Our two Assistant Wardens of 2024, Ed Betteridge and Kate Fox, had both decided not to stay on for another year, so, during the winter of 2024-2025, we selected and interviewed candidates for the two positions. We appointed Ewan Turner, one of our former interns, and Greg Lee, who had been an assistant at Sandwich Bay.

Unfortunately, our face-to-face Staff Induction and Trustees' Meeting had to be cancelled because the Stansfields succumbed to the 'flu bug that was doing the rounds.

Steve and Emma arrived on the island in mid-March and were pleased to discover that the buildings at Cristin had weathered the winter quite well apart from an air lock in the water system, which meant that the tanks in the loft had drained and the solar panels had been forcibly removed from the frames by Storm Darragh. Ewan and Greg arrived a couple of days later and the staff, along with volunteers Lynda Roberts and Mike Smart, began to get the Observatory ready for the season.

There were some birds to distract them from their work: a fine male sparrowhawk, a jack snipe and a woodcock. Also seen in the spring were Hornemann's Redpoll (first record for Wales), six Hoopoes, two Red-rumped Swallows, a Bee-eater, and a striking Woodchat Shrike, bringing lots of colour to the Island, as well as a Black Stork, a first for the island. The autumn saw a non-avian record with a Brown Hawker dragonfly at Plas Withy and the winds in September brought seabirds galore. The staff left the island on 3rd November.

The 2025 breeding season brought a mixed bag for Bardsey's landbirds. Some species held steady or improved, while others declined or failed to breed altogether. At Nant, Water Rails bred for the first time on record, although no fledged young were confirmed. In the seabird colonies, Razorbills had a standout year, with 2,280 pairs counted and Kittiwakes had a new high of 408 pairs. Encouragingly, there were no signs of HPAI or other disease outbreaks in any of the colonies.

It was an exceptionally busy year for project work, with several running in parallel. We began our involvement in the Darwin Tree of Life project, adding an exciting new dimension to our work, while continuing the long-term Manx Shearwater tracking studies. Our colour-ringing projects on Whimbrel, Shag and large gulls progressed well, and we were added to an international Little Bunting colour-ringing project – not that we have trapped any yet! We also collaborated with other ringers on wader and Stonechat projects, we continued feather sampling for DNA analysis to help confirm species identities and maintained our involvement in the Yellow-browed Warbler project. We began work with Dr Joe Wynne, a research fellow at the University of Liverpool, studying the genomics of bird migration.

2025 saw the conclusion of the Marine Mammals Project, funded by the Nature Networks Programme and delivered by the Heritage Fund on behalf of the Welsh Government. Our thanks go to Mick Green for his unflagging effort in securing the funding for this project. It was a fantastic opportunity for the Observatory to be involved in something so crucial to the protection and study of marine mammals on and around the island. As part of this project, the first Bardsey Marine Mammal Volunteer Week was a sell-out success, with ten

students receiving hands-on training in marine mammal research, career guidance, and field techniques.

We ran two highly successful University weeks, one in April for Bangor University and one in August, and we are grateful to the West Midlands Bird Club, British Birds and WildSounds for their sponsorship of these amazing educational events. Thanks are also due to Saffron Forrester, who helped with the organisation of the Bangor week over the winter. Our commitment to education was further evidenced by the production of an Education Pack for primary schools.

Not all the work on the island is so glamorous: a new composting pit for the toilet was built and installed and the final result is a neatly levelled, smart-looking structure that we hope will stand the test of many years to come.

Our very successful Guided Walks, Manxie Walks and Manxie Chick Walks continued throughout the season and provided some welcome extra income.

A Members' weekend took place in June and included the AGM in Prenteg. A particularly special moment came when Alicia Normand was formally thanked for her incredible 37 years of service on the Council and Board of Trustees. As she stepped down, she was presented with a bouquet and a well-chosen "liquid gift" from the Observatory in recognition of her long-standing dedication, for which she was also presented in 2024 with the Observatory's Award for Outstanding Contribution.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Penny Condry, wife of William Condry, one of the Observatory's founding members. She was a fine botanist and had continued to support the Observatory after Bill's death. She lived to be 102 years old and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

My thanks, as always, go to Steve and Emma for their unfailing dedication to the Observatory and to Connor, who completed his degree in the summer of 2025 and returned to the island. Thanks are also due to Ewan and Greg, and all our interns and volunteers who came to assist the staff on the island during the season. We are grateful as ever to Colin Evans for the provision of a safe and reliable boat service and to the other residents of Bardsey for their kindness and generosity. I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their time and care throughout the year and to all the Friends of Bardsey for their continued support.

BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		Note	2025		2024
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors		1	95,487.05		43,866.21
Stock		2	1,896.01		1,864.79
National Savings Investment Account			4,249.91		4,245.59
Bank Balance	High Interest Business Account		65,064.46		128,589.70
	Bardsey Flora Account		11,151.29		11,006.45
	PayPal Account		1,669.78		1,905.40
	Triodos Savings Account		65,000.00		-
	Current Account		51,397.13		11,970.27
			295,915.63		203,448.41
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors		3	106,179.50		28,055.23
NET CURRENT ASSETS				**189,736.13**	**175,393.18**
NET ASSETS				**189,736.13**	**175,393.18**
REPRESENTED BY:					
ACCUMULATED FUND					
Balance at 1st January 2025				87,797.26	79,335.11
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year				14,342.95	8,462.15
Transfer to Reserve Account				5,000.00	-
Balance at 31st December 2025				97,140.21	87,797.26
RESERVE ACCOUNT				65,000.00	60,000.00
AW ACCOUNT				10,500.00	10,500.00
BARDSEY FLORA FUND				10,843.33	10,843.33
HELIGOLAND FUND				1,421.67	1,421.67
TONY CHARLES MEMORIAL FUND				830.92	830.92
BIRDS OF BARDSEY FUND				4,000.00	4,000.00
				189,736.13	**175,393.18**

BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,734.00	3,868.00
Donations and Miscellaneous Receipts	6,167.14	5,700.99
Marine Mammal Project	9,830.82	6,000.00
Income Tax Recoverable	1,353.58	330.90
Grant from NRW	10,000.00	11,825.00
Sales	12,060.26	9,436.35
Visitors Fees	67,727.96	64,679.82
Interest Income	1,623.92	2,090.24
	112,497.68	**103,931.30**
EXPENDITURE		
Cristin - Rent Expenses	2,826.90	1,590.90
- Running Expenses	20,788.50	20,654.14
Donation to BITL	-	675.00
Equipment	1,608.20	1,139.53
Bank Charges	19.47	20.57
Report	3,210.00	3,999.95
Sales Expenses	4,777.13	3,296.56
Salaries and National Insurance	56,323.22	52,090.71
Petty Cash and Sundries including Postage and Telephone	2,292.11	1,859.59
Professional Services	5,000.00	7,000.00
Projects	-	1,902.89
Insurance	1,309.20	1,239.31
	98,154.73	**95,469.15**
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	**14,342.95**	**8,462.15**

11255
9831
79788
1624

102498

BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY

NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	£
1. DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE	
Marine Mammal Project	83,833.47
Grant from Welsh Government	10,000.00
Income Tax Recoverable	1,653.58
	95,487.05
2. STOCK	
Promotional Merchandise for Resale	1,896.01
	1,896.01

Stock is stated at the lower of cost or estimated net realisable value

3. CREDITORS	
Accommodation	8,916.00
Annual Report	3,210.00
Running Expenses	13,290.20
Salaries	320.83
Marine Mammal Project	80,442.47
	106,179.50

EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS
OF
BARDSEY BIRD AND FIELD OBSERVATORY

I have examined the Balance Sheet at 31st December 2025 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date as shown on the attached pages 1 to 3 and certify that they are in accordance with the books and records of Bardsey Bird and Field Observatory.

J. S. Craig
Apr-26