

**Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026****Charity name: Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group****Charity registration number: 1131782**

| Item:                                                                                                                                                                | Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Objectives and Activities:</b><br><br>Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document                                                 | The Charity's <b>objectives</b> are: to advance the education of the public in general (and particularly amongst professional and amateur historians, architects and archaeologists and local communities) on the subject of pre-1750 buildings in north Wales, where possible using dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) & architectural recording; to promote research into the history of such buildings by volunteers and specialists for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject; and to publish the useful results. Our <b>vision</b> is "celebrating Welsh Heritage through the study of traditional houses and the lives of the people who lived in them".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Main activities:</b>                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | i) Newsletter:<br>ii) Website:<br>iii) Study Tour: these have not been revived following the Covid-19 pandemic.<br>iv) Monthly lectures on Zoom have become a regular and well attended part of our annual programme.<br>v) <b>Branches:</b><br>Denbighshire branch area, in addition to further visits/contacts to the 15 or so houses whose house histories are being completed with owners' permission, various members have also been busy contacting and visiting quite a lot of other houses with a view to encouraging potential DOWH involvement. And obtaining information for our DOWH database.<br>vi) Raising funds: usually through seeking grants in order to undertake additional dendrochronology, building recording, research and publications.<br>vii) Anglesea Branch:<br>Following a very successful and delightful Social Afternoon Tea at Chateau Rhianfa last December, we have had our usual break over the winter months. We have been working on getting our membership records up to date and aligned with central records and we appreciate all the help we've had from Rosemary on this matter. We currently have over 50 people aligned to the DOWH Anglesey branch and growing! We generally achieve between 15 - 25 people attending each of our visits and we had some really excellent events right across the 2025 year.<br>viii) Flintshire Branch:<br>It is hope that this branch will become active during 2026/2027. |

| Item:                                                                                                                                                                                           | Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>ix) <b>Outreach &amp; publicity:</b> this normally takes place through a monthly lecture series from October to May, The website, and occasional branch outreach events.</p> <p>x) Seeking additional old buildings to study: members normally visit and research such buildings across north Wales, inviting the householders to become involved and give written permission for their house to be assessed, sampled, recorded or researched. Whilst considerable online research also continues to be undertaken. The Edeirnion Project has focussed on specific houses within the Denbighshire Branch area.</p> <p>viii) Raising funds: usually through seeking grants in order to undertake additional dendrochronology, building recording, research and publications.</p> |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit                                                                    | It is confirmed that this is the case.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Additional information:</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Policy on grant making                                                                                                                                                                          | Grants are not made to others.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment                                                                                                                                | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Contribution made by volunteers                                                                                                                                                                 | Volunteers / members undertake and freely contribute a considerable amount of time and expertise to the activities of the charity, especially in leadership roles, house visits and house history research.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Achievements and Performance</b>                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | <p>i) <b>Membership:</b> at the end of the financial year there were 167 paid up members.(inc Hon, Life etc) of which 54 were joint memberships.</p> <p>ii) <b>Publications:</b></p> <p>iii) <b>Projects:</b> "Following the resignation of DOWH's webmaster in due to ill health in August 2025, a new mobile-responsive, attractive, and engaging website that is compliant with the latest accessibility standards and GDPR, has been developed by a project team of four Trustees working with Delwedd Ltd, based in Caernarfon. It is due to go live in June 2026."</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>iiii) Completed work is published digitally on our website (<a href="http://discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk">discoveringgoldwelshhouses.co.uk</a>),-</p> <p>v) <b>House visits:</b></p> <p>House visits: some house owners were contacted / visited in 2025-26.</p> <p>viii) <b>Dendrochronology:</b></p> <p>Within the Edeirnion Project. Plus Isotope dating.</p> <p>ix) <b>Architectural Recording:</b></p> <p>Within the Edeirnion Project.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Item:                                                                           | Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                 | <p>x) <b>House History and other Research:</b> this continues at a number of houses as part of the Edeirnion project and wider branch activity.</p> <p>xi) <b>Accountability:</b> the charity continues to share its achievements widely and to give opportunities for others to participate in our charitable purposes through the website, whilst house visits have also started again (having been paused during Covid-19 and its aftermath). The charity continues to manage its resources responsibly, showing good stewardship through the roles of trustees and branches and through externally examined accounts adopted by the trustees</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Financial Review:</b>                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any                         | Sources of funding for projects will vary according to the focus, geographical location and size of each proposed project. One focus for funding research has received considerable funding and has now been completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity                         | <p>In line with other charities and societies, the charity has experienced challenges in recruiting officials / volunteers. Whilst our membership numbers remain fairly healthy several branches are currently without secretaries and our webmaster has retired from the role.</p> <p>The existing website has become outdated, overtaken by advancing technology, the replacement website is well under construction and is expected to provide a huge asset for our group.</p> <p>The treasurer is stepping down at the AGM, but a replacement has been found.</p> <p>Externally, many archives and libraries are experiencing or are at risk of reduced funding, lowered capacity and even closure, which has the potential to impact heavily on our research activities. An announced reduction to the Welsh Government's funding of the RCAHMMW has the potential to substantially reduce its provision of information and the support that it is able to provide to the research community, to the heavy detriment of our own activities.</p> |
| Other                                                                           | <p>Social gathering such as branch meetings and house visits has resumed, although this has been affected at a local level by some branch secretary vacancies.</p> <p>We have started monthly zoom Any Questions, this is to help members with any issues with their house or community history.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period             | <p>The charity remains in a healthy financial position with £ 9,302.23 available for the running the organisation centrally. In addition, the charity holds £ 2,591.85 in its Project Fund and £ 2,417.14 in grant funds (these can only be used for the purpose for which they were granted). £ 243.84 held in a non-monetary asset (equipment). Branches have £ 2,740.38 available, held both centrally and locally.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held  | The reserves are held to cover any sudden drop in subscriptions or other income so that all invoices in a financial year can be covered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Amount of reserves held                                                         | £1,500.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Item:                                                                                                                                                                     | Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Details of fund materially in deficit                                                                                                                                     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern                                                                                          | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Structure, Governance and Management:</b>                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Description of charity's trusts:                                                                                                                                          | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Type of governing                                                                                                                                                         | Unincorporated charity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Trustees are elected at the June AGM and may stand for re-election. The trustees may appoint any members who are willing to act as trustees if vacancies arise between AGMs. The trustees may allow members to observe their meetings but those members are not permitted to vote.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Additional information:</b>                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees                                                                                                | Agreed policies and procedures have been adopted for the induction and training of trustees. A trustee Welcome Pack is made available online.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works                                                                                 | <p>The charity is controlled by its governing document (a revised <b>constitution adopted on 21 June 2023</b>) and constitutes an unincorporated charity. All trustees gave their time voluntarily and received no remuneration apart from travelling @ 45p per mile and other out of pocket expenses (as agreed in advance and on submission of receipts).</p> <p>Trustees' meetings are held on Zoom three times a year. A small Management Group Meeting is held on Zoom three times a year (and at additional times as required) and focuses on <b>Finance and Governance, Capacity Building and Forwards Planning</b> (including volunteer recruitment) and <b>internal and external Engagement</b> (including IT / Website, PR, Publications and Newsletters). These meetings report back to the trustees' meetings. Minutes are kept for all meetings.</p> <p>The trustees regularly review all policies including safeguarding, governance and management arrangements.</p> |
| Relationship with any related parties                                                                                                                                     | The charity has excellent working relationships with organisations active in related fields. This can include joint meetings, information exchange, collaboration in research and the sharing of speakers and events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# DOWH ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026 Ver 1.2

| Item:                                                       | Description:                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reference and administrative details:</b>                |                                                             |
| Charity name                                                | Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group                          |
| Other name the charity                                      | Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig                                   |
| Registered charity number                                   | 1131782                                                     |
| Charity's contact address                                   | 44 Rhos Manor, Penrhyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea, Conwy, LL28 4PN |
| <b>Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity</b> |                                                             |

| Trustee name                | Office (if any)                               | Date of Appointment                                      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr Richard Cuthbertson, MBE | Trustee<br>Former Chairman (until June 2022)  | December 2008<br>Retiring 2026 AGM                       |
| Mrs Margaret Dunn           | Trustee<br>Former Secretary (until June 2023) | December 2008                                            |
| Mrs Janice Dale             | Trustee<br>Chair                              | Co-opted Sept 2012; Appointed June 2013                  |
| Mr Peter Masters            | Trustee<br>Webmaster                          | Appointed March 2013<br>Retiring 2026                    |
| Dr Martin Cherry            | Trustee<br>Research Co-Ordinator              | Appointed June 2014                                      |
| Ms Eleanor Carpenter        | Trustee<br>Engagement Group Chair             | Appointed June 2017                                      |
| Ms Jane Parry-Evans         | Trustee<br>Houses Database Management         | Appointed June 2019                                      |
| Mrs Rosemary Brotherton     | Trustee<br>Treasurer                          | Co-opted April 2021; Appointed June 2021 - Retiring 2026 |
| Michael Sharratt            | Trustee<br>Meeting Secretary                  | Appointed May 2025                                       |
|                             |                                               |                                                          |

| Item: | Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       | Corporate trustees – none<br>Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity – none<br>Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others – none<br>Exemptions from disclosure – none                                                                                                                                                     |
|       | Since 2021 the AGM & Public Lecture has been held on Zoom, the 2025 AGM was a hybrid meeting at Gwydir and on Zoom.<br>Our officers, branch secretaries and others maintain regular online and phone contact to ensure the good management of the charity.<br>Central quarterly newsletters and other communications also continue to be circulated to members. |

The following DOWH Members' Zoom Meetings have been held:

**Wednesday 13 May 2026** at 7 pm.-Miles Wynn Cato - William Parry (1743-1791) and his portraits for Welsh Houses

Miles is an independent art dealer of long standing and a national expert on pre-20th century Welsh painting.

Wednesday 15 April 2026 -Dr. Nigel Baker .

"The Outside Looking In: Multiple Perspectives on Medieval Urban Buildings with Special Reference to Shrewsbury."

Dr. Baker, is a field archaeologist specialising in historic towns, Shrewsbury, like Chester and Oswestry, was a key market for Welsh goods and had a substantial Welsh population.

**Wednesday 11 March 2026 Fiona Gale** - Fiona, was formerly the County Archaeologist for Denbighshire and is, among many things, a trustee of Heneb, the Trust for Welsh Archaeology. Fiona will take us into what is new territory for DOWH and look at the early years of occupation through the Roman period.

**Wednesday 11 February 2026 Eleanor Carpenter** - A brief overview of DOWH's research in Flintshire. Eleanor is a DOWH trustee and has amassed huge and varied experience, having served as a conservation officer in three Welsh authorities

**Wednesday 14 January 2026. Dr Liz Green.** Senior National Curator, Architectural History, at the National Trust. Architectural History in the National Trust :The National Trust is one of the power houses for research in architectural history.

**Wednesday 10 December 2025 Nathan Goss, Director Nathan Goss** Conservation: Breathing life back into Strata Florida. The great Cistercian abbey of Strata Florida is well looked after by Cadw but some of the buildings around it have fared less well. Working with the Strata Florida Trust.

**Wednesday 19 November 2025 Dr James January-McCann** is the Place Names Officer for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. **Collecting place names in the north.**

**Wednesday 08 Oct 2025 Paul Davis**, Houses in the Hills: dendrochronology and the farmhouses of upland Gwent.' Paul is a professional surveyor and author of the highly acclaimed "Forgotten Castles of Wales", notable for its stunning graphics.

Also a number of DOWH Any Questions Sessions conducted on Zoom have proved to be very informative to people undertaking research. (Held on the second Tuesday of each month).

These monthly Zoom lectures proved very popular.

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they approved this annual report on 16th May 2026.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

Full name(s)

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Janice Dale | Michael Sharratt |
|-------------|------------------|

Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair,  
etc)

|       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| Chair | Meeting Secretary |
|-------|-------------------|