

# The Owain Glyndŵr Community Hotel

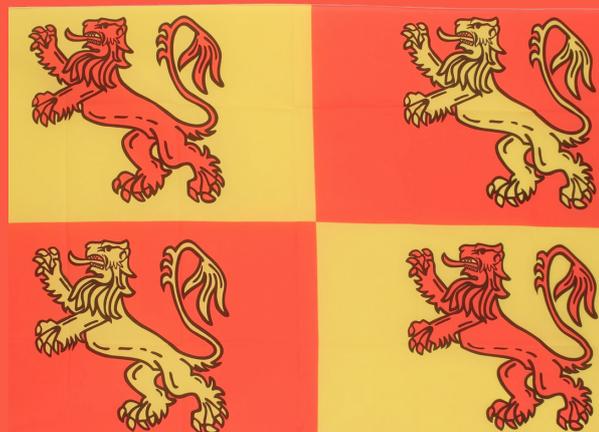
2023

## Appendix III

### The Team



# Meet the Team



## **Tish Aldridge**

Tish was born and raised in Corwen. She has had a hairdressing business in Corwen for 42 years and is Chair of the business association and Vice Chair of the partnership group. One of her proudest moments was working with the partnership to secure funding for the town's iconic Glyndŵr statue that sits proudly in the town square.

She has also been involved in fund raising for the war memorial park and has been a swimming club coach volunteer.

## **Steve Bennett**

After 25 Years experience of working in the flooring trade as Director of Nene Flooring Ltd, Steve moved to Corwen in 2017 to renovate two 18th Century, Grad II\* listed Alms houses with his partner and best friend Lisa Carson. The Alms houses are now run as successful holiday accommodation. Along the way they have increased their knowledge of historic properties and what tourists visiting Corwen like and want when visiting this area.

## **Lisa Carson**

Lisa has lived in many places in the UK due to having to move with the military but none as welcoming as Corwen.

A cardiac nurse for many years, she now works for Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board leading a multidisciplinary team of Health Care Professionals.

Lisa has a passion for old historic buildings and a desire to renovate such led to the purchase of the Alms Houses with partner Steve Bennett. Known locally as Coleg y Groes, they are now holiday lets and their aged beauty are enjoyed by many happy customers.

Lisa can often be found dry stone walling having learnt the skill during a spell of volunteering for Denbighshire County Council.

With an eye for detail, thorough and persistent, Lisa's skills are now being put to good use in supporting the OG joint venture.

## **David Counsell**

Originally from Bolton, Dave qualified as a doctor in 1982 and spent his whole working life in the NHS. He worked for 10 years as a Consultant Cardiothoracic Anaesthetist in Blackpool where he was responsible for setting up one of the first Acute Pain Services in the UK. From 2001 he worked as a Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the Maelor Hospital in Wrexham.

In 2006 Dave gained a PhD in Biomedical Egyptology at the University of Manchester and from 2010 to 2015 was on the Executive Board of Betsi Cadwallader University Health Board as Chief of Staff for Anaesthetic and Critical Care services across North Wales. During this time he led several high-profile projects on behalf of the health board.

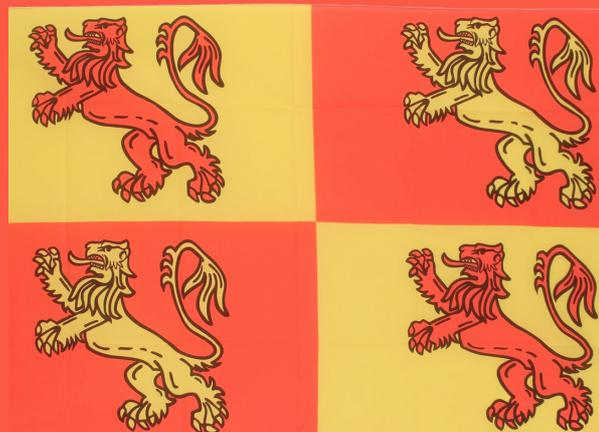
In 2015 Dave went to Sierra Leone for 6 weeks as part of the UK Ebola response team and worked in the Intensive Care Unit through the COVID-19 pandemic before retiring in 2021.

Dave and Helen have lived in the Corwen area for over 20 years and in 2016 purchased Capel Bethesda in Corwen and have spent the last 6 years making it their home. Having saved one of Corwen's iconic buildings from dereliction Dave now hopes to help give another one, the OG, a secure and bright future.

## **Helen Counsell**

Helen trained as a registered nurse in Kettering and met husband David in her final year. Helen and Dave have lived and worked in Gibraltar, Lancaster, and Blackpool before moving to the Corwen area over 20 years ago. In her professional life Helen was involved in research work with the Department of Health on the benefits of supervisory practice in nursing. She has also been a Primary Care Board Nurse and visited Downing Street to promote the importance of clinical nurses influencing the delivery of care at a strategic level.

# Meet the Team



After moving to North Wales Helen was appointed as District Nursing Sister at Corwen Health Centre leading a team of Community Nurses for a decade. Prior to retiring she was an Investigation Manager based in the Maelor Hospital, Wrexham. Both these roles required good communication, organisational skills, honesty, and integrity.

Currently a Church Warden in Corwen Church and a Trustee of the South Denbighshire Community Partnership, Helen is also Secretary of 'Save the OG Hotel' campaign.

## **Diane Hughes**

Born and bred in Corwen and passionate about her hometown Diane is married with two children.

She started her career as a pharmacy technician at the local pharmacy, before embarking on a nursing career. Her dream job was to be a Community Nurse in Corwen and she was fortunate to work in the town as a District Nurse for many years.

Diane currently manages a caseload as a District Nurse in Llangollen, working with a multidisciplinary team.

On a personal level Diane has become involved in this venture as she wants what's best for Corwen and its surrounding villages. She is firmly of the opinion that the OG as a community owned hotel will benefit the community and will put Corwen 'back on the map'.

## **Ellen Hughes**

Ellen hails from Corwen and is very proud of her roots. A fluent Welsh speaker, in her day to day work she is a sales professional working for a healthcare company covering primary and secondary care. Ellen's outgoing personality, excellent communication and interpersonal skills have played a key pivotal part in the programme of events and promotion of the Save the OG group. Ellen welcomes new challenges and seeing them through to completion. Her excellent planning skills and her

ability to adapt well to new situations provide the team with a valuable asset and critical team player.

## **Dylan Jones**

Dylan has 35 years experience in the electrical and electronic installation industry ranging from sound reinforcement systems, electrical installation (commercial & domestic), fire alarms, CCTV and renewable energy. A Director of D E Jones Electrical Solutions Ltd since 2005, he also successfully attended a first year of a History and Welsh BA Hons degree at Glyndwr University (2 years part time) where he developed his knowledge of Welsh history.

A member of the Owain Glyndwr Day Group and in close contact with the Owain Glyndwr Society, Dylan is the group's go to person on history and anything Owain Glyndwr related. Dylan is also a keen musician and is currently playing with a local band.

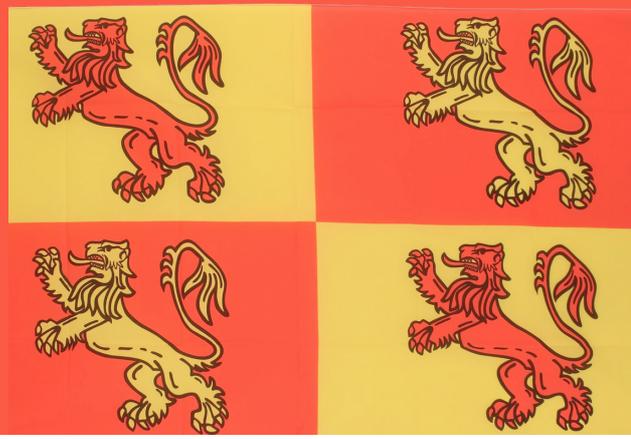
## **Alexander James Kirkwood (Sandy)**

Qualifying as an industrial Organic Chemist, the majority of Sandy's business life was spent in the marine coating industry, initially working for International Paint which subsequently became Courtaulds Coatings, and latterly AkzoNobel.

His business life began in the late 1970s as a paint inspector crawling around various dry dockings and new building yards around the world, providing the opportunity to progress through the ranks to become the senior director for all technical and commercial operations.

After spending many years living in Greece, Korea, Hong Kong, and mainland China Sandy returned to the UK to take up a board position with Akzo Nobel's resin division. His responsibility included two resin plants in America, one just outside Manchester and one in Gateshead, close to Newcastle upon Tyne. Having to deal with upgrading equipment at the same time as keeping production at a maximum meant that Project Management skills were critical.

# Meet the Team



When the resin arm of Akzo was sold off in 2003 Sandy decided to join Dr Raouf Kattan in Safinah Ltd. Joining Safinah provided the opportunity to further develop and refine his project management skills, most notably with the creation of a new super yacht division which remains an extremely profitable and successful arm of the company to this day.

Sandy retired from full time consultancy work in 2022 but is still registered as the Expert Witness for three multi billion dollar industrial and marine claims.

## **Ruth Lee**

Ruth has lived in Corwen since 1972 after moving from Liverpool. In 1995 she started her own business in Corwen manufacturing equipment for the emergency services. The business now has a chain of 40 distributors around the world and employs 35 people from the local community.

Ruth is a former chair of the Business association and Partneriaeth Corwen Partnership. and until recently was a Trustee of the South Denbighshire Community Partnership.

Ruth is passionate about Corwen and remembers the thriving market town that it used to be. Wishing to see it return to its former glory, Ruth firmly believes that community ownership of the Owain Glyndŵr Hotel is key to reversing the fortunes of the town and now is the perfect opportunity with the arrival of the railway.

## **Jane Marsden**

A former librarian and information services manager Jane spent over a decade as a publican before leaving the trade and moving to Corwen ten years ago with her husband. An enthusiastic gardener who is also passionate about food and cooking Jane is also a Town Councillor in Corwen.

## **Glaves Roberts**

Glaves was brought up on a farm in Cynwyd near Corwen and was a boarder at Tywyn Grammar School for seven years.

He worked in a chemical lab in Warrington before working at Fords in Dagenham, both as an engine tester and body solderer. He also worked on a farm in the Midlands before becoming assistant manager at Phostrogen in Corwen.

After working in these industries Glaves became a slate roofer and established his own roofing company, a profession he pursued for over 40 years

In a personal capacity Glaves has been chairman of Corwen Rugby club and is a past Town Councillor. He is currently a director of Corwen Electricity Coop (a community based hydroelectric scheme). At present he is a member of Corwen Business Association and Corwen Partnership and has been involved with the Corwen Walking Festival for the last 12 years.

