DISCOVERING OLD WELSH HOUSES
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT GWYDIR CASTLE & ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE 2025

The meeting was hosted by Rosemary Brotherton. 31 members were present (5 joined via Zoom) The meeting was quorate.

1 Welcome by Janice Dale (JD) Chair.
The chair welcomed all.

2. Apologies:
Hywel Ll. Davies, Carys & Tim Biddle, Wendy and Paul Southgate. , Lalita Carlton-Jones Gwylan Williams, Jasmin Sudworth and Julian Rivers, Meirick Daves, Andrea Phipps, Andrew Hawkins, Ken Hollamby, Andrew Davidson, Fiona Gale, Zoe Henderson, Peter Masters, Lloyd ???, Margaret McWicker, Irene Reichmeier,

3. Chair gave remarks about the past year:
The chair reported on a mixed year with both successes and disappointments, noting the need for new trustees due to upcoming resignations and the requirement for new editors for the Newsletter and IT/ website management.

4. Last year's minutes have been circulated. That these minutes are a true record of AGM 2024 is proposed by: John Davies and seconded by: Margaret Barr. All Agreed. JD to sign the minutes.

5. Meeting Secretary's Report. MS, who took over as Meeting Secretary in December 2024, expressed gratitude for the support received from Officers, trustees and branch secretaries, mentioned the growth in membership and the possibility of resource skills that could be drawn upon, also mentioned was the quality of Zoom talks and especially the questions/answers following the talks. Thanks to all those involved.

6 Adoption of Annual Report is proposed by: Elenor Carpenter and seconded by: Martin Cherry. All agreed. Adopted.

7 Financial Report has been circulated. RB to say a few words.

RB discussed the organisation's financial status, highlighting a healthy balance sheet and increased membership. Rosemary explained the switch from Square to Stripe for online payments, which improved submission numbers significantly. The group discussed plans to spend money on building records and potentially dendro dating, which can be costly. RB emphasised the importance of members paying in a separate transaction if they use

I've got thoughts on how we can work around JotForm. But I think we're going to have to buy two months in March and April next yBACS/FPS form to ensure their membership is active.

The group discussed plans to spend money on building records and potentially dendro dating, which can be costly.
The other thing is that we do need to spend money. Because we are gaining quite a bit of money.

8 JD - Adoption of Financial Report is proposed by: Wally Barr and seconded by: Dinah Picard. All agreed? Adopted.

9. Summary of Reports. I don't think we need to go into too much detail on the other reports that have all been circulated. But at this point, I would like to thank the membership secretary, our website coordinator, the research coordinator, branch secretaries, and all the others. And a special thanks to Wally and Margaret, who have resigned as the Flintshire secretaries and for all the work that they've put in over the last eight newsletters.
The Chair presented Wally and Margaret Barr with gifts.

10. Details about Trustees have been circulated. Thanks to Wally Barr and Zoe Henderson, who are retiring. Since the circulation of the AGM Agenda, Gill Jones is also retiring. And we wish to thank her for all the excellent work that she's been doing on the house histories.
Election of all (8) existing Trustees: proposed by: Jan Lewis seconded by: Jenny Lees. I take it you are all in favour. Elected

Election of new Trustee
Election of Michael Sharratt who has already been proposed by JD and seconded by RB. I take it you are all in favour. Elected.

JD to hand the Chair of the meeting to EC.

11 Election of Chair: Janice Dale: proposed by Rosemary B and seconded by Jenny Lees. I take it you are all in favour. Elected. And we will be looking for a new chair next year. I would like to stand down in 2026.

EC hands the Chair of the meeting back to JD.

Election of Secretary: Michael Sharratt: proposed by Janice Dale and seconded by Rosemary Brotherton. I take it you are all in favour. Elected.

Election of Treasurer: Rosemary Brotherton: proposed by Janice Dale and seconded by Margaret Barr. I take it you are all in favour. Elected.

12 JD – the election to other posts

Membership sec: Fiona Gale Website manager: Peter Masters
GDPR Co-ordinator: Rosemary BrothertonEngagement Co-ordinator: Ellie CarpenterResearch Co-ordinator: Martin CherryHouses Database Co-ordinator: Jane Parry-Evans Newsletter Editor:
Anglesey Branch Secs: Clare Latham and Brenda Simpson
Caernarfonshire Branch Sec:
Conwy Branch Sec:
Denbighshire Branch Sec: Jenny Lees
Flintshire Branch Secs:
Merioneth Branch Sec:

These elections were taken en bloc: proposed by RB and seconded by JD. All in favour. Elected.

So we're going to be needing:
- Newsletters editor(s)
- Any volunteers to become new trustees.

Peter Masters is also going to be retiring at the AGM next year, so again, it would be really good if you can find somebody who can work with Peter over the next year to take over the running of that.

Currently we are in discussions with a member who may take over the Outreach aspect of DOWH.

Taking these elections as a block; proposed by Rosemary Brotherton and seconded by Janice Dale. Elected.

13. Revised Constitution. There are no proposed changes to the Constitution but the Financial Controls Policy has been updated to take account of the changes made to Financial service providers. All in Agreement - Accepted.

14. Date of the next AGM. Members supported meeting at Gwydir Castle again as a hybrid meeting, but options for other venues are welcome but could we include a lunch, thoughts to JD. The provisional date is Tuesday 16th June 2026.

15. AOB

a) Restructuring: one of the things we (the Trustees) were talking about briefly before the AGM was that we currently run a branch system, but as we've really only got two branch organisers, has the branch system

outlived its usefulness? Should we be rethinking about how we organise it? We've always adopted a bottom-up approach. As trustees, we don't tell you what to do. We would like you to come to us and say what you want to do.

b) So what I'd like to hear your opinion on is:

Is the branch organisation as it is now fine? We carry on and just try and find some new branch organisers? Or do we split it and maybe have East Wales, West Wales and Anglesey? Alternative name for Branch Secretaries could be Branch Coordinator?

Views welcome and the next Management Meeting to discuss on Monday 14th July on Zoom.

b) Information Sharing: Discussion to ensure that information on branch meetings is shared more widely, however concern was expressed about too many attending a branch may be too much for a venue.

c) Team Working was discussed for the vacancy roles rather than one person.

d) Growth in Membership: Anglesey and Denbighshire where the main increase has been over the past 12 months

e) Research Activities. To overcome the lack of local research people consideration to giving mentoring to help new researchers.

JD – Thank you all for attending the AGM Meeting Closed.

Thanks was proposed to give thanks to Judy and Peter for allowing us to used this truly extraordinary building. After the meeting members are welcome to explore the property and ask Peter any question they may have.

After the AGM Meeting Martin Cherry gave an update on new dendrochronology dating techniques the particular technology which is called oxygen stable isotope, which can be more successful where previous methods have failed.

It is worth mentioning that Discovering old Welsh Houses has a reputation amongst, particularly in the field of domestic architectural history, for having actually pushed the frontiers of knowledge forward through the science of dendrochronology. If you look at a map of tree ring dated houses in Wales, the overwhelming majority are in North Wales.

Dendro dating is expensive and thanks were expressed to Margaret Dunn who over the years has raised over a quarter of a million pounds in grants to fund the work

Signed:

(Chair) Janice Dale. *(Meeting Secretary) Michael Sharratt.*

Date: