

ABBHEY CWMHIR HERITAGE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1196905

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-12-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Tyr Ehedydd
Abbeycwmhir
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6PL

Phone 01597850098

Email cwmhirabbey@gmail.com

Website <https://abbeycwmhir.org>

Activities

Objects: "TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE PRESERVATION AND THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF CWMHIR ABBEY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, EVENTS, RESEARCH AND CONTINUED LEARNING"

Activities: To advance the education of the public in the preservation and the historical and cultural importance of Cwmhir Abbey through the provision of information, events, research and continued learning

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Powys

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,373	£6,036	-	-
2024-03-31	£3,250	£3,371	-	-
2023-03-31	£12,799	£10,134	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Angela Swindell		2024-03-30
Dr Melanie Walters		2021-12-03
JULIAN LOVELL		2021-12-03
Jackie Marriott		2021-12-03
Julian Ravest		2025-04-01
Philip Olivant		2023-05-13
Sian Rosmari Meredudd		2021-12-03

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Abbey Cwmhir
Heritage Trust

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Reference and Administrative details

Name of Charity: Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust
Charity No: 1196905
Principal address: Ty'r Ehedydd, Abbeycwmhir, Powys LD1 6PL

Current Trustees:

Julian Lovell - Secretary
Jackie Marriott - Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Sian Meredudd
Mel Walters
Phil Olivant
Angela Swindell
Julian Ravest - Appointed 1 April 2025

We are delighted that Julian Ravest has agreed to become a Trustee from 1 April 2025.

Julian Ravest has been part of our team of research volunteers from the outset of our Demystifying project. As well as his important drone surveying he has a valuable background in heritage activities and ongoing links to organisations such as Council for British Archaeology, Heneb and Radnorshire Society.

Past Trustees:

Roger Coward sadly passed away January 20th 2025 after a long illness and will be greatly missed. Roger was a significant influence in the recent development of the Trust and Chairman for several years.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's Object is to advance the education of the public in the preservation and the historical and cultural importance of Cwmhir Abbey through the provision of information, events, research and continued learning.

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The Trust carries out a range of activities, many of which are focused on Community Heritage under the project 'Demystifying the Abbey'.

Our activities include:

- Assistance to Cadw in the content of the Exhibition Room at the Abbey ruins.
- Hosting a series of on-line talks that are open to the public
- Organising field visits to relevant sites
- Providing a public facing newsletter summarising the Trust's research and community activities
- Offering the opportunity for volunteers to become involved in research activities associated with the Trust's aims. This includes both desk based research and field based activities
- Provision of training events associated with the Trust's research
- Maintaining links with other heritage organisations
- An annual memorial service for Llywelyn ap Gruffydd
- Maintaining our on-line presence through a website and social media

The Trust is extremely grateful for the substantial support provided by many volunteers. None of the activities above would be possible without their contribution. We are also most grateful to the Hamer family for allowing public access to the abbey ruins.

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance below covers the 12 month period from April 2024 to March 2025

The Trust's relationship with Prof Austin remains strong and productive. Our ongoing research will lead to the preparation of a book on Cwmhir Abbey within the series 'Strata Florida Books' <https://www.facebook.com/YstradFlur/posts/3089811434576204/>

Prof Austin continues to support us with our research and our team have had a number of meetings with him during the period.

Mortimer History Society, Cambrian Archaeological Association and Bryn Titli Fund have all agreed to provide us with grants to enable us to publish the book on Cwmhir Abbey and we are extremely grateful to these organisations for their support. Other grant applications are ongoing.

As part of our research, Julian Ravest continues to conduct drone photogrammetry of a number of sites of interest to us.

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Our Research Discussion Group has regular meetings by zoom and recordings of these discussions are placed on our website and made available to the public. The Research Group have also benefited from discussions with Dr David Stephenson (medieval history), Dai Hawkins (welsh placenames) and Dr David H Williams has very kindly helped us transcribe a survey of Cwmhir Abbey conducted at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. He has also donated some of his reference books to the Abbey Cwmhir Trust library.

In 2024 we continued archaeological excavations at Cwmffwrn Farm in the Abbey Home Grange. Our public excavation on 12-15th June 2024 was supervised by Trysor Archaeological Services. It was supported by a Cohesive Communities Levelling Up grant. Cwmffwrn Farm is owned by Angela and Ian Lewis and we thank them for their interest in our research and their permission for us to survey and excavate on their farm. Trysor consider that the site under excavation is potentially a medieval house platform. It is of sufficient interest that excavations will continue there in July 2025. See our website for further details and how to get involved.

We hosted 4 on-line talks during the period:

- 17th October 2024 *Findings from our excavation at Cwmffwrn* by Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
- 14th November 2024 *The Mortimers and Cwm Hir: the 200-year struggle to control Maelienydd* by Philip Hume
- 12th December 2024 *Abbey Cwmhir and the Conservation of Cultural Identity* by Sian Rees
- 27th February 2025 *Conserving Tintern Abbey* by Will Davies

In addition Jenny Hall and Paul Sambrook gave a talk at our AGM on 11th May 2024 entitled: *Where the Monks trod: recent fieldwork in Elenydd*.

We are most grateful to our speakers for the time and contribution that they have made to the Trust. Recordings of these talks have been placed on Youtube with links from our website.

The Trust uses the eventbrite.com donation method to manage the ticketing process for non-members access to on-line talks. The donation approach has resulted in £462.36 donations made towards the Trust's heritage research fund over the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

We offer bespoke tours of the abbey and village, advertised through our website. The groups donate to our heritage research fund. These tours are proving very successful and this year a tour was conducted for the Arwystli Society. We also ran a public tour of the

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Abbey and village in October 2024 and a public tour of sites associated with the assassination of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd in June 2024.

The heritage walks that were created by a grant from Cadw and National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020/1 continue to be popular, with route descriptions in Welsh and English provided on our website, in the Exhibition Room at the Abbey, on the village notice board and at some local B&Bs.

A public facing newsletter describing some of the Trust's activities was prepared in Summer 2024 with copies made available in the Exhibition Room, the village and on our website.

We had the opportunity to provide content for a display about the abbey at CARAD museum in Rhayader.

Our website www.abbeycwmhir.org has continued to develop over the period. Our thanks are given to Julian and Naisi Ravest who manage the hosting of the website and have designed its overall structure. We also have a Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky presence and we advertise our activities on these platforms too and we also advertise in local publications and the press (County Times and Broad Sheep).

Links to Other Organisations

We give our thanks to PAVO who are always at hand to provide advice and practical support.

We have many links with the Radnorshire Society and we would particularly like to acknowledge the importance of their library resource.

We submitted information on our Cwmffwrn excavation to the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) newsletter and we have featured in the Mortimer History Society newsletter again this year.

As well as being members of The Radnorshire Society, CBA and British Association for Local History, our Trustee - Sian Meredudd - is a member of Cofio Llywelyn and Welsh History Forum and provides a link to these organisations.

Summary of the main benefits derived from the Trust's activities over this reporting period

Our beneficiaries are:

- Our local community in Abbeycwmhir and nearby
- Visitors to Abbeycwmhir
- People who are interested in landscape and heritage in mid-Wales

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- People who are interested in Welsh history

The key benefits that we have achieved over the period April 2024 - March 2025 are:

- An enhanced experience for walkers in the area of Abbeycwmhir.
- An enhanced experience for visitors to the Abbey ruins and the Exhibition Room and thereby, a benefit to local tourism.
- Opportunities for our volunteers and the public related to understanding our landscape and its heritage and learning archaeological techniques.
- Information provided in a varied and engaging manner to enhance people's understanding of the heritage of mid-Wales and Cwmhir Abbey and its granges.
- Opportunities for social interaction in a fun and engaging manner.

Financial Review

The funds held by Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust as of 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Main Account:	£5,336.17
Deposit Account:	£6,146.09
Petty Cash:	£287.50
Total Funds Available:	£11,798.76

For more detailed information on Income and Expenditure please refer to the Financial Accounts, sent separately, for the period ending 31 March 2025.

We hold our deposit account in reserve to enable cash flow ahead of grant income. Within our main account we hold £4,064.15 for our research activities.

Our principal source of funds are grants, donations and membership as detailed in the attached accounts.

Assets held by the Trust as at the end of this financial year total £16,742.86, which have accumulated over several years and have not changed this year. The majority of these assets have been purchased during 2020 to 2023 using Grant money from National Lottery Heritage Fund, Cadw, WCVA and Magic Little Grants. The main assets include 3D Scanning models, laptop and tablet, excavation equipment, a camcorder and projector. They are currently held by Trustees or in our Exhibition Room at Home Farm, Abbeycwmhir.

Subscriptions to other bodies

The Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust is a member of:

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- The Radnorshire Society
- Council for British Archaeology (CBA)
- British Association for Local History (BALH - membership also includes Public Liability Insurance)

Grants Received during this period

The Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust has been fortunate to receive a grant from:

- Levelling Up Grant 2024 - approved March 2024 with 80% due in April 2024 and balance due at the end of the grant November 2024. This grant is fully paid up and now closed.
- Bryn Titli Fund - As stated above we have received £500 towards the publication of the book on Cwmhir Abbey

Membership Report

Current Membership Fees £15 Single £20 Family. These fees haven't increased for some years.

Our numbers have remained constant this year as follows, counting joint membership as 2.

No of Members as at 1 April 2024	47
No of Members as at 31 March 2025	47

Risks and Mitigation

The two main risks that the Trust faces continue to be:

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient Trustees to progress the activities of the Trust	Encourage new and diverse Trustees by an active recruitment process
Protection of Data	We have taken steps to hold much of our data on Google Drive. Actions to continue to store and archive Trust data effectively will be ongoing.

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Structure, Governance and Management

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees. 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, can be found in our Constitution.

Our Constitution and our Policies can be found on our website:
<https://abbeycwmhir.org/uncategorized/policies-and-procedures>

DECLARATIONS

This report has been prepared, on behalf of the Trustees, by Mel Walters and Jackie Marriott using the guidance set out by the Charities Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Julian Lovell, Secretary, Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025



Abbey Cwmhir
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Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust - Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2025

	This Year 31/03/2025		Last Year 31/03/2024	
	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit
INCOME:				
AGM	£32.45		£35.00	
Donations	£310.27		£288.69	
Gift Aid	£422.44		£506.17	
Grants awarded:				
Catalyst Cymru	£0.00		£960.00	
Book	£500.00			
Levelling Up	£4,992.31			
Interest	£67.81		£64.05	
Membership	£586.00		£370.00	
Online Talks and Excavation	£462.36		£986.90	
Sundry	£0.00		£39.15	
TOTAL INCOME:	£7,373.64		£3,249.96	
EXPENDITURE:				
AGM		-£89.52		-£117.58
Assets		£0.00		-£39.15
Bank Charges		-£0.52		
Events		£0.00		-£65.50
Exhibition Room		£0.00		-37.44
Grant expenditure:				
Catalyst Cymru		£0.00		-£971.99
Levelling Up Fund		-£4,600.38		-£207.00
NHLF (Funds in reserve)		-£100.00		£0.00
Insurance		-£274.66		-£274.66
Online Resources		-£578.60		-£289.45
Paypal Costs		-£6.45		£0.00
Postage, Stationery & Printing		-£38.32		-£31.34
Research Expenditure		-£111.39		-£1,165.29
Subscriptions		-£50.00		-£47.50
Sundry		-£185.69		-£124.25
		-£6,035.53		-£3,371.15
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE:	£1,338.11		-£121.19	

FINANCIAL ASSETS:	This Year	Last Year
Lloyds Bank Account Closing Balance	£5,366.17	£4,306.90
Lloyds Deposit Account Closing Balance	£6,145.09	£6,077.28
Petty Cash Closing Balance	£287.50	£76.47
	£11,798.76	£10,460.65
REPRESENTED BY Reserves brought forward at 01/04/2024		
Lloyds Bank Account	£4,306.90	£4,352.19
Lloyds Deposit Account	£6,077.28	£6,013.23
Petty Cash	£76.47	£216.42
Net Income/Expenditure	£1,338.11	-£121.19
	£11,798.76	£10,460.65

**Trustees' Annual Report
for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025**



**Abbey Cwmhir
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NOTES:

Evidence in Files:

Lloyds Treasurer's Account - Bank Statements and Print out of AHT records
Lloyds Deposit Account - Online Statement and Print out of AHT records

Membership

Eventbrite/SiEntries Online Events - Under receipts

Assets

Accounting Policies:

The income and expenditure accounts have been compiled from receipts and payments via all bank accounts and petty cash.


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Jackie Marriott
Treasurer / Trustee

Date: 17/4/25

Auditor's Report

I have conducted an examination, on a test basis, of the evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements given above. In my opinion these statements give a true and fair view of the Trust's financial affairs as at 31st March 2025, as supported by bank statements and other evidence provided.


.....

Frédérique Mosley-La Gro
Auditor

Date: 7th April 2025

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for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025**



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ABBEY CWMHIR HERITAGE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1196905

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Reference and Administrative details

Name of Charity: Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust
Charity No: 1196905
Principal address: Ty'r Ehedydd, Abbeycwmhir, Powys LD1 6PL

Current Trustees:

Roger Coward
Julian Lovell - Secretary
Jackie Marriott - Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Sian Meredudd
Mel Walters
Phil Olivant
Angela Swindell (appointed as a Trustee 30 March 2024)

Past Trustees:

John Hughes (resigned as a Trustee 31 March 2024)

The report of achievements and performance below covers the 12 month period from April 2023 to March 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's Object is to advance the education of the public in the preservation and the historical and cultural importance of Cwmhir Abbey through the provision of information, events, research and continued learning.

The Trust carries out a range of activities, many of which are focussed on Community Heritage under the project 'Demystifying the Abbey'.

Our activities include:

- Assistance to Cadw in the content of the Exhibition Room at the Abbey ruins.
- Hosting a series of on-line talks that are open to the public

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- Providing a public facing newsletter summarising the Trust's research and community activities
- Offering the opportunity for volunteers to become involved in research activities associated with the Trust's aims. This includes both desk based research and field based activities
- Provision of training events associated with the Trust's research
- An annual memorial service for Llywelyn ap Gruffydd
- Maintaining our on-line presence through a website and social media

The Trust is extremely grateful for the substantial support provided by many volunteers. None of the activities above would be possible without their contribution. We are also most grateful to the Hamer family for allowing public access to the abbey ruins.

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust can confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

The Trust has installed two new display boards at the Exhibition Room and the Abbey ruins and the new facilities were officially opened by Will Davies of Cadw in October 2023.

The Trust's relationship with Prof Austin remains strong and productive. Our ongoing research will lead to the preparation of a book on Cwmhir Abbey within the series 'Strata Florida Books' <https://www.facebook.com/YstradFflur/posts/3089811434576204/> . Prof Austin continues to support us with our research and our team have had a number of meetings with him during the period.

As part of our research, Julian Ravest continues to conduct drone photogrammetry of a number of sites of interest to us.

We continue to have meetings of our Research Discussion Group by zoom and recordings of these discussions are placed on our website and made available to the public. The Research Group have also had the opportunity to hold Q&A discussions with Dr David Stephenson. Members of the team visited Tintern Abbey in November, and Will Davies of Cadw hosted the visit to the restoration and excavation works on-going there.

In 2023 we continued archaeological excavations at Cwmffwrn Farm in the Abbey Home Grange. Our public excavation on 24/25th June 2023 was attended by a total of 29 people and supervised by Trysor Archaeological Services. It was supported by a grant from Local

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Giving. Cwmffwrn Farm is owned by Angela and Ian Lewis and we thank them for their interest in our research and their permission for us to survey and excavate on their farm.

We have subsequently been awarded a grant by PAVO from the Levelling Up fund that will enable further excavations at Cwmffwrn Farm in 2024.

We were awarded a grant from Catalyst Cymru that enabled our team to receive training from professional archaeologists in the recording and archiving of excavation information. This training was delivered by Trysor Archaeological Services on 29th November 2023.

We hosted 4 on-line talks during the period:

- 28th September 2023 *Piety and Peril: medieval monastic foundation and consequent violence* by Dr David Stephenson
- 2nd November 2023 *Creature Comforts in Medieval Mid-Wales* by Prof Marged Haycock
- 7th December 2023 *Pilgrimage in Wales: then and now* by Prof Madeleine Gray
- 21st March 2024 *Chronicles and Capitals: the cultural impact of Welsh Border Cistercians - Cwmhir, Strata Marcella, Valle Crucis and Llanllugan* by Amy Reynolds

In addition Sorcha Lewis gave a talk at our AGM on 13th May 2023 entitled: *Through the generations: a story of High Nature Value traditional farming systems; connecting history, community and biodiversity through time.*

We are most grateful to our speakers for the time and contribution that they have made to the Trust. Recordings of these talks have been placed on Youtube with links from our website.

The Trust uses the eventbrite.com donation method to manage the ticketing process for non-members access to on-line talks. The donation approach has resulted in £882.44 donations made towards the Trust's heritage research fund over the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

We are members of Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Wales and we hosted a successful CBA Wales public meeting in June 2023 at Abbeycwmhir. A number of our research team gave short talks at the meeting and Julian Lovell gave a tour of the abbey.

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We offer bespoke tours of the abbey and village, advertised through our website. The groups donate to our heritage research fund. These tours are proving very successful and this year a tour has been conducted for the Cambrian Mountains Society.

The heritage walks that were created by a grant from Cadw and National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020/1 continue to be popular, with route descriptions provided on our website, in the Exhibition Room at the Abbey, on the village notice board and at some local B&Bs.

A public facing newsletter describing some of the Trust's activities was prepared in Summer 2023 with copies made available in the Exhibition Room, the village and on our website.

We had the opportunity to provide a display of material related to the Abbey and the Trust at

- Elan Links Festival of Archaeology on 29/30th July 2023
- CPAT/CBA Wales event 11th November 2023

We are also working with CARAD museum in Rhayader to create a display related to the Abbey there.

Our website www.abbeycwmhir.org has continued to develop over the period. Our thanks are given to Julian and Naisi Ravest who manage the hosting of the website and have designed its overall structure. We also have a facebook and instagram presence and we advertise our activities on these platforms too.

Links to Other Organisations

We give our thanks to Catalyst Cymru and PAVO. Catalyst Cymru have provided our Trustees with training opportunities that have been invaluable to help us run the Trust appropriately. PAVO have also been at hand to provide advice and practical support.

We have many links with the Radnorshire Society and we would particularly like to acknowledge the importance of their library resource.

During the period various papers have been submitted to a range of journals based upon our research. These are:

We have submitted information on various sites at Cwmffwrn to Archaeology in Wales, for inclusion in their Gazetteer.

Lovell, J..“*The Evolution of the Cwmhir Abbey Estates Post-Monastic Land Ownership*”
Radnorshire Society Transactions 2023

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Ravest, J. *"The 1200 Mortimer charter to Abbey Cwmhir revisited"* Radnorshire Society Transactions 2023

Ravest, J. *"Survey of the Cistercian Grange Centre, Mynachdy Moat"* Archaeology in Wales 2022

Swindell, A. *"Dolhelfa: Continuity and Change in the area occupied by a former grange of Abbey Cwmhir"* Radnorshire Society Transactions 2023

Our Cwmhir walk was also featured in The Times on 26th August 2023.

Summary of the main benefits derived from the Trust's activities over this reporting period

Our beneficiaries are:

- Our local community in Abbeycwmhir and nearby
- Visitors to Abbeycwmhir
- People who are interested in landscape and heritage in mid-Wales
- People who are interested in Welsh history

The key benefits that we have achieved over the period April 2023 - March 2024 are:

- An enhanced experience for walkers in the area of Abbeycwmhir.
- An enhanced experience for visitors to the Abbey ruins and the Exhibition Room and thereby, a benefit to local tourism.
- Training opportunities for our volunteers and the public related to understanding our landscape and its heritage.
- Information provided in a varied and engaging manner to enhance people's understanding of the heritage of mid-Wales and Cwmhir Abbey and its granges.
- Opportunities for social interaction in a fun and engaging manner.

Financial Review

The fund's held by Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust as of 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Main Account:	£4,306.90
Deposit Account:	£6,077.28
Petty Cash:	£ 76.47
Total Funds Available:	£10,460.65

For more detailed information on Income and Expenditure please refer to the Financial Accounts, sent separately, for the period ending 31 March 2024.

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We hold our deposit account in reserve to enable cash flow ahead of grant income. Within our main account we hold £3,713 for our research activities.

Our principal source of funds are grants, donations and membership as detailed in the attached accounts.

Assets held by the Trust as at the end of this financial year total £16,742.86, which have accumulated over several years. The majority of these assets have been purchased during 2020 to 2023 using Grant money from National Lottery Heritage Fund, Cadw, WCVA and Magic Little Grants. The main assets include 3D Scanning models, laptop and tablet, excavation equipment, a camcorder and projector. They are currently held by Trustees or in our Exhibition Room at Home Farm, Abbeycwmhir.

During 2023/24 we have added three items to the assets of the Trust

1. Removable harddrive to store our Archived material £39.15
2. Jabra Speak 2 55 Wireless Bluetooth Speakerphone (paid for by CADW grant) £99.99
3. People Counter sited in the Exhibition Room to measure visitors (paid for by Levelling Up grant) £207.00
4. A full list of assets can be made available by request.

Subscriptions to other bodies

The Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust are members of:

- The Radnorshire Society
- Council for British Archeology (CBA)
- British Association for Local History (BALH - membership also includes Public Liability Insurance)

Grants Received during this period

The Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust have been fortunate to receive grants from:

- Catalyst Cymru Grant £960 - training for Archiving - Fully spent during this financial year
- Levelling Up Grant 2024 - approved March 2024 with 80% due in April 2024 and balance due at the end of the grant November 2024.

Membership Report

Current Membership Fees £15 Single £20 Family. These fees haven't increased for some years.

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We are pleased to welcome the following new members in this financial year: Jill Wiley and Christine Walmsley.

Our numbers are as follows year on year counting joint membership as 2.

No of Members as at 1 April 2024	38
No of Members as at 31 March 2024 (including 2 new members)	38

Risks and Mitigation

The two main risks that the Trust faces continue to be:

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient Trustees to progress the activities of the Trust	Encourage new and diverse Trustees by an active recruitment process
Protection of Data	We have already taken steps to hold much of our data on Google Drive. The Trust has received training this financial year to learn how best to archive our Heritage Research. This is ongoing and will take time to ensure we have captured everything.

Structure, Governance and Management

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees. 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, can be found in our Constitution.

Our Constitution and our Policies can be found on our website:
<https://abbeycwmhir.org/uncategorized/policies-and-procedures>

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024



Abbey Cwmhir
Heritage Trust

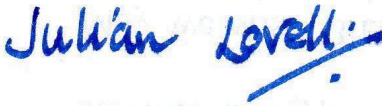
*Ymddiriedolaeth
Trefladaeth
Abaty Cwmhir*

DECLARATIONS

This report has been prepared, on behalf of the Trustees, by Mel Walters and Jackie Marriott using the guidance set out by the Charities Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Julian Lovell
Secretary
Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust

	Credit	Debit
INCOME:		
AGM	£35.00	
Donations	£288.69	
Gift Aid	£506.17	
Grants awarded:		
Catalyst Cymru	£960.00	
Interest	£64.05	
Membership	£370.00	
Online Talks and Excavation	£986.90	
Sundry	£39.15	
TOTAL INCOME:	£3,249.96	
EXPENDITURE:		
AGM		-£117.58
Assets		-£39.15
Events		-£37.44
Exhibition Room		-£65.50
Grant expenditure:		
Catalyst Cymru		-£971.99
Levelling Up Fund		-£207.00
Insurance		-£274.66
Online Resources		-£289.45
Postage, Stationery & Printing		-£31.34
Research Expenditure		-£1,165.29
Subscriptions		-£47.50
Sundry		-£124.25
		-£3,371.15
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE:		-£121.19

FINANCIAL ASSETS:

Lloyds Bank Account Closing Balance	£4,306.90
Lloyds Deposit Account Closing Balance	£6,077.28
Petty Cash Closing Balance	£76.47
	£10,460.65

REPRESENTED BY Reserves brought forward at 01/04/2023

Lloyds Bank Account	£4,352.19
Lloyds Deposit Account	£6,013.23
Petty Cash	£216.42
Net Income/Expenditure	-£121.19
	£10,460.65

NOTES:

Evidence in Files:

Lloyds Treasurer's Account - Bank Statements and Print out of AHT records

Lloyds Deposit Account - Online Statement and Print out of AHT records

Membership

Eventbrite/SiEntries Online Events - Under receipts

Assets

Accounting Policies:

The income and expenditure accounts have been compiled from receipts and payments via all bank accounts and petty cash.

J. Marriott

.....
Jackie Marriott

Treasurer / Trustee

Date: *17/4/2024*

Auditor's Report

I have conducted an examination, on a test basis, of the evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements given above. In my opinion these statements give a true and fair view of the Trust's financial affairs as at 31st March 2024, as supported by bank statements and other evidence provided.

F. Mosley-La Gro

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Frédérique Mosley-La Gro

Auditor

Date: *14/04/2024*

ABBEY CWMHIR HERITAGE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1196905

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report
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Abbey Cwmhir
Heritage Trust

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Reference and Administrative details

Name of Charity: Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust
Charity No: 1196905
Principal address: Ty'r Ehedydd, Abbeycwmhir, Powys LD1 6PL

Current Trustees:

Roger Coward
John Hughes
Julian Lovell - Secretary
Jackie Marriott - Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Sian Meredudd
Mel Walters

As a result of changing to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) at the end of March 2022, the Trust has changed its reporting year end from 31st October to 31st March.

The report of achievements and performance below covers the 17 month period from November 2021 to March 2023. This period covers both the 2022/3 financial year and the previous 5 months since the last AGM, which covered activities up to October 2021. Members have previously received the financial results for the period November 2021 - March 2022, so that financial information is not repeated here.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's Object is to advance the education of the public in the preservation and the historical and cultural importance of Cwmhir Abbey through the provision of information, events, research and continued learning.

The Trust carries out a range of activities, many of which are focussed on Community Heritage under the project 'Demystifying the Abbey'.

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Our activities include:

- Assistance to Cadw in the content of the Exhibition Room at the Abbey ruins.
- Hosting a series of on-line talks that are open to the public
- Providing a public facing newsletter summarising the Trust's research and community activities
- Offering the opportunity for volunteers to become involved in research activities associated with the Trust's aims. This includes both desk based research and field based activities
- Provision of training events associated with the Trust's research
- An annual memorial service for Llywelyn ap Gruffydd
- Maintaining our on-line presence through a website and social media
- This year we collaborated with the History Forum for Wales exhibition at the National Eisteddfod, allowing us to be part of a bigger bilingual exhibition joining with other history groups. This drew attention to the importance of the Abbey in the history of Wales.

The Trust is extremely grateful for the substantial support provided by many volunteers. None of the activities above would be possible without their support.

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust can confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

During this period the Trust has supported Cadw, through a grant of £12,670 to deliver improvements to the visitor experience at the Abbey. This has included improving lighting in the Exhibition Room and the commissioning and display of a number of 3D models of stones from the ruins that have been relocated to other places. These include Capitals now found in St Idloes Church, Llanidloes and statues that can be seen at Radnorshire Museum, Llandrindod Wells. The grant has also allowed the Trust to commission a new display board to be located at the ruins themselves. Cadw does not charge for access to the Exhibition Room at Abbeycwmhir, and we are most grateful to the Hamer family for allowing public access to the abbey ruins.

The Trust also completed the delivery of a grant to 'Demystify the Landscape' from Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) to the value of £11,191 that encouraged volunteering by providing a series of publically accessible training events. The events completed during the reporting period were:

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- 20/21st November 2021 – Dr Joe Botting - How rocks shape our landscape and how rocks have influenced man's activities
- 5th March 2022 - Ross Cook – Field Day on Vernacular Buildings in Radnorshire: Two rare 16th Century building survivals
- 12th/13th March 2022 – Dr Jemma Bezant – Be a Landscape Detective: from Desk to Field
- 22nd March 2022 – John Handley – On-line talk: Plants in the medieval period – importance, survival and myth
- 12th, 13th, 14th June 2022 – Dr Ian Brooks - Investigating our landscape with hands-on geophysical surveying: Training in the use of resistivity and magnetometry methods for archaeological surveying at Gwernygo near Kerry in June 2022. This event was linked to a public field trip to Gwernygo on 11th June 2022, hosted jointly by the Trust and Sarn Local History Group, who provided the local knowledge and organisation. Our thanks go to Carrie White for all the work she did to make this trip such a success.
- 25th June 2022 – Fiona Gomersall – Understanding our landscape through botanical field surveying

We thank all the landowners who gave us permission to conduct these events on their property.

A video was made of our visit to Llanddewi Hall on 5th March 2022 which is available on youtube.com and with a link from our website. Our thanks to Alison Finnieston for the recording and preparation of this video.

Under the WCVA grant we trained a total of 84 people, compared with our initial target of 39. A total of 3589 hours were delivered against a target of 3028. The grant has been very important for the Trust as it made a link with a number of people in Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire, many of whom continue to actively volunteer with us on aspects of understanding the landscape and in particular heritage research. A meeting of this group was held on 3rd December 2021 and we subsequently meet on zoom on a monthly basis to share ongoing research findings. These meetings are recorded and links to the discussions are available on-line for the public to view.

As part of our research, we conduct field surveying and drone photogrammetry, and in regard to the latter, we are particularly appreciative of the support given by Julian Ravest, who has conducted drone surveys of a large number of sites of interest to us.

In 2021 and 2022 we conducted archaeological surveys at Cwmffwrn Farm in the Abbey Home Grange, and we have continued to excavate 'old cwnfforn' farmstead in this reporting period. Cwmffwrn Farm is owned by Angela and Ian Lewis and we thank them for

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their interest in our research and their permission for us to survey and excavate on their farm.

In 2020 the Trust signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Prof David Austin of Strata Florida and the AHRC 'Sacred Landscapes of Medieval Monasteries' project. This agreement gave us the resources to conduct a resistivity survey and archaeological building survey at Home Farm. Although the MoA expired at the end of 2022, the Trust's relationship with Prof Austin remains strong and productive, and it is hoped that our ongoing research will lead to the preparation of a book on Cwmhir Abbey within the series 'Strata Florida Books' <https://www.facebook.com/YstradFflur/posts/3089811434576204/>. Prof Austin continues to support us with our research and our team have had meetings with him on 3 occasions during the period (4th May 2022, 3rd November 2022, 10th February 2023).

We hosted 6 on-line talks during the period:

- 22nd March 2022 Plants in the medieval period: importance, survival and myth by John Handley (see above)
- 21th April 2022 Cistercians and Scholarship in Medieval Wales by Dr Rhun Emlyn
- 16th June 2022 Monastic precincts and new discoveries at Abbey Cwmhir by Prof David Austin and Julian Ravest
- 22nd October 2022 Constructed Pasts and Shared Identities: the Cistercian Order by Prof Janet Burton
- 12th December 2022 Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, Prince of Wales: His Rise and Fall by Prof Huw Pryce
- 2th March 2023 Histories in Homes: the development of the house from medieval to modern by Ross Cook

We are most grateful to our speakers for the time and contribution that they have made to the Trust. Recordings of these talks have been placed on Youtube with links from our website.

The Trust uses the eventbrite.com donation method to manage the ticketing process for non-members access to these talks. This method appears effective, although it does require a certain amount of on-line dexterity by users. In the event that there is an issue, the Treasurer issues tickets manually. The donation approach has resulted in £830.26 donations made towards the Trust's heritage research fund over the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

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Whilst our grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund was completed before this grant period, one of its outputs was a series of waymarked walks in the vicinity of Abbeycwmhir, accompanied by route descriptions that point out heritage features along the walks. We provide hardcopy route descriptions in the Exhibition Room and they are also on-line on our website. Whilst we do not have a way of counting the number of people who use these walks, we have had positive reports from many of our local walking groups. Visitors to the village appreciate the access to the route descriptions, which we also give to our local B&Bs, and the relevant part of our website is one of the most popular. The success of these walks has in part been due to the support given by Powys County Council Rights of Way team who helped us with waymarking and built a new pedestrian bridge over the Clywedog Brook in Summer 2022 and NRW who provided and installed two benches and installed a display board (purchased through the NLHF grant) on our behalf. We are most appreciative of their support.

The Trust hosted 'The Pilgrimage' long distance walk on 9th July 2022. The weather was excellent and all participants gave good feedback. The Trust had the support of a number of our local community who acted as marshalls, and we are most grateful for their time. As there is a requirement to provide transport to the start of this walk at Strata Florida Abbey, we are finding that it is hard to run this walk in a way that is cost attractive to participants, and in future we may link up with local walking business's instead and provide a tour of the abbey at the end of their walk. This approach proved to be successful in September 2022 when we linked with Bryn Walking (brynwalking.weebly.com).

We have started to offer bespoke tours of the abbey and village, advertised through our website. The groups donate to our heritage research fund and donations amounting to £110 have resulted over the period. These tours are proving very successful and have been conducted for the following groups:

Rhayader by Nature
Bryn Walking
Radnorshire Society

Alison Finnieston kindly recorded and prepared a video of a tour, which is available to the public on Youtube and via our website.

People are a significant part of our heritage and it is important to document their experiences. As such we are collecting memories of the village, both past and present. These memories will be recorded and preserved for future generations and are now available to view on People's Collection Wales. This is an ongoing project and if you feel you have valuable experiences and information to share please contact us on cwmhirabbey@gmail.com.

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Through a volunteer - John Brandrick - we now have a computer based 3D visualisation of the abbey as it may possibly have been. Much is speculation, as little hard evidence exists, but the image has drawn together our understanding of the likely architecture from other buildings of the period. John has done a fantastic job and we are very grateful to him.

A public facing newsletter describing some of the Trust's activities was prepared in Summer 2022 with copies made available in the Exhibition Room, the village and on our website.

Our website www.abbeycwmhir.org has continued to develop over the period and now includes Discussion Areas that allow public feedback on specific activities. Our thanks are given to Julian and Naisi Ravest who manage the hosting of the website and have designed its overall structure. We also have a facebook and instagram presence and we advertise our activities on these platforms too.

Links to Other Organisations

We give our thanks to Catalyst Cymru and PAVO. Catalyst Cymru have provided our Trustees with training opportunities that have been invaluable to help us run the Trust appropriately. PAVO have also been at hand to provide advice and practical support.

Our links with Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Wales have developed during the period, such that we have been invited to host the next CBA Wales public meeting in June 2023 at Abbeycwmhir.

We have many links with the Radnorshire Society and we would particularly like to acknowledge the importance of their library resource.

During the period various papers have been submitted to a range of journals based upon our research. These are:

Lovell, J. *The Hidden History and Heritage of Abbey Cwmhir* Radnorshire Society Transactions 2021

Lovell, J. *The Encroachment Settlements of New Well* Radnorshire Society Field Group Newsletter 2022

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Austin, D., and Ravest, J. *Recent work on the precinct of Abbey Cwmhir, Radnorshire Arch. Cam.* 2022

Pardoe, V., and Walters, M. *Drone surveying over the Upper Afon Dulas: early results.* Radnorshire Society Field Group Newsletter 2021

Bezant, J., Lovell, J., Ravest, J., Walters, M., Olivant, P. *Survey of an upland landscape on the Golon Grange of Abbey Cwmhir, Radnorshire.* Archaeology in Wales 2022

Coward, R. *Old Carvings from Cwmhir Abbey and catalogue of Capital Decorations.* Radnorshire Society Transactions 2022

We were featured in an article in the national magazine *Current Archaeology* in January 2022.

Summary of the main benefits derived from the Trust's activities over this reporting period

Our beneficiaries are:

- Our local community in Abbeycwmhir and nearby
- Visitors to Abbeycwmhir
- People who are interested in landscape and heritage in mid-Wales
- People who are interested in Welsh history

The key benefits that we have achieved over the period November 2021 - March 2023 are:

- An enhanced experience for walkers in the area of Abbeycwmhir.
- An enhanced experience for visitors to the Abbey ruins and the Exhibition Room and thereby, a benefit to local tourism.
- Training opportunities for the public related to understanding our landscape and its heritage.
- Information provided in a varied and engaging manner to enhance people's understanding of the heritage of mid-Wales and Cwmhir Abbey and its granges.
- Opportunities for social interaction in a fun and engaging manner.

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**Abbey Cwmhir
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Financial Review

The fund's held by Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust as of 31 March 2023 are as follows:

Main Account:	£4,352.19
Deposit Account:	£6,013.23
Petty Cash:	£216.42
Total Funds Available:	£10,581.84

For more detailed information on Income and Expenditure please refer to the Financial Accounts, included separately, for the period ending 31 March 2023.

We hold our deposit account in reserve to enable cash flow ahead of grant income. Within our main account we hold £3,400 for our research activities.

Our principal source of funds are grants, donations and membership as detailed in the attached accounts.

Assets held by the Trust as at the end of this financial year total £16,400, which have accumulated over several years and were transferred to the new CIO in April 2022. The majority of these Assets have been purchased during 2020 to 2023 using Grant money from National Lottery Heritage Fund, Cadw, WCVA and Magic Little Grants. The main assets include 3D Scanning models, laptop and tablet, excavation equipment, a camcorder and projector. They are currently held by Trustees or in our Exhibition Room at Home Farm, Abbeycwmhir. A full list of Assets can be made available by request.

Subscriptions to other bodies

The Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust are members of:

- The Radnorshire Society
- Council for British Archeology (CBA)
- British Association for Local History (BALH - membership also includes Public Liability Insurance)

Grants Received during this period

The Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust have been fortunate to receive grants from:

- Local Giving Grant - known as Magic Little Grants - Not yet spent in this financial period but planned to be utilised for Excavation supervision during 2023
- University of Wales - Building Survey and Geophysics Home Farm

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- Cadw (Welsh Government's historic environment service) - ongoing improvements to Exhibition including 3D scanning models

Membership Report

Current Membership Fees £15 Single £20 Family. These fees haven't been increased for some years.

In the transition to a new CIO, with a new bank account number, we have inevitably lost a few of our members, but we are pleased to welcome the following new members in this financial year: Fiona and John Marshall; Ian Fairley and Ken Addison

Our numbers are as follows year on year counting joint membership as 2.

No of Members as at 1 April 2022	49
No of Members as at 31 March 2023 (including 4 new members)	38

Risks and Mitigation

The two main risks that the Trust faces are:

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient Trustees to progress the activities of the Trust	Encourage new and diverse Trustees by an active recruitment process
Protection of Data	We have already taken steps to hold much of our data on Google Drive, however lots of heritage data are held by individual researchers. The Trust needs to take advice on how best to archive Trust information.

Structure, Governance and Management

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust is a [Charitable Incorporated Organisation \(CIO\)](#) with voting members other than its charity trustees. 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, can be found in our Constitution.

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Our Constitution and our Policies can be found on our website:
<https://abbeycwmhir.org/uncategorized/policies-and-procedures>

Accounts Year end 31 March 2023

	Credit	Debit
INCOME:		
Donations	£1,539.30	
Deposit Account Interest	£11.37	
Eisteddfod	£16.00	
Gift Aid	£203.99	
Grants awarded:		
Magic Little Grants 2022	£500.00	
University of Wales	£4,486.00	
Cadw	£4,008.08	
WCVA	£1,119.10	
Membership	£465.00	
Pilgrimage Walk	£450.00	
TOTAL INCOME:	£12,798.84	
EXPENDITURE:		
Assets		-£364.08
Domain Name www.abbeycwmhir.org		-£8.25
Eisteddfod		-£200.00
Grant Expenditure:		
University of Wales		-£3,986.00
Cadw		-£4,117.56
WCVA		-£70.00
Hall Hire		-£100.00

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Insurance		-£259.66
Online Resources		-£458.07
Pilgrimage Walk		-£168.10
Postage, Stationery & Printing		-£158.44
Subscriptions		-£47.50
Sundry		-£196.79
		-£10,134.45
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE:	£2,664.39	
FINANCIAL ASSETS:		
Lloyds Bank Account Closing Balance	£4,352.19	
Lloyds Deposit Account Closing Balance	£6,013.23	
Petty Cash Closing Balance	£216.42	
	£10,581.84	
REPRESENTED BY Reserves brought forward at 01/04/2022		
Lloyds Bank Account	£1,727.90	
Lloyds Deposit Account	£6,001.86	
Petty Cash	£187.69	
Net Income/Expenditure	£2,664.39	
	£10,581.84	

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Trefstadaeth
Abaty Cwmhir

DECLARATIONS

This report has been prepared, on behalf of the Trustees, by Mel Walters and Jackie Marriott using the guidance set out by the Charities Commission Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Julian Lovell
Secretary
Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust