

Afan Arts (Registered Charity)

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended February 2025

Charity number 1178560

Management Committee

Trustees

Mrs G Cawley

Mrs C Evans (Treasurer)

Ms D Francis (Chair)

Mr P O Neil

Mrs Kate Walker

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:

Afan Arts

Charity registration number:

1178560

Registered Office

Unit 14, Water Street Business Centre

Port Talbot SA12 6LF

Bankers

Lloyds Bank

Newmarket

Andover

BX1 1LT

Accountants

Swift Accounting

Market Place

Bideford Devon

EX39 2DS

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES The charity's objects are: - to help young people, especially but not exclusively through arts and creative activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society

Our mission is to produce ground breaking projects that involve our community. We encourage them to get excited about the arts and digital technology. We provide a free platform for the young people of the area to participate in the creative arts, alongside industry professionals.

ENSURING OUR WORK DELIVERS OUR AIMS We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each project and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities and future projects will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Our **mission** to use the creative arts to empower and enhance the wellbeing of society's most disadvantaged people by enabling them to develop creativity, learning, social skills and self-esteem.

Our aims are –

- To tackle inequality by giving society's most disadvantaged young people free access to the benefits of the creative arts.
- To engage participants in projects led by exceptional professional artists in areas where provision is poor and engagement is low
- To listen to, advocate for and give a voice to participants
- To connect, empower and inspire participants, developing creativity, raising self-esteem, enriching lives, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing.
- To promote the value of creative arts engagement in achieving social outcomes.
- To provide high quality work and training to a diverse pool of professional artists.
- To create a society that is fairer, more caring and more inclusive

THE FOCUS OF OUR WORK Communities are at the heart of what we do, running creative projects that develop skills and opportunities, that bring people together, Our main objectives for the year continued to be the provision of opportunities to the young people of our community to participate in creative projects, involving theatre and film that will not only benefit themselves but others.

PUBLIC BENEFIT The trustees have reviewed the Charity's objects and activities and are of the view that the public benefit test continues to be totally satisfied. In forming this opinion, the trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission with regard to public benefit.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trustees consider that the performance of the Charity this year has been satisfactory.

April 2024 saw Afan Arts be awarded Arts Charity of the Year, @ The Mayor of Neath and Port Talbot Citizens award

Performing Arts Award with Buffoon Media

Winner: Denise Francis – Afan Arts

Neath Port Talbot produces more than its fair share of successful actors and singers. We can also be proud of individuals who, through the arts, achieve personal goals and purpose. The winner of this award created this unique arts project that's now become a charity. The main objective of Afan Arts is to help young people develop their capabilities and grow in confidence through arts & creative activities.

Recognition and Validation of Our Work

This year marked a significant milestone for Afan Arts as we gained recognition for the quality and impact of our work through securing funding from *BBC Children in Need*. This support is more than financial—it is an endorsement of the positive difference we make in young people's lives.

For a charity, securing such funding is a powerful validation. It demonstrates that our mission, methods, and outcomes are trusted by one of the UK's most respected funders. It proves that what we do not only resonates with our community but also meets the highest standards of accountability, effectiveness, and sustainability.

This recognition strengthens our ability to grow, to reach more young people, and to continue creating spaces where creativity, wellbeing, and opportunity thrive.



The Charity maintains its validation and recognition as a creative arts organisation, working with the community at large. Each year the Charity commits to working with marginalised groups within the area. It operates and maintains a website and social media.

Over the last 15 months we have continued working in partnership with local organisations, including

- Neath Port Talbot Youth Services
- YMCA
- South Wales Police
- South Wales Police Cadets

Port Talbot Youth Theatre

Our free youth theatre, *Port Talbot Youth Theatre (PTYT)*, continued to serve as a vital creative hub for the community in 2024. Each week, around 50 young people took part in free arts participation, developing skills, confidence, and friendships in a safe and supportive environment.

In January, PTYT proudly staged its first annual production, *Once Upon a Pantomime*—a bespoke script written by Denise Francis, creatively weaving together 14 different pantomime stories. The production brought together a cast of 25 young people, who rose to the challenge of performing on stage for their families, friends, and wider community.

The impact was clear. Participants not only developed performance and teamwork skills, but also grew in confidence and self-belief. Families shared how the experience helped their children shine, overcome anxieties, and build lasting connections. The theatre has proven itself as much more than a creative outlet—it is a place of belonging, empowerment, and pride for both young people and their families.



Cast of Once Upon a Pantomime



A Milestone Celebration

In November 2024, Port Talbot Youth Theatre proudly celebrated its 100th session. To mark the occasion, acclaimed actor and local champion Michael Sheen joined us for a very special visit. Michael delivered a masterclass with our members and went on to direct them in their latest production, offering invaluable insight, inspiration, and encouragement.

The impact on our young people was profound. To learn from someone of Michael's calibre gave them a sense of pride in their work, raised aspirations, and showed them that their voices and creativity truly matter. Families spoke of the confidence and motivation their children gained from the experience, which will stay with them far beyond the stage.

We are delighted to continue our relationship with Michael, whose support reinforces the value of PTYT as a space where young people can grow, dream, and achieve.



“When Michael Sheen came to our youth theatre, I couldn’t believe it. Having someone so famous from our own town working with us made me feel really proud and special. He treated us like real actors and gave us so much confidence. It’s something I’ll never forget.”

PTYT Member Aged 13

“Having someone like Michael Sheen believe in our young people shows them that they can aim high. It’s an experience that will stay with them forever. I can’t thank Afan Arts enough for making this happen”

Parent of PTYT member

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Music for Wellbeing Pilot Project

From February to December 2024, Afan Arts delivered our first *Music for Wellbeing* pilot project, offering young people the chance to explore creativity and self-expression through music. Under the guidance of a professional singer-songwriter, participants wrote and composed their own original songs, developing both artistic and personal skills along the way.

The project culminated in an unforgettable experience: recording their tracks in a professional studio, with support from an experienced music producer. The songs were brought together to form a complete album, which was officially launched in November 2024 on Spotify and other major streaming platforms.

The impact of this project was profound. Participants spoke of how writing and performing their own music gave them confidence, a sense of identity, and a powerful outlet for their emotions. Many had never imagined their voices could be heard so widely, and the opportunity to share their work on professional platforms gave them pride and a belief in their own potential. Families told us how the project improved young people’s wellbeing, strengthened resilience, and sparked new ambitions for the future.



“The project gave me a safe space to express my feelings. Making music has really helped my confidence and made me feel happier in myself.”

PARTICIPANT

“Opportunities like this don’t come around often for young people in our community. Seeing my child be part of something so special has been life-changing for all of us.”

PARENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

From April 2022 Denise Francis has participated in the mentoring scheme Of The Kilfinan Group, a group of senior business people who provide free and informal mentoring to charity chief executives.

The business relationship with the appointed mentor has proved invaluable.

The Group was founded by Nicholas Ferguson CBE, Chairman of Savills plc, in 2003. It now has nine ‘Chapters’ and around 200 members.

Five Chapters are based in London, two in Scotland, one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland.

The Group is deliberately informal; Once matched, mentors and mentees are free to structure their relationship to fit their needs and styles.

FUNDING

The charity has had continued success this year in its receipt of funding. This year, we have gratefully received funding from

- UK Youth
- Neath Port Talbot CBC
- Uk Government

Financial Overview

This year, Afan Arts continued to demonstrate strong financial management and sustainability. While our expenditure exceeded income, reflecting our commitment to investing directly in high-quality programmes for young people, our accounts remained consistently in credit and we successfully reached our reserves target. This achievement provides security for the charity and ensures that we can plan with confidence for the future.

Even more encouraging is the growth we have seen in the current financial period. In just the first seven months, we have already raised **over 40% more** than during the whole of the previous year. This significant increase highlights the trust funders and partners place in our work and reflects the growing recognition of the impact Afan Arts is making in the community.

Our financial position demonstrates that we are not only delivering meaningful change but also building a secure and sustainable future for the charity.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, Afan Arts is committed to building on the success of our programmes by expanding opportunities for creativity, wellbeing, and community connection. Through *Creative Communities*, we aim to develop new projects that bring together young people, families, and local residents to share stories, explore the arts, and strengthen community pride.

Our focus will be on:

- **Sustainability** – securing long-term support to ensure our free, inclusive programmes continue to thrive.
- **Growth** – reaching more young people across Neath Port Talbot and beyond, offering them access to creative experiences that build confidence, skills, and wellbeing.
- **Partnerships** – working with schools, community organisations, and professional artists to co-create opportunities that are relevant and inspiring.
- **Innovation** – piloting fresh ideas that use creativity to address social challenges, celebrate local identity, and empower voices that are often unheard.

We believe that by investing in creativity, we are investing in stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.

AFAN ARTS
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act

All incoming resources are included in the Receipt and Payments Account when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy

The charity is not registered for VAT. In common with many other charities, Afan Arts expenses are inflated by VAT, which cannot be recovered

AFAN ARTS
UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the fifteen month period ended 28th February 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 Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s145(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

15th September 2025

Name

Kieran Stocker ACA BFP FMAAT

on Behalf of:

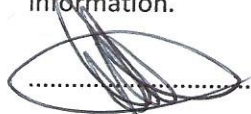
Swift Accounting & Bookkeeping Services Ltd
Ground Floor
The Custom House
The Strand
Barnstaple
EX31 1EU

AFAN ARTS
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Period Ended 30th November 2023 £
Receipts				
Grant Income	30,811	19,987	50,798	110,289
Interest Received	-	-	-	136
Donations	1,077	-	1,077	210
Total Receipts	31,888	19,987	51,875	110,635
Payments				
Film Project Costs		102	102	37,980
Rent		4,950	4,950	5,280
Accounts		750	750	750
Professional Fees		2,065	2,065	-
Equipment Expensed		1,566	1,566	1,006
Loan Interest	606	-	606	1,070
Sundry	156	2,537	2,693	9,848
Youth Theatre Costs		14,673	14,673	19,920
Projects		19,419	19,419	10,523
Wages		57,630	57,630	55,930
Total Payments	762	103,692	104,454	142,307
Net Receipts/(Payments)	31,126	(83,705)	(52,579)	(31,672)
Funds Brought Forward	79,408	11,063	90,471	122,143
Transfer Between Funds	(72,642)	72,642	-	-
Total Funds as at 28 February 2025	37,892	-	37,892	90,471
Funded by				
Assets				
Bank Balances	50,392	-	50,392	115,471
Liabilities				
Bounce Back Loan	12,500	-	12,500	25,000
	37,892	-	37,892	90,471

Declaration

I approve these accounts, comprising of the Receipts and Payments Account and that suitable Accounting Policies have been selected and applied. I confirm that I have made available all relevant records and information.



Date... 15/9/25

On behalf of the board of Trustees