Harlech Library and Institute Annual Report 2025

Name: Harlech Library and Institute

Address: Stryd Fawr/High Street
Harlech
Gwynedd
LL46 2YB

Charity number: 702412
(Other names: Harlech Old Library/Hen Lyfrgell Harlech/Hwb Harlech)

Introduction



The unincorporated charity, Harlech Library and Institute, known locally as the Old Library/Hwb Harlech, owns and manages a 118 year old building in the centre of Harlech (population 1,800) in a Conservation Area near the Harlech Castle World Heritage site.

The Harlech Library and Institute was opened in 1908 by the Crown Receiver, Mr. W H More, following a two year fund raising effort with public subscriptions and also philanthropic support from the Earl of Winchelsea and Lord Harlech. It has been set up as an unincorporated charitable trust (charity number 702412) with the aim of *improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the community of Harlech.* The intended use covers meetings, lectures, classes and other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation.

Management

The day to day running of the building is carried out by the Old Library Management Committee made up of local volunteers representative of the users of the facility. The Custodian Trustee is the Harlech Community Council.
The Management Committee meets bi-monthly on, normally, the second Thursday evening of each month. In 2025 there were 10 members. New members are recruited from the Harlech community by advertisement at the time of the AGM or, where this is not successful, by invitation. Applications from suitable community representatives can be considered at any time. Community representatives can also be co-opted, as volunteers, for specific tasks.

The Management Committee members for 2025:

Reg Chapman - Chairperson
James Maxwell - Secretary
Sheila Maxwell - Treasurer, Bookings Secretary
Martin Hughes - Vice-Chairperson/Harlech Community Council appointee
Edwina- Evans - Harlech Community Council appointee
Susan Eagle - Librarian
Jane Chapman
Cecily Carter - Volunteer Co-ordinator
Lucy Freeman - Publicity Officer
Dr Neil Evans
During the year Lucy Freeman resigned and Cecily Carter resigned from the Management Committee but continues as Volunteer Co-ordinator.
There are no paid members of staff and no member of the Management Committee receives any payment other than reimbursement for necessary purchases (all such purchases must be supported by an invoice).

Activities for 2025.

One IT class returned but a second only operated for part of the year. Efforts to attract other education users were partly successful. The centre continues to be used regularly by local groups and is the base for the Harlech Community Council. It is also used by the local County Councillor, MP and Assembly Member for surgeries. A 'warm space' group meets in the building every Wednesday afternoon and a volunteer is available for local history research on a Thursday afternoon.

Other users included a local Counselling Company, Rogers and Jones Valuers, Ti a Fi (Welsh language pre-school group), Clwb Cwtch (Welsh language baby group) and a local church group. Regular drop-in sessions were organised by Gwynedd Council and the Community Policing team who awarded a grant to the charity to purchase new mugs, with logos, and a catering size kettle.

The sale of second-hand donated books in the Old Library Bookshop and in a nearby community gallery continues to be successful. In addition, there was a revival of interest in snooker with the formation of a local team, greater use of the facility and an increase in income. The condition of the snooker room has been greatly enhanced by a grant from the Eryri National Park to pay for secondary window glazing. The letting of office space to a regular user continued together with a second office let for one year.

The creation of a Harlech Archive continued with a carry-over of grant from the Heritage Lottery to cover training and purchase of relevant equipment. Sales of the new bilingual book 'Harlech, When two worlds met, Rhwng dau fyd" were good with just minimal publicity.

The Eryri National Park Authority additionally awarded a grant towards the printing of a book to be published by the charity - a translation from Welsh into English of poetry by Eifion Wyn of Porthmadog to celebrate the 2026 centenary of his death. Copies of the book will be given to local schools in the area including Ysgol Eifion Wyn.

With the closure of the local Harlech Tourism Association funds of £3907.90, designated for local trails, were transferred to the charity. An historic town trail map was researched and designed prior to publication in 2026.

Grant funds 2025:

PACT (Police Community)	£246
Eryri National Park Authority	£10,000
Eryri National Park Authority	£900
Harlech Community Council	£2,000
Total	£13,146

Financial review

The financial year runs from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The Harlech Old Library operates receipts and payments accounts which are independently examined each year. In 2026 the 2025 accounts were examined and signed off by an independent examiner who gave his opinion that they were a true record of income and expenditure for the year and raised no matters of concern.

The income for 2025 was £33,093 and expenditure £32,819. The surplus on the working account was £275. The budget was discussed and agreed at all the Management Committee meetings.

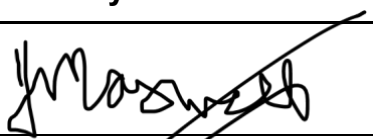
In addition to the working account the Old Library at year end held reserves of £17,512. A relatively high reserves account is kept in view of the age and condition of the building. The total cost of all the repairs and refurbishment required has been estimated as being in the region of £90,000. Grant applications are made, where possible, to assist with this refurbishment and the reserves used as an applicant contribution which is often required to secure a grant.

The Management Committee regularly addresses concerns of any future deficits. Further promotion of the now improved building and diversification, where possible, of use and users is under constant review. There are no material risks to the charity at the present time.

There were no serious incidents during the year which should be reported to the Charity Commission.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature		
Full name	James Maxwell	
Position	Secretary	
Date	10 September 2026	

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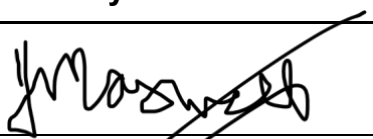
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Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature		
Full name	James Maxwell	
Position	Secretary	
Date	10 September 2026	

The Old Library and Institute/Yr Hen Lyfrgell, Harlech

Charity No: 702412

Statement of Income and Expenditure 01.01.2025 – 31.12.2025

Income	2025	2024	**Expenditure**	2025	2024
Cash @31.12.2024	24,515.46		Water	228.10	190.00
Snooker	1,615.00	1,335.00	Insurance	1,533.01	1,453.58
Room hire	1,586.50	1,808.50	Oil	1,790.25	1,920.71
Harlech CC	2,000.00	2,000.00	Cleaning	915.97	960.09
Office hire	4,860.00	2,635.00	Publicity	8.73	0
Bookshop Sales	2,282.20	2,273.89	Maintenance	6,581.79	2,310.95
Donations	1,016.60	178.04	Electricity	1,486.55	1,051.31
Galeri Harlech	3,075.45	2,791.45	Security	308.40	138.00
Jo book	50.00	0	Phone/Bband	321.66	122.90
Fund raising	939.56	1,081.52	Development	0	0
Printing	94.20	136.90	ENPA book	0	7,955.99
Heritage Lott	0	6,800.00	New equipment	1,027.69	362.40
ENPA grant	0	8,560.00	Postage	66.38	0
New Book sales	520.00	460.11	Printing	0	57.34
Harlech Trails	3,907.90	0	Blue Plaques	0	710.25
ENPA E Wynne	900.00	0	Book printing	0	291.91
ENPA grant	10,000.00	0	Bank charges	39.80	65.60
PACT grant	246.00	0	Heritage Lottery	2,795.28	2,946.38
			Harlech Trails	2,525.06	0
			ENPA grant	13,000.00	0
			PACT grant	190.20	0
			Cash @31.12.2025	£24,790.00	
Total	£57,608.87			£57,608.87	

Cash @31.12.2024		**Cash @ 31.12.25**	
Bank account	24,515.46	Bank account	24,790.00
COIF account	16,793.82	COIF account	17,511.56
Total	£41,309.28	Total	£42,301.56

In my opinion this is a true record of income and expenditure for the year ended 31.12.2025

Signed..... Date: 7/9/26

Independent Examiner