



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2021		31	12	2021

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Our Chartist Heritage

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1176673

Charity's principal address

18 Ruperra Close, Bassaleg

Newport

S Wales

Postcode

NP10 8NP

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr MJ Drowley	Chair		
2	Dr EM Jones			
3	CJH England	Treasurer		
4	M Anderson			
5	NA Vignoli			
6	HL Vaughan			
7	GJ Inight			
8	E Mortell			
9	JC Ferris			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document  
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

CIO - Foundation

How the charity is constituted  
(eg. trust, association, company)

Trust

Trustee selection methods  
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by Trustee interview

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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## Section C Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT BY THE PROVISION OF ARTS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, TALKS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, SPORTS AND HEALTH RELATED ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND BY SUCH OTHER MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The Trustees have undertaken a range of activities during 2021, with due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

These activities included:

- the appointment of two new trustees (Muriel Anderson and Nicky Vignoli); the reappointment of two trustees to a second term of office (Gary Knight and Eoghan Mortell); the completion of the terms of office of two trustees (Stephen Bowen and Jonathan Wilson)
- adoption of an equality and diversity monitoring form and distribution of the form to trustees, members of sub-committees and consultants contracted to work with OCH during 2021
- adoption of the Charity Commission's '*Practical advice on dealing with money laundering*' (pp38-39 of the Charity Commission publication '*Compliance Toolkit: protecting charities from harm. Chapter 3 Fraud and financial crime*')
- approval and implementation of a new OCH Conflicts of Interest Policy predicated on Charity Commission publication *Conflicts of interest: a guide for charity trustees* (CC29).
- rigorous risk assessments for the in-person activities and events OCH organised, to ensure the safety of participating volunteers and members of the public in the context of Covid 19
- the delivery of the *Fight for Facts* project, funded by The Postcode Trust, which included the production of a briefing paper and provision of digital news media literacy workshops designed to empower voters (including future voters) to discern and challenge fake news
- live events including
  - Chartism Redrawn and Banksy art of protest workshops at Westgate Hotel and Barnabas Arts House
  - presentation to Newport and Gwent Literary Club by Peter Strong on *Rape of the Fair Country 60 years after publication* at Holiday Inn
  - open house at the Westgate Hotel with opportunities to meet Harry Iles, sculptor, and discuss with him the Chartist-inspired work he is donating to Newport Museum and Arts Gallery via OCH; to quiz historians about the alleged bullet holes in the pillars at the Westgate Hotel; and to view a digital photographic exhibition of Chartist images
  - Chartist Commemoration outside Newport Cathedral on 4 November
  - launch of Dylan Moore's book *Many Rivers to Cross* at Westgate Hotel
  - 2021 Chartist Convention at Newport Cathedral
  - launch of Dr Elin Jones' book *History Grounded/Hanes yn yr Tir* at Cwtsh
  - live theatre event at Westgate Hotel by Dirty Protest Theatre Company comprising six 10-minute pieces of new writing on the theme '*It all started with a spark*.'

- sports and health-related activity, notably a guided walk to the Chartist Cave starting at Top House, Trefil
- the production of educational materials including a directory of selected open access educational resources and video shorts, produced in-house in both English and Welsh for the *Fight for Facts* project
- digital output enabling a wider range of people to engage in the work of OCH, for example, a recorded lecture *In Search of Jenkin Morgan* delivered by Ray Stroud followed by online Q&A sessions and the virtual Chartist Commemoration released on 4 November 2021.

#### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

For the second year running, the progress Our Chartist Heritage (OCH) was able to make on its Workplan in 2021 was curtailed by the Covid 19 pandemic, which halted all but virtual activity for much of the year. Once again, fundraising events were cancelled and funding bodies continued to channel resources to groups and organisations operating at the front-line of the response to the pandemic or those at financial risk.

For ease of reference the structure of this report follows the structure of the OCH Workplan 2021.

### **Aim 1**

<b>AIM 1 TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF OCH AS AN ORGANISATION</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
1a	Review the effectiveness of the governance and organisational structure of OCH against Charity Commission criteria and other external reference points
1b	Design and implement a programme of development for the Board of Trustees and its sub-committees
1c	Design and implement a three-year development programme to achieve external recognition for OCH's good practice in volunteer management, through the Investing in Volunteers Scheme

Aim 1 and its accompanying objectives have formed the basis of several approaches to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (Wales) (Heritage Fund) since 2020. On 1 April 2020, a few weeks after receiving the green light from our designated Investment Officer to submit our application for funding, OCH received the disappointing news that all available moneys were to be diverted to a Covid 19 Emergency Fund. Our application, which had taken several months and multiple iterations to draft, had been closed and withdrawn. For the rest of that year, the Trustees committed themselves to making as much progress on the first two objectives as they could, despite the fact that OCH was unable to generate income and held no reserves. Last year's annual report noted that progress was solid but slow.

Greater progress was made in 2021. In April, a new Conflicts of Interest Policy and Declaration Form was approved at the AGM and an Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form was added to the main policy and distributed for completion to all trustees, members of sub-committees and consultants working with OCH at the time. In October 2021, at the prompting of the Treasurer, the trustees agreed to adopt as OCH policy the Charity Commission's guidance: '*Practical advice on dealing with money laundering*' (pp38-39 of the Charity Commission publication '*Compliance Toolkit: protecting charities from harm. Chapter 3 Fraud and financial crime*').

In September 2021, a revised Project Enquiry Form was submitted to the Heritage Fund and in October we received feedback advising us, *inter alia*, to explore the support available from WCVA's Catalyst Cymru Broadening Horizon's programme, which is directly funded by the Heritage Fund and targeted at heritage organisations and non-heritage organisations undertaking heritage

projects. In October 2021, OCH submitted an application to WCVA to join the programme and in November 2021 Melinda Drowley and David Daniel participated in a two-hour organisational health-check to determine whether OCH would be a suitable candidate. In December 2021, we were notified that our application had been successful and that the programme would run from January-August 2022. The priorities for coaching support identified in the organisational health-check were as follows: skills audit of trustees and gap analysis; development of a trustee induction pack; recruitment of a diverse board of trustees; policy review and development; strategic business planning and development of a complementary fundraising strategy and action plan.

In furtherance of the third objective under Aim 1, OCH received encouraging insights into the benefits of the Investing in Volunteers (liV) programme from Ffion Davies (Volunteer and Placement Manager) and Haf Neale (Volunteer Co-ordinator) from St Fagans, who were completing their second three-yearly assessment for renewal of the liV award. Nicola Nicholls (Volunteer Development Support Officer) from WCVA also provided helpful information and advice about registering for liV. Costs for pursuing this are included within an application made to the Heritage Fund in April 2022 and may be eligible for funding through Volunteering Wales Grants.

## **Aim 2**

<b>AIM 2 TO DELIVER OCH'S KEY ANNUAL EVENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID_19</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
2a	Oversee organisation of the Schools Chartist Event Wednesday 3 November 2021
2b	Oversee organisation of the Annual Chartist Convention Saturday 6 November 2021
2c	Oversee organisation of the Chartist Commemoration Event Thursday 4 Nov 2021
2d	Oversee organisation of the fourth Newport Rising Festival
2e	Oversee organisation of the Senedd Chartist Celebration

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**2a) The Schools Chartist Event**

The objectives associated with Aim 2 were affected by the pandemic to varying degrees in 2021. Schools were under too much pressure coping with unpredictable closures, online learning and teaching, and staff and student illness to risk trying to co-ordinate a collaborative live event across several schools on a specific day. Instead OCH was advised to focus on delivering ready-made Chartist-themed workshops that could ease rather than increase the pressure on hard-pressed staff. In October 2021, with funding from Newport City Council's participative funding budget *Our Voice Our Choice Our Vote*, Rhys DW Jones and Josh Cranton extended the Chartism Redrawn for Schools workshops to two secondary schools Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed and St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School, working with 198 young people from Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form. The artists presented participants with a team of supervillains, each with a superpower associated with a contemporary social or environmental threat, such as bullying or plastic waste. Participants then worked together to create superheroes, each with their own superpowers specifically designed to counteract those of the villains. In November-December 2021, David Daniel and Rhys DW Jones delivered Fight for Facts digital media literacy workshops to 420b young people across five primary schools, one secondary school and Polska Szkola, the Saturday school run for and by the Newport Polish Community.

**2) The Chartist Convention**

Early in 2021, Ray Stroud recorded and made available online his lecture, *In Search of Jenkin Morgan*, which he had originally planned to deliver in-person at the 2020 Chartist Convention. This was followed by an excellent online Q&A, much appreciated by participants. In early November 2021, a temporary easing of Covid restrictions made possible an in-person Convention. This was well attended with 90 participants, including the new Dean of Newport Cathedral, the Mayor of Newport, local MPs and MSs. The event was co-chaired by Councillor Jane Mudd Leader of Newport City Council and Dr Elin Jones Trustee and Secretary of OCH. Lectures included: *The Rise and Fall of Edward Colston* by Roger Ball and Mark Steeds of Bristol Radical History Group; *Legality and Injustice in the Age of the Chartists with special reference to Regina v Frost 1840* by Dr Joan Allen; *Zephaniah Williams* by Les James; *The Kennington Chartist Meeting of 1848: Triumph or Capitulation?* by Dave Steele; *David J.V. Jones: A Tribute* by Ray Stroud; and *In the Very Sanctum of Oligarchical Rule: Vincent and Tolpuddle* by Peter Strong.

Stallholders found the event well worth attending both in terms of their engagement with the general public and their personal appreciation of the programme of the stimulating and varied programme. The arrangements for social distancing in the Cathedral and for distribution of individually packed lunches were much appreciated and reassured many that they would be 'safe' attending in person. Front of house operated smoothly and the teamwork of the Convention Committee in running the event was exemplary.

**2c) The Chartist Commemoration**

In light of the easing of Covid restrictions in early November 2022 and the success of the online 2021 Chartist Commemoration event in reaching close to a thousand people, OCH decided to offer both virtual and in-person events in 2022. The Dean of Newport Cathedral, The Very Rev'd Ian Black, The Mayor of Newport, Councillor David Williams, the Leader of Newport City Council,

Councillor Jane Mudd, Jessica Morden MP for Newport East, John Griffiths MS for Newport East, Ruth Jones MP for Newport West, Jayne Bryant, MS for Newport West, Dr Elin Jones, Trustee and Secretary of OCH and Harry Iles, Chair of Welsh Refugee Council were all invited to contribute to both events. Each participant pre-recorded their contribution to the virtual event, which was streamed at 1800 on the anniversary of the Newport Rising, just as the live event began in the churchyard of Newport Cathedral. About 50 people attended the live event while a further 1,301 accessed the online event. OCH will continue to offer both in-person and online events post-Covid.

### **2d) Newport Rising Festival**

In July 2021, OCH took the decision to rule out a Torchlit March in November 2021, because, at the time, planning such a gathering seemed akin to organising a Covid super-spreader event. With little available cash and minimal opportunities to organise fundraising events, the 2021 Newport Rising Festival was planned around a collection of flexible, low-cost or self-financing, small-scale, in-person and online events designed to pique the interest of a range of different audiences. The programme included:

- Chartism Redrawn and Banksy protest art workshops, funded by Our Voice Our Choice Our Port, led by Rhys DW Jones, Josh Cranton and Richard Lovell, at Westgate Hotel and Barnabas Arts House, which were fully subscribed
- a presentation entitled *Rape of the Fair Country 63 years after publication*
- to members and guests of Newport and Gwent Literary Club by Peter Strong of the Convention Committee, delivered simultaneously online via Zoom and in-person at the Holiday Inn Newport
- open house at the Westgate Hotel with opportunities to meet sculptor Harry Iles and discuss with him the Chartist-inspired work *Solidarity* that he is donating to Newport Museum and Arts Gallery (NMAG) via OCH; to quiz historians on the latest theories about the alleged bullet holes in the pillars at the Westgate Hotel; and to view a digital photographic exhibition of Chartist images
- the Chartist Commemoration outside Newport Cathedral on 4 November 2021 (see above)
- the launch by Three Imposters of Dylan Moore's book *Many Rivers to Cross* at Westgate Hotel with a presentation by the author, which received a warm reception from a full house of friends, family and interested members of the wider general public who heard the stories that lie behind the writing of this novel about refugees who sought safety and a home in Newport
- an evening of reggae music at the Westgate Hotel
- the Chartist Convention at Newport Cathedral (see above)
- the launch of Dr Elin Jones' book *History Grounded/Hanes yn yr Tir* at Cwtsh which included a fascinating conversation between Elin and Ray Stroud about the book and its creation, and the opportunity for members of the capacity audience to meet the author and obtain a signed copy of the book
- an evening of live music at the Westgate Hotel with local band Eureka supported by 100% Rabbit, billed as 'the best way to celebrate a return to gigs and public events as part of Newport Rising'.
- a fully booked bilingual guided walk to the Chartist Cave from Top House Trefil, which has reopened and served excellent cakes and drinks to the



returning walkers

- live theatre event at Westgate Hotel to a full audience by Dirty Protest Theatre Company comprising six 10-minute pieces of new writing by six different experienced and novice playwrights, on the theme '*It started with a spark*'.

## 2e) Celebration of Democracy at the Senedd

Unfortunately, this event was not held for the second year running because of the pandemic.

## Aim 3

AIM 3	TO BUILD OCH'S CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE ITS CHARITABLE PURPOSES BY COLLABORATING WITH SELECTED PARTNER ORGS
	<b>Objectives</b>
3a	Strengthen virtual and other relationships with collaborative partner organisations notably: Newport City Council; Newport BID; Newport Museum and Art Gallery; Gwent Archives; USW; Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture; Tredegar House; Westgate Hotel; The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre; Art-on-the-Hill; and identify and initiate new strategic partnerships
3b	Strengthen virtual and other relationships with other Chartist groups notably Blackwood and Kennington to promote reciprocal virtual and face-to-face participation in events of mutual interest

While the pandemic continued to make life more challenging, significant progress against this aim was made in 2021. For example, an informal agreement was reached between OCH, Newport Fusion, Newport Transporter Bridge and The Riverfront to pool resources for training and development of volunteers whenever possible to maximise reach and impact and promote collaboration across Newport's heritage and cultural sector. NMAG and OCH worked together to make suitable arrangements for Sculptor Harry Iles to make a donation of his work *Solidarity* to NMAG via OCH. The University of South Wales collaborated with OCH on the *Fight for Facts* project, facilitating the participation of Youth and Community Work students in the pilot sessions of the digital media literacy workshops. Later in the year, Cardiff University agreed to fund a collaboration between OCH's *Fight for Facts* project and The School of Journalism, Media and Culture under their *Innovations for All* research programme. Members of the Convention Committee continued supporting the Blackwood Chartist group with their postponed plans to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town's establishment and Kennington Chartists contributed to the 2021 Chartist Convention with a lecture on the 1848 Kennington Chartist Event.

## Aim 4

<b>AIM 4 TO COMPLETE THE APPROVED PURPOSES OF THE HLF GRANT AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
4a	Install 3 outstanding handmade A3 size wall panels
4b	Install circa 5 plaques for Chartist Ale Trail
4c	Establish a volunteer scheme for maintaining the Chartist Trails
4d	Provide training for volunteers leading guided walks of the Chartist Trails

Throughout 2021, all four of the objectives associated with Aim 4 continued to be negatively affected by a combination of the pandemic, side effects of the pandemic and the weather. Installation of the wall panels was scheduled for Spring 2020, when conditions would have been favourable but by the time the weather had improved unnecessary travel was prohibited. Further complications arose when properties changed hands during the year and permissions became difficult to confirm. Progress has since been made, however; ownership of the former Mayor's House (Central Chambers) and the Mullock building (Griffin Island) was acquired, after a long hiatus, by Pobl who have consented to installation subject only to final conformation by Newport Planning Department. The owners of the Westgate Hotel have also approved installation on a site already approved by NCC. Unfortunately, communications with the Planning Department have stalled since the departure of the Historic Buildings Conservation Officer at the end of 2021, though the situation is now looking more hopeful. OCH stands ready to install three wall plaques in Westgate Square and five Ale Trail plaques as soon as the Planning Department gives us the green light. Funding for the Watchdogs for Democracy scheme to establish a team of dogs and their walkers to keep an eye on the maintenance of the Chartist Trails has been incorporated into the application to the Heritage Fund.

### **Aim 5**

<b>AIM 5 TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF OCH TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS CHARITABLE PURPOSES</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
5a	Deliver the <i>Fight for Facts</i> project to empower voters to discern and challenge fake news and protect democracy
5b	Promote tourism value of Chartism in association with Newport Rising Festival
5c	Develop, extend and embed OCH's programme of online events as a regular feature of its annual provision

#### **5a) Fight for Facts**

Significant progress was made in 2021 on the first of the objectives associated with Aim 5 of the Workplan. The *Fight for Facts* project, funded by The Postcode Trust ran for the full calendar year, with a few outstanding components that were delayed by Covid running over into January 2022.

**Phase One: Preparatory research**

Extensive research was undertaken into the threat fake news poses to democratic processes and into worldwide educational interventions to counteract this threat that use a media literacy approach. The first thing OCH learnt from this exercise is that the rigorous comparative studies of digital media literacy interventions that we hoped would inform our project do not yet exist. Although the volume of articles published on the topic of fake news has increased dramatically since the US presidential election and the UK Brexit referendum in 2016, becoming 'a blooming topic of research', the area of specific interest to the project is still too new to have generated comparative studies. The research is plentiful and fascinating but its findings are often contradictory, contested, limited in scope and provisional; they demonstrate more confidence in identifying gaps in knowledge than in filling them.

The Briefing Paper, which represented the outcome of Phase One, recommended that *Fight for Facts* adopt a contextualised, tailored, person-/group-/community-centred approach to digital media literacy interventions, differentiated by such factors as lifespan stage, roles, culture and learning needs. This would allow participants to identify as a starting point those manifestations of untrustworthy information they wish to address and the modalities they feel comfortable about using for communication with others. It was suggested that careful consideration also be given to supporting learning with peer or other appropriate mentors.

One of the research findings gained salience as the project moved into Phase Three: Project Delivery: people believe that untrustworthy information is a problem for other people but not for them. We believe that this factor may help to explain why open invitations to the general public to enrol for workshops met with resistance or no response at all. In light of this, OCH is refocusing its efforts on more promising formal and informal educational settings such as schools and continuing professional development and is adopting a training-the-trainer/influencer approach to community-based groups and organisations.

**Phase Two: Project Development**

The Project Development Officer (PDO) initiated development of a prototype digital media literacy workshop design, drawing on the Briefing Paper; desk-based research into worldwide digital media literacy interventions; and direct experiential learning from selected relevant programmes. Workshop design was further refined and developed in consultation with organisations such as Newport Youth Council, Electoral Reform Society Wales, University of South Wales (USW): Youth and Community Work Programme; Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture (JOMEC), Urban Circle, Welsh Refugee Council; Sanctuary Project, The Riverfront and Get Connected as well as OCH historians and educationalists. The prototype workshops were piloted online with USW Youth and Community Work students and young people from Urban Circle and refined in light of that experience. During Phase Three: Project Delivery, the first in-person and virtual workshops were delivered in schools where staff were committed to providing formative feedback to the workshop leaders to sharpen the final product.

The earlier part of Phase Two coincided with the months leading up to the Senedd elections at which 16-17- year-olds were eligible to vote for the first time. The PDO engaged with a multi-agency campaign headed by Electoral Reform Wales to inform young people about their right to vote and encourage them to exercise it. Throughout the period, work was undertaken to create and build an online open access learning resource comprising a directory of selected digital news media literacy materials and original informational video shorts, as part of

our commitment to facilitate replication of our work across Wales and the UK (<https://www.newportrising.co.uk/fightforfacts>). The video shorts feature historian Ray Stroud, who is a member of OCH's Convention Committee; Sienna Crowson, Welsh Translations Officer and Corie Mya, Assistant Welsh Translations Officer from Urban Circle; and 'Mighty' Mo Jannah, freelance presenter, producer, myth-buster and influencer. Urban Circle have produced a short video documentary about the experience Sienna and Cory had working with *Fight for Facts*, which can be viewed here <https://ucnewport.co.uk/fight-for-facts-a-project-with-newport-rising/>. Sienna and Cory have joined the Leader of Newport City Council, Councillor Jane Mudd, as the first *Fight for Facts* Ambassadors; we plan to build and work through this network of influencers in 2022, notably in our new project with JOMEC, which is focused on communities who feel marginalised, including refugees and asylum seekers.

### **Phase Three: Project Delivery**

Our original plans envisaged a combination of schools workshops, ideally focused on secondary school students together with workshops open to the general public, offered as an integral part of Newport Rising Festival in early November 2021. Plans had to be modified when the response from the general public was negligible and only two schools with secondary-aged students responded promptly to our invitation to participate. Fortunately all the remaining slots were snapped up by primary schools. A total of 420 students from Newport's culturally diverse schools participated in the workshops which were tailored to help them detect and resist fake news. Feedback from staff and participants was uniformly positive. Participants also shared insights into their own digital news consumption with the workshops leaders and talked about the issues that are important to them.

### **Conclusion**

*Fight for Facts* always promised to be an exciting and challenging project and delivering it in 2021 during the pandemic made it even more so. Not everything went exactly as planned but we believe that being flexible and open we took advantage of the opportunities we had to make a difference.

### **5b) Promoting tourism value of Chartism**

Opportunities to promote the tourism value of Chartism in association with Newport Rising Festival were obviously limited once again in 2021. Press and broadcast media coverage was not as extensive in 2021 as it was in 2021 but remained favourable and more frequent than could have been expected, given the dearth of newsworthy activity (see Appendix A below).

### **5c) Online events**

As indicated above, OCH embedded online events into its provision, alongside in-person events, for example the Commemoration Ceremony, the presentation to Newport and Gwent Literary Club, the Convention lecture by Ray Stroud.

AIM 6	TO MAKE MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON OCH'S LONGER-TERM STRATEGIC GOALS	Ai m 6
	<b>Objectives</b>	
6a	Secure the long-term sustainability of the Newport Rising Festival and of OCH	

The objective associated with Aim 6 has been a high priority since early 2020 year ago and remains so in 2022 as we find ourselves operating in an ever more challenging environment. The Fundraising Summary can be misleading in this respect. As indicated above, a substantial bid for £160K to NLHF was closed and withdrawn in April 2020 because of the Covid 19 crisis, shortly after submission. In December 2020, a bid for £10K to the Wales Cultural Recovery Fund was rejected on the grounds that it did not meet threshold criteria, even though we had sought advice about our eligibility before developing the bid. In between those points, OCH scrutinised the eligibility criteria of successive recovery funds to no avail. We are immensely grateful to The People's Postcode Trust for supporting and recognising the importance and urgency of our major new strand of work, predicated on OCH's commitment to promoting and defending Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the right of all to participate in the government of their country and civic life.

OCH has all but completed the work of making visible the hidden history and heritage of Stow Hill through the demarcation of the Chartist Trails, thanks to substantial funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund (Wales) in 2018-19. With the return to something closer to normality, which we hope to see in 2022, the trails will be promoted to Newport's citizens and visitors alike.

Dr Melinda Drowley  
Chair of the Board of Trustees of Our Chartist Heritage  
May 2022

## Appendix A Press Coverage in 2021

25 October 2021 Newport Rising Festival: What's on this year  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19671611.newport-rising-festival-2021-year/>

17 October 2021 The Monmouth Prison letters of Chartist missionary Henry Vincent  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19651803.henry-vincent-monmouth-prison-letters/>

26 July 2021 Newport Rising comic artists offering free art workshops  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19468518.newport-rising-comic-artists-offering-free-art-workshops/>

18 April 2021 The amazing story of the Chartist milkman

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19234719.amazing-story-chartist-milkman/>

30 March 2021 Fight for Facts initiative aims to fight misinformation

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19198389.fight-facts-initiative-aims-fight-misinformation/>

18 January 2021 Looking back at Newport's Westgate Hotel through the years

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19014744.looking-back-newports-westgate-hotel-years/>

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2a	Oversee organisation of the Schools Chartist Event Wednesday 3 November 2021
2b	Oversee organisation of the Annual Chartist Convention Saturday 6 November 2021
2c	Oversee organisation of the Chartist Commemoration Event Thursday 4 Nov 2021
2d	Oversee organisation of the fourth Newport Rising Festival
2e	Oversee organisation of the Senedd Chartist Celebration

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### 2a) The Schools Chartist Event

The objectives associated with Aim 2 were affected by the pandemic to varying degrees in 2021. Schools were under too much pressure coping with unpredictable closures, online learning and teaching, and staff and student illness to risk trying to co-ordinate a collaborative live event across several schools on a specific day. Instead OCH was advised to focus on delivering ready-made Chartist-themed workshops that could ease rather than increase the pressure on hard-pressed staff. In October 2021, with funding from Newport City Council's participative funding budget *Our Voice Our Choice Our Vote*, Rhys DW Jones and Josh Cranton extended the Chartism Redrawn for Schools workshops to two secondary schools Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed and St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School, working with 198 young people from Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form. The artists presented participants with a team of supervillains, each with a superpower associated with a contemporary social or environmental threat, such as bullying or plastic waste. Participants then worked together to create superheroes, each with their own superpowers specifically designed to counteract those of the villains. In November-December 2021, David Daniel and Rhys DW Jones delivered Fight for Facts digital media literacy workshops to 420b young people across five primary schools, one secondary school and Polska Szkola, the Saturday school run for and by the Newport Polish Community.

### 2) The Chartist Convention

Early in 2021, Ray Stroud recorded and made available online his lecture, *In Search of Jenkin Morgan*, which he had originally planned to deliver in-person at the 2020 Chartist Convention. This was followed by an excellent online Q&A, much appreciated by participants. In early November 2021, a temporary easing of Covid restrictions made possible an in-person Convention. This was well attended with 90 participants, including the new Dean of Newport Cathedral, the Mayor of Newport, local MPs and MSs. The event was co-chaired by Councillor Jane Mudd Leader of Newport City Council and Dr Elin Jones Trustee and Secretary of OCH. Lectures included: *The Rise and Fall of Edward Colston* by Roger Ball and Mark Steeds of Bristol Radical History Group; *Legality and Injustice in the Age of the Chartists with special reference to Regina v Frost 1840* by Dr Joan Allen; *Zephaniah Williams* by Les James; *The Kennington Chartist Meeting of 1848: Triumph or Capitulation?* by Dave Steele; *David J.V. Jones: A Tribute* by Ray Stroud; and *In the Very Sanctum of Oligarchical Rule: Vincent and Tolpuddle* by Peter Strong.

Stallholders found the event well worth attending both in terms of their engagement with the general public and their personal appreciation of the programme of the stimulating and varied programme. The arrangements for social distancing in the Cathedral and for distribution of individually packed lunches were much appreciated and reassured many that they would be 'safe' attending in person. Front of house operated smoothly and the teamwork of the Convention



Committee in running the event was exemplary.

### **2c) The Chartist Commemoration**

In light of the easing of Covid restrictions in early November 2022 and the success of the online 2021 Chartist Commemoration event in reaching close to a thousand people, OCH decided to offer both virtual and in-person events in 2022. The Dean of Newport Cathedral, The Very Rev'd Ian Black, The Mayor of Newport, Councillor David Williams, the Leader of Newport City Council, Councillor Jane Mudd, Jessica Morden MP for Newport East, John Griffiths MS for Newport East, Ruth Jones MP for Newport West, Jayne Bryant, MS for Newport West, Dr Elin Jones, Trustee and Secretary of OCH and Harry Iles, Chair of Welsh Refugee Council were all invited to contribute to both events. Each participant pre-recorded their contribution to the virtual event, which was streamed at 1800 on the anniversary of the Newport Rising, just as the live event began in the churchyard of Newport Cathedral. About 50 people attended the live event while a further 1,301 accessed the online event. OCH will continue to offer both in-person and online events post-Covid.

### **2d) Newport Rising Festival**

In July 2021, OCH took the decision to rule out a Torchlit March in November 2021, because, at the time, planning such a gathering seemed akin to organising a Covid super-spreader event. With little available cash and minimal opportunities to organise fundraising events, the 2021 Newport Rising Festival was planned around a collection of flexible, low-cost or self-financing, small-scale, in-person and online events designed to pique the interest of a range of different audiences. The programme included:

- Chartism Redrawn and Banksy protest art workshops, funded by Our Voice Our Choice Our Port, led by Rhys DW Jones, Josh Cranton and Richard Lovell, at Westgate Hotel and Barnabas Arts House, which were fully subscribed
- a presentation entitled *Rape of the Fair Country 63 years after publication*
- to members and guests of Newport and Gwent Literary Club by Peter Strong of the Convention Committee, delivered simultaneously online via Zoom and in-person at the Holiday Inn Newport
- open house at the Westgate Hotel with opportunities to meet sculptor Harry Iles and discuss with him the Chartist-inspired work *Solidarity* that he is donating to Newport Museum and Arts Gallery (NMAG) via OCH; to quiz historians on the latest theories about the alleged bullet holes in the pillars at the Westgate Hotel; and to view a digital photographic exhibition of Chartist images
- the Chartist Commemoration outside Newport Cathedral on 4 November 2021 (see above)
- the launch by Three Imposters of Dylan Moore's book *Many Rivers to Cross* at Westgate Hotel with a presentation by the author, which received a warm reception from a full house of friends, family and interested members of the wider general public who heard the stories that lie behind the writing of this novel about refugees who sought safety and a home in Newport
- an evening of reggae music at the Westgate Hotel
- the Chartist Convention at Newport Cathedral (see above)

- the launch of Dr Elin Jones' book *History Grounded/Hanes yn yr Tir* at Cwtsh which included a fascinating conversation between Elin and Ray Stroud about the book and its creation, and the opportunity for members of the capacity audience to meet the author and obtain a signed copy of the book
- an evening of live music at the Westgate Hotel with local band Eureka supported by 100% Rabbit, billed as 'the best way to celebrate a return to gigs and public events as part of Newport Rising'.
- a fully booked bilingual guided walk to the Chartist Cave from Top House Trefil, which has reopened and served excellent cakes and drinks to the returning walkers
- live theatre event at Westgate Hotel to a full audience by Dirty Protest Theatre Company comprising six 10-minute pieces of new writing by six different experienced and novice playwrights, on the theme '*It started with a spark*'.

### 2e) Celebration of Democracy at the Senedd

Unfortunately, this event was not held for the second year running because of the pandemic.

### Aim 3

AIM 3	TO BUILD OCH'S CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE ITS CHARITABLE PURPOSES BY COLLABORATING WITH SELECTED PARTNER ORGS
	<b>Objectives</b>
3a	Strengthen virtual and other relationships with collaborative partner organisations notably: Newport City Council; Newport BID; Newport Museum and Art Gallery; Gwent Archives; USW; Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture; Tredegar House; Westgate Hotel; The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre; Art-on-the-Hill; and identify and initiate new strategic partnerships
3b	Strengthen virtual and other relationships with other Chartist groups notably Blackwood and Kennington to promote reciprocal virtual and face-to-face participation in events of mutual interest

While the pandemic continued to make life more challenging, significant progress against this aim was made in 2021. For example, an informal agreement was reached between OCH, Newport Fusion, Newport Transporter Bridge and The Riverfront to pool resources for training and development of volunteers whenever possible to maximise reach and impact and promote collaboration across Newport's heritage and cultural sector. NMAG and OCH worked together to make suitable arrangements for Sculptor Harry Iles to make a donation of his work *Solidarity* to NMAG via OCH. The University of South Wales collaborated with OCH on the *Fight for Facts* project, facilitating the participation of Youth and Community Work students in the pilot sessions of the digital media literacy workshops. Later in the year, Cardiff University agreed to fund a collaboration between OCH's *Fight for Facts* project and The School of Journalism, Media and Culture under their *Innovations for All* research programme. Members of the Convention Committee continued supporting the Blackwood Chartist group with

their postponed plans to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town's establishment and Kennington Chartists contributed to the 2021 Chartist Convention with a lecture on the 1848 Kennington Chartist Event.

#### **Aim 4**

<b>AIM 4 TO COMPLETE THE APPROVED PURPOSES OF THE HLF GRANT AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
4a	Install 3 outstanding handmade A3 size wall panels
4b	Install circa 5 plaques for Chartist Ale Trail
4c	Establish a volunteer scheme for maintaining the Chartist Trails
4d	Provide training for volunteers leading guided walks of the Chartist Trails

Throughout 2021, all four of the objectives associated with Aim 4 continued to be negatively affected by a combination of the pandemic, side effects of the pandemic and the weather. Installation of the wall panels was scheduled for Spring 2020, when conditions would have been favourable but by the time the weather had improved unnecessary travel was prohibited. Further complications arose when properties changed hands during the year and permissions became difficult to confirm. Progress has since been made, however; ownership of the former Mayor's House (Central Chambers) and the Mullock building (Griffin Island) was acquired, after a long hiatus, by Pobl who have consented to installation subject only to final conformation by Newport Planning Department. The owners of the Westgate Hotel have also approved installation on a site already approved by NCC. Unfortunately, communications with the Planning Department have stalled since the departure of the Historic Buildings Conservation Officer at the end of 2021, though the situation is now looking more hopeful. OCH stands ready to install three wall plaques in Westgate Square and five Ale Trail plaques as soon as the Planning Department gives us the green light. Funding for the Watchdogs for Democracy scheme to establish a team of dogs and their walkers to keep an eye on the maintenance of the Chartist Trails has been incorporated into the application to the Heritage Fund.

#### **Aim 5**

<b>AIM 5 TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF OCH TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT WITH ITS CHARITABLE PURPOSES</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	
5a	Deliver the <i>Fight for Facts</i> project to empower voters to discern and challenge fake news and protect democracy
5b	Promote tourism value of Chartism in association with Newport Rising Festival
5c	Develop, extend and embed OCH's programme of online events as a regular feature of its annual provision

**5a) Fight for Facts**

Significant progress was made in 2021 on the first of the objectives associated with Aim 5 of the Workplan. The *Fight for Facts* project, funded by The Postcode Trust ran for the full calendar year, with a few outstanding components that were delayed by Covid running over into January 2022.

**Phase One: Preparatory research**

Extensive research was undertaken into the threat fake news poses to democratic processes and into worldwide educational interventions to counteract this threat that use a media literacy approach. The first thing OCH learnt from this exercise is that the rigorous comparative studies of digital media literacy interventions that we hoped would inform our project do not yet exist. Although the volume of articles published on the topic of fake news has increased dramatically since the US presidential election and the UK Brexit referendum in 2016, becoming 'a blooming topic of research', the area of specific interest to the project is still too new to have generated comparative studies. The research is plentiful and fascinating but its findings are often contradictory, contested, limited in scope and provisional; they demonstrate more confidence in identifying gaps in knowledge than in filling them.

The Briefing Paper, which represented the outcome of Phase One, recommended that *Fight for Facts* adopt a contextualised, tailored, person-/group-/community-centred approach to digital media literacy interventions, differentiated by such factors as lifespan stage, roles, culture and learning needs. This would allow participants to identify as a starting point those manifestations of untrustworthy information they wish to address and the modalities they feel comfortable about using for communication with others. It was suggested that careful consideration also be given to supporting learning with peer or other appropriate mentors.

One of the research findings gained salience as the project moved into Phase Three: Project Delivery: people believe that untrustworthy information is a problem for other people but not for them. We believe that this factor may help to explain why open invitations to the general public to enrol for workshops met with resistance or no response at all. In light of this, OCH is refocusing its efforts on more promising formal and informal educational settings such as schools and continuing professional development and is adopting a training-the-trainer/influencer approach to community-based groups and organisations.

**Phase Two: Project Development**

The Project Development Officer (PDO) initiated development of a prototype digital media literacy workshop design, drawing on the Briefing Paper; desk-based research into worldwide digital media literacy interventions; and direct experiential learning from selected relevant programmes. Workshop design was further refined and developed in consultation with organisations such as Newport Youth Council, Electoral Reform Society Wales, University of South Wales (USW): Youth and Community Work Programme; Cardiff University School of Journalism, Media and Culture (JOMEC), Urban Circle, Welsh Refugee Council; Sanctuary Project, The Riverfront and Get Connected as well as OCH historians and educationalists. The prototype workshops were piloted online with USW Youth and Community Work students and young people from Urban Circle and refined in light of that experience. During Phase Three: Project Delivery, the first in-person and virtual workshops were delivered in schools where staff were committed to providing formative feedback to the workshop leaders to sharpen the final product.

The earlier part of Phase Two coincided with the months leading up to the

Senedd elections at which 16-17- year-olds were eligible to vote for the first time. The PDO engaged with a multi-agency campaign headed by Electoral Reform Wales to inform young people about their right to vote and encourage them to exercise it. Throughout the period, work was undertaken to create and build an online open access learning resource comprising a directory of selected digital news media literacy materials and original informational video shorts, as part of our commitment to facilitate replication of our work across Wales and the UK (<https://www.newportrising.co.uk/fightforfacts>). The video shorts feature historian Ray Stroud, who is a member of OCH's Convention Committee; Sienna Crowson, Welsh Translations Officer and Corie Mya, Assistant Welsh Translations Officer from Urban Circle; and 'Mighty' Mo Jannah, freelance presenter, producer, myth-buster and influencer. Urban Circle have produced a short video documentary about the experience Sienna and Cory had working with *Fight for Facts*, which can be viewed here <https://ucnewport.co.uk/fight-for-facts-a-project-with-newport-rising/>. Sienna and Cory have joined the Leader of Newport City Council, Councillor Jane Mudd, as the first *Fight for Facts* Ambassadors; we plan to build and work through this network of influencers in 2022, notably in our new project with JOMEC, which is focused on communities who feel marginalised, including refugees and asylum seekers.

### **Phase Three: Project Delivery**

Our original plans envisaged a combination of schools workshops, ideally focused on secondary school students together with workshops open to the general public, offered as an integral part of Newport Rising Festival in early November 2021. Plans had to be modified when the response from the general public was negligible and only two schools with secondary-aged students responded promptly to our invitation to participate. Fortunately all the remaining slots were snapped up by primary schools. A total of 420 students from Newport's culturally diverse schools participated in the workshops which were tailored to help them detect and resist fake news. Feedback from staff and participants was uniformly positive. Participants also shared insights into their own digital news consumption with the workshops leaders and talked about the issues that are important to them.

### **Conclusion**

*Fight for Facts* always promised to be an exciting and challenging project and delivering it in 2021 during the pandemic made it even more so. Not everything went exactly as planned but we believe that being flexible and open we took advantage of the opportunities we had to make a difference.

### **5b) Promoting tourism value of Chartism**

Opportunities to promote the tourism value of Chartism in association with Newport Rising Festival were obviously limited once again in 2021. Press and broadcast media coverage was not as extensive in 2021 as it was in 2021 but remained favourable and more frequent than could have been expected, given the dearth of newsworthy activity (see Appendix A below).

### **5c) Online events**

As indicated above, OCH embedded online events into its provision, alongside in-person events, for example the Commemoration Ceremony, the presentation to Newport and Gwent Literary Club, the Convention lecture by Ray Stroud.

**Aim 6**

<b>AIM 6</b>	<b>TO MAKE MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON OCH'S LONGER-TERM STRATEGIC GOALS</b>
	<b>Objectives</b>
6a	Secure the long-term sustainability of the Newport Rising Festival and of OCH

The objective associated with Aim 6 has been a high priority since early 2020 year ago and remains so in 2022 as we find ourselves operating in an ever more challenging environment. The Fundraising Summary can be misleading in this respect. As indicated above, a substantial bid for £160K to NLHF was closed and withdrawn in April 2020 because of the Covid 19 crisis, shortly after submission. In December 2020, a bid for £10K to the Wales Cultural Recovery Fund was rejected on the grounds that it did not meet threshold criteria, even though we had sought advice about our eligibility before developing the bid. In between those points, OCH scrutinised the eligibility criteria of successive recovery funds to no avail. We are immensely grateful to The People's Postcode Trust for supporting and recognising the importance and urgency of our major new strand of work, predicated on OCH's commitment to promoting and defending Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the right of all to participate in the government of their country and civic life.

OCH has all but completed the work of making visible the hidden history and heritage of Stow Hill through the demarcation of the Chartist Trails, thanks to substantial funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund (Wales) in 2018-19. With the return to something closer to normality, which we hope to see in 2022, the trails will be promoted to Newport's citizens and visitors alike.

Dr Melinda Drowley  
Chair of the Board of Trustees of Our Chartist Heritage  
May 2022

**Appendix A Press Coverage in 2021**

25 October 2021 Newport Rising Festival: What's on this year  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19671611.newport-rising-festival-2021-year/>

17 October 2021 The Monmouth Prison letters of Chartist missionary Henry Vincent  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19651803.henry-vincent-monmouth-prison-letters/>

26 July 2021 Newport Rising comic artists offering free art workshops  
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19468518.newport-rising-comic-artists->

[offering-free-art-workshops/](#)

18 April 2021 The amazing story of the Chartist milkman

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19234719.amazing-story-chartist-milkman/>

30 March 2021 Fight for Facts initiative aims to fight misinformation

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19198389.fight-facts-initiative-aims-fight-misinformation/>

18 January 2021 Looking back at Newport's Westgate Hotel through the years

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/19014744.looking-back-newports-westgate-hotel-years/>

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

We do not have a policy on Reserves at present as they are very small however all Reserves are available for fulfilling our Aims & Objectives

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**Full name(s)**

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

**Date**

Dr Melinda Jane Drowley		
Chair		

10 May 2022





**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Our Chartist Heritage

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 December 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1176673

**Set out on pages**

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

**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 requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(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:**

08/05/2022

**Name:**

Christopher J Donavon

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

34 Cae Perllan Road

Newport

S Wales, NP20 3FW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**