the North Wales Police Data Sharing Agreement which is a legal requirement of Team membership.

The G-Suite shared folder network has been further developed and is used to provide secure access to the relevant Team documentation to those who require access. The G-Guite Meet application is used for any online meetings as it is a part of the system provided by MREW.

The Team maintains an online presence on various social media platforms as well as regular updates of incidents on the Team website.



The full capabilities of the Digital Mobile Radios and repeater systems are being explored to ensure that the Team can make full use of the system. This includes Zello which is a phone or PC based application that enables two-way communications through the repeaters of the DMR system which is then accessible via the internet. The digital radios can revert to the analogue channels for working with other Teams and Agencies who are yet to implement the system and can provide a separate channel for use during incidents where additional communication routes are needed.

What3Words is now well established and recognised by the general public with the 3 word descriptor being provided for locations and addresses, similar to postcodes, but with a unique identifier for every 3 metre square of the Earth's surface. Many organisations now include W3W data for locations and assets on their documentation and websites so is increasingly recognised by the general public and more likely to be given to the Team than a grid reference. W3W locations are increasingly used in SARCALL messaging. The Team has access to applications and websites that translate a given three word location to Ordnance Survey Grid Coordinates to work with our mapping applications.

We are grateful to the Ordnance Survey who are offering free access to their mapping application for individual Team members within MREW. This is a valuable resource and can provide substantial cost savings to the Team and members, who are all volunteers.

SARCALL is the primary method of notifying Team members of training events or call-outs, in the format of an SMS sent to members registered mobile telephones. Team members respond with a positive, a delayed or a negative response where possible so that call handlers and the Team Leader on the hill have an idea of resources available. The Team has an email notification facility as a backup or due to inadequate mobile signal and this is set up for anyone that requires it. A secondary back up system using a cascade list of telephone numbers is maintained and can be used in the event of a problem with the local mobile network. Built in redundancy is vital to maintain communications within the Team and other agencies.

The use of Gearlog as a central database of Team equipment and personal issue kit is now well established and has substantially improved the logging of equipment inspections. The use of smart tags on all equipment makes identification and logging a quicker process and saves work by eliminating the paperwork-based system that was previously used. As all Team owned equipment must be formally inspected at least twice a year this is a considerable time saving for the Team. The Professional version of Gearlog is used which has an annual cost implication but is considered to be good value.

There has been considerable development in the background to provide a secure online database of Team members' personal, medical and contact data and this is being further

developed to include various training and competency logging. The increase in recording all aspects of Team details and activities is essential and takes up a lot of time and resources.

At National and Regional levels, work is still ongoing on the updating of the Emergency Services Network used by agencies such as the Police, Ambulance, Fire, Coastguard etc. and to which the Teams have controlled access to via the Police. It is expected that Search and Rescue organisations will be included when the new system is implemented but that this could take some time and the existing systems will remain in use during the transition phase.

Huw Evans, ASART IT Officer

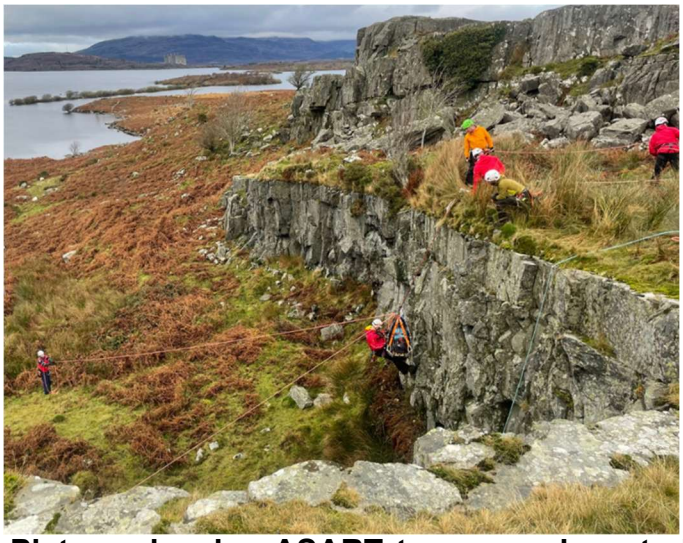
ROPE RESCUE OFFICER'S REPORT

ASART continues to maintain its capability in technical rope rescue suited to the crags and steep ground found in the Team's area. This capability comprises a group of rope rescue technicians that support and train the team in rope rescue. Over the last year several call-outs have required rope rescue, including the lowering of a casualty down steep ground on Craig yr Aderyn (Bird's Rock). The team was also called to two separate incidents involving people reporting to be crag fast – unable to go up or down – on steep ground on Cader Idris, however, both managed to get themselves to safety before the team arrived.

The rope rescue group has expanded slightly to 26 team members, representing more than half of the team. Of these, 22 team members hold external Rescue 3 qualifications with 11 Rope Rescue Operators (RROs) and 11 Rope Rescue Technicians (RRTs). This year, one team member qualified as an instructor for the Rescue 3 RRO course. Several of our team members also hold relevant Mountain Training and IRATA qualifications. NWMRA now has sufficient Rescue 3 instructors to run several RRO courses each year and ASART has benefitted from places on these courses. In addition to the RRO, NWMRA is planning to run an RRT course next year alongside an RRO Instructor course with the eventual aim of having two RRO instructors per team. Looking forward, I expect the rope rescue group to expand again as the current trainees progress to full team membership.

The team maintains a full set of technical rope rescue equipment in each of its two vehicles, including a total of over 700 m of rope in lengths of up to 150 m. Significant progress has been made in standardising our equipment and procedures across the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (NWMRA) region. To this end, we have purchased Petzl Connect 2 lanyards, adopted the CMC Clutch as our main belay device and upgraded our rigging ropes to EN1891-A. We now have an agreed personal kit list for rope rescue for the region which will aid interoperability on training and call-outs. While we have had issues this year maintaining our existing Bell stretchers, it is a welcome step forward that we have recently purchased two new Cascade stretchers, especially as these perform significantly better than the Bell in technical rope rescue. To gain a better understanding of the performance of our rope rescue systems we undertook pull tests on our Lyon ground anchor stakes and these results were shared across NWMRA.

Over the last year, ASART team members took part in two ‘Rope Rescue Exchanges’ attended by representatives from all the mountain rescue teams in North Wales and the Lake District. These were an excellent forum for sharing ideas. We have also held joint training with Aberydfi and Borth Coastguard cliff rescue teams and now have a better understanding of how to work together. ASART also has good relations with the rope rescue group of Edale Mountain Rescue Team leading to the sharing of ideas including a new method of rigging and an exchange of ground anchor test results.



Picture showing ASART team members training alongside members from across NWMRA on a Rope Rescue Operator course

Over the next 12 months I expect further progress to be made in improving interoperability and information sharing across the NWMRA region and beyond.

Sam Doyle, ASART Rope Rescue Officer

FUNDRAISER OFFICER’S REPORT

Supporting Our Work Through Community Generosity

The 2025–2026 year has been a highly successful one for fundraising, made possible by the continued generosity of our local community, event organisers, and individual supporters. Although there was no single major appeal during the year, income was boosted through one-off donations, sponsored activities, and a strong presence at events across the region.

This broad and community-led approach to fundraising not only raised vital funds but also increased awareness of the team’s work and strengthened our connection with the public we serve.



Events and Community Fundraising

Throughout the year, the team continued to attend local fell races and agricultural shows. Income from these events increased year on year, reflecting improved merchandise sales and a rise in spontaneous donations. This growth highlights a widening public understanding of the team’s role and the value of our presence in the area.

We were once again invited to support fundraising at **Red Bull Hardline**, where an impressive **£4,000** was raised. In addition, the team was honoured to be chosen as the beneficiary charity for several major community events:

- **Machrun** raised **£4,000**
- The **British Solo Sheep Shearing Record Event** raised **£4,500**
- **Dafadd Goch** raised **£1,000**

Each of these events brought not only financial support but also valuable opportunities to engage with new audiences.

Sponsored Activities and Individual Donations

Team members **Alwyn, Wayne, and Tom** completed a sponsored walk from **Pennal to the summit of Cadair Idris and back**, raising **£1,425** in support of our work.

Alongside organised fundraising, we received a number of generous individual donations throughout the year. We are particularly grateful to a local farmer who kindly donates parking fees collected on his land, providing a steady and much-appreciated source of financial support.

Raising Awareness and Improving Resources

To support public engagement, new leaflets and a pop-up banner were produced during the year. These materials explain the role of the team, promote mountain safety, and include a QR code linking directly to our online donation page. They have proven useful both for engaging with the public at events and for providing clear information to casualties when needed.

The 893 Crew – Our Supporter Community



Progress continued with the development of our supporter group, **the 893 Crew**, named after the height in metres of Cadair Idris—one of the key locations within our operational area and a known casualty hotspot.

Several new supporters joined the group during the year, including a volunteer who designed both the new leaflets and the 893 Crew logo. The group continues to grow as an important way for people to show regular support and advocacy for the team.

Strengthening Our Digital Presence

Work has been commissioned to rebuild and modernise our website, with the new site expected to go live by **the end of May**. This will significantly improve access to information, supporter engagement, and online donations, helping to secure the team's future fundraising efforts.

Thank You

Every donation, event, and act of support during 2025–2026 has helped ensure the team remains ready to respond when needed. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and generosity throughout the year.

Matt Young, ASART fundraising officer

PRESS OFFICER AND SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER'S REPORT

Over the past year, Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team has continued to use social media and press engagement to share information about our work, promote mountain safety, and thank our supporters. This report outlines our activity across Facebook and Instagram, reflects on challenges faced during the year, and looks ahead to planned improvements.

Social Media Overview

Social media remains a key way for the team to communicate with the public, particularly around callouts, training activity, fundraising and community engagement. However, this year has been more challenging than previous reporting periods.

Following the departure of Jemma, our previous Press Officer, the team has not had a full press and social media function in place. As a result, regular posting has been reduced, and maintaining consistent output across platforms has been the single biggest challenge this year. All work in this area continues to be carried out by volunteers alongside operational and training commitments.

Despite this, we have maintained an active presence and continued to reach a wide audience.

Platform Statistics (May 2025 – April 2026)

Facebook

- Total views: **525,300**
- Total interactions: **8,900**
- Followers (as of April 2026): **6,729**

Facebook remains our primary platform for longer-form updates, callout reports and engagement with the local community.

Instagram:

- Total views: **37,300**
- Total interactions: **386**
- Followers (as of April 2026): **683**

At the moment our Instagram posts are duplicates of the Facebook posts, sometimes with formatting or additional content in the comments due to text length restrictions. At present not all those posting on the Facebook are cross-posting to Instagram

Twitter - Over the past year our twitter account has been largely neglected due to volunteer workload. Future continued use of the platform needs discussion and agreement either way.

Content and Engagement

During the year, posts have focused on:

- Callout and incident summaries, shared sensitively and without identifying individuals
- Training exercises and operational readiness
- Fundraising and community support
- Recognition and thanks to supporters and partner organisations

While posting frequency was lower than in previous years, engagement remained positive, particularly for operational and safety-related content.



Press and Media Coverage

Once again, Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team featured in the BBC television series ***SOS: Extreme Rescues***, which generated excellent publicity for the team and for mountain rescue more widely. This national exposure helped raise awareness of the work carried out by volunteers and reinforced key safety messages to a broad audience.

Challenges

- Reduced capacity following the loss of a dedicated Press Officer
- Balancing press and social media work alongside operational and training demands
- Maintaining consistency and bilingual output with limited volunteer resource

Looking Ahead

We are pleased that one of our new recruits has now joined us to help support social media posting going forwards. This additional capacity should allow us to:

- Improve posting consistency
- Increase engagement across both platforms
- Develop more regular, planned content
- Return to **consistent, engaging bilingual (Welsh–English) communication**, which remains a priority for the team and the community we serve

Conclusion

Despite a challenging year in terms of staffing and capacity, our social media channels have continued to reach large audiences and provide valuable visibility for the team's work. With new support now in place, we are optimistic that the coming year will see a return to more regular and structured press and social media activity, helping us better promote safety, fundraising and the vital work of our volunteers.

Sarah Purdon, ASART Press Officer and Social Media Officer.

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

As a team we continue to provide 2 Welfare/Wellbeing training sessions per year and the welfare officer has made 7 welfare calls in 2026, (15 in 2025). There are two Welfare and Wellbeing Officers in the team, and we periodically email all team members reminding them we have Wellbeing/Welfare Officer appointments in the team. We continue to have an open and positive approach to team Welfare and Wellbeing and to enhance this, three team members attended a regional Welfare event in North Wales.

All new trainees joining the team are briefed on team Wellbeing and Welfare matters before they go on the call out list.

Gareth Davies, ASART Welfare Officer

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

As elected Team Representatives our purpose is to report to the Committee any grievances or particular points our Team members would like raised. These can be kept confidential if they wish.

During the last twelve months we have only had six points presented to us, which were brought up at the meetings, discussed and dealt with satisfactorily.

Dylan Evans and Zoe Stone, Team Representatives

APPENDIX 1:

Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team CIO As of 31 Mar 26
Statement of accounts 2025-2026

Current Account

Brought Forward 1/4/25				£0.00
Income				
	Income Box		£484.24	
	Income Donation		£20,262.83	
	Income Online, PayPal etc		£6,862.18	
	Income Events		£2,100.00	
	Income Grants		£15,369.86	
	Income Sales		£0.00	
	Income VAT refund		£0.00	
Expenditure				
	Vehicles incl. fuel	-£4,113.90		
	Premises	-£2,105.13		
	Team PPE	-£6,009.97		
	General Equipment	-£15,747.80		
	Medical	-£1,046.05		
	Rope Rescue	-£4,283.21		
	Water Rescue	£0.00		
	Other Training	-£1,364.11		
	Administration	-£2,342.11		
		-£37,012.28	£45,079.11	
Annual surplus/deficit				£8,066.83
Transfers				
	Trans to/from deposit account			- £78,000.00
	Trans to CIO			£72,641.82
	Current Account balance at 31/03/26			**£2,708.65**

Deposit Account

Brought Forward 1/4/25		£0.00		
	In	£91,000.00		
	Out	-£13,000.00		
	Interest		£686.74	
Deposit Account balance at 31/03/26				**£78,686.74**
	Made up of: Vehicle Fund			£15,000.00
	Base Fund			£30,697.00
	Current Reserves			£32,989.74
Overall Income			**£45,765.85**	
Balance at 31/03/26				**£81,395.39**

APPENDIX 2:

Aberdyfi Search and Rescue Team (legacy) Statement of accounts 2025-2026		As of	31 Mar 26	
Current Account				
	Brought Forward 1/4/25			£4,072.19
	Income			
	Income Box		£67.00	
	Income Donation		£13,427.89	
	Income Online, PayPal etc		£1,625.66	
	Income Events		£4,245.00	
	Income Grants		£0.00	
	Income Sales		£0.00	
	Income VAT refund		£6,168.35	
	Expenditure			
	Vehicles incl. fuel	-£116.42		
	Premises	-£989.58		
	Team PPE	-£4,880.04		
	General Equipment	-£98.80		
	Medical	-£474.51		
	Rope Rescue	£0.00		
	Water	£0.00		
	Other Training	-£108.00		
	Administration	-£430.01		
		-£7,097.36	£25,533.90	
	Annual surplus/deficit			£18,436.54
	Transfers			
	Trans to/from deposit account			£50,033.09
	Trans to CIO			-£72,541.82
	Current A/C balance at 31/03/2026			**£0.00**
Deposit Account				
	Brought Forward 1/4/25	£49,798.55		
	In	£0.00		
	Out	-£50,033.09		
	Interest	£234.54	£234.54	
	Deposit Account balance at 31/03/26			**£0.00**
Overall Income			**£25,768.44**	
	Balance at 31/03/2026			**£0.00**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026 of Aberdyfi SART

28/08/2026

1. **PLANNING**
    a. **Acceptance**

I, Simon Longworth FCA, utterly independent of the organisation, was asked via e-mail by the Treasurer Paul Aslin on 29th June 2026 whether I was willing and able to perform an independent examination of the annual accounts of Aberdyfi SART. I last performed this for the year ended 31st March 2025. I first performed it for the year ended 31st March 2017. No independent examination was required for years ending 31/3/20, 31/3/21 and 31/3/2023.

For the year ended 31/3/26, Aberdyfi SART transitioned from an unlimited charitable organisation (Registered Charity 1073441) to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 1st July 2025. The new Charity is ABERDYFI SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM / TIM CHWILIO AC ACHUB ABERDYFI (Registered Charity 1211315). It is registered at Companies House (England and Wales) with number CE038490. It remains affiliated to Cymdeithas Achub Mynydd Gogledd Cymru / North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (Registered Charity 700429). The rules of the Charity Commission apply to the annual accounts of this organisation.

The gross income of the Charity for the year ended 31/3/26 is less than £250k but above £25k.

An independent examination is required for the year ended 31/3/26 and I am qualified as an FCA, and previously registered as a statutory auditor who has performed audits of charities, experienced to perform such an engagement.

b. Format of the accounts

The accounts may be prepared on an income and receipts basis.

c. System of record

Electronic cashbook reconciled to bank, cross-referenced to file of paper records and bank statements, with narrative and VAT accounting. Good standard and easy to follow.

d. Business understanding

I have read the current constitution of the organisation and, as a mountaineer, have a good understanding of the purpose and activities of a SART.

The accounts are above the minimum, and below the maximum, threshold to require an independent examination due to donations.

e. Responsibility of preparation and filing of accounts

This rests with the Treasurer Paul Aslin.

f. Reporting requirement

It is my responsibility to report to the Trustees, commenting on the accounting records kept, whether the accounts agree with those records, and whether the format of the accounts is correct. Naturally any other matters of concern will be reported to the Trustees and, if material, to the Charity Commission.

g. Reference

I have downloaded and read CC32 directions and guidance from the Charity Commission and the CC32a recommended checklist.

2. Fees

Although I was approached to give a quotation for the work, as a mountaineer I stated that my work would be performed *pro bono*. My company's accounts reflect a fee of £250 contra'd by a donation of £250 with no net payable amount.

3. Work performed

The work performed is recorded on the checklist CC32a and referenced documents. The analytical review was a very simple affair; income and outgoings were within expectations of prior year performances, reasonableness in the light of business understanding, donation information and the level of unpredictable activity of the team.

4. Other Matters

a. The Committee have responded to previous audit observations and provided clear documentation of policies, procedures, controls and authorisations. These appear to be appropriate for the organisation, and meeting minutes seem to support their operation throughout the period.
b. The Committee has documented their management of reserves, assets and commitments.
c. Equipment (vehicle, rescue & comms) is not depreciated. The costs of replacement, additions and maintenance are shown as expenditure when incurred.
d. Quarterly Treasurer's Reports were provided and their preparation and recording is good practice.

5. Conclusion and justification of reports to Trustees and/or Charity Commissioners

The use of *CC32 Example 4.2: Examiner's unqualified report (for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payment accounts) with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year* is appropriate. No matters required reporting to the Charity Commission.