



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 30th October 2010 at Aberystwyth

2010.29 Opening Worship and Welcome

We are pleased to welcome 36 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

North Wales – Frank Brown

Mid Wales – Dorothy Bell

South Wales – Christine Trevett will report

Southern Marches has appointed an interest group, who are all here today, to liaise with Meeting of Friends in Wales
Dorothy Bell and Dave Butler have been appointed to act as Elders.

2010.30 *Calon* and *The Friend*

Christine Trevett has agreed to write a report on this meeting for *The Friend* and to report for *Calon*. Friends are reminded that *Calon* is our newsletter and we welcome news of Friends and articles.

2010.31 Outreach, Eisteddfod and website

(a) Outreach resources.

Posters: We liaised with Quaker Life Outreach Department to produce a number of posters in both languages in time for Quaker Week, which were sent out to all meetings.

Leaflets: Quaker Life are still in the process of revising their leaflets; we ask our Publications Group to liaise with Quaker Life over the coming year, based upon the recommendations of the outreach resources group. The group appointed to consider outreach resources recommend that we reprint the bilingual leaflet produced in 2009. Most Friends seem to prefer to use bilingual material for this purpose. We have obtained a quote of £125 for 200 copies. This expenditure can be taken from the literature fund.

Display material: Further to minute 2010.18, Jules Montgomery has already bought some lightweight stands and leaflet racks.

Further resources: The outreach resources group will review the rest of the existing material and make recommendations for further resources for our next meeting.

(b) Eisteddfod 2010.

The group responsible for the Eisteddfod has reported. There was a good Quaker presence every day. Maureen Hughes produced a display showing Quaker work in Brynmawr in the 1930s which was well received. The best aspect of the witness in the Cytûn tent was the conversations. Following the experience this year, it is suggested that we ask the Peace tent if we can supply some Quaker leaflets with a peace theme for people to pick up if they are interested, and pay a small fee to them.

We have been made aware of the importance of the Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) tent in a mainly English speaking area, to bring together speakers of both languages, and also bringing together people who had never wanted to work with other churches than their own. This was an unintended consequence which was excellent.

(c) **Eisteddfod 2011** will be at Wrexham. We ask North Wales Area Meeting to search for a Friend to co-ordinate our presence.

(d) **Websites.** The Meeting of Friends in Wales English language website is working well and area meetings and local meetings are able to post news and events on it through the administrator. The Welsh language website is now visible in prototype form. Our administrator would welcome feedback on the Welsh language website. We ask our trustees to consider a policy as to what material should be on the websites, and who adjudicates if the matter is unclear.

2010.32 Celebrating the Quaker Way

At our last meeting we discussed the suggestion from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) that the book *Celebrating the Quaker Way* might be translated into Welsh, or whether there was an alternative that might be preferable. This has now been considered in some local and area meetings. It has been pointed out that everyone speaks English, and therefore can read the existing book. We have been told of other materials: S4C has been filming Quakers around Dolgellau and Porthmadog and there is much extra material which could probably be used; Somewhere in Wales there is a lot of material with powerful personal writing which was put together some years ago; in our files we have written papers from Friends on 'My Faith and my Life'. There is scope for doing something which would spread information in a manner which would appeal particularly to younger people.

Our main conclusion is that we would prefer to discuss with JRCT the possibilities of either a DVD and/or a small book in the Welsh language of personal experience of Quakerism.

2010.33 Working with Woodbrooke on Quaker roles and spiritual nurture

Further to our discussion in June (minute 2010.22) our clerks have had a discussion with Lizz Roe, Senior Programme Leader (Off-Site) at Woodbrooke, who has sent us very helpful suggestions. After discussion we have agreed that this will be a good way forward.

We have many small meetings, and to come together for a Woodbrooke on the Road will help to ground and enhance our Quakerism. We wish to charge £25 per person per meeting, and underwrite any further cost, using the legacy we already have. We are concerned about how to reach or subsidise small, out of the way, meetings.

We ask our clerks to continue discussions with Lizz Roe.

2010.34 Working with area meetings in Wales and the Borders

A meeting was held at The Pales Meeting House on 12th October of Meeting of Friends in Wales clerks, Area Meeting clerks, and clerks of trustees of area meetings and Meeting of Friends in Wales. Although this was not a decision-making meeting, it produced a strong feeling of togetherness. An important part of the meeting was the visioning of the future of Quakerism in Wales, and how we can make all our meetings for business more spiritually alert and effective.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were discussed at this meeting. So far, MoUs have been agreed between Meeting of Friends in Wales with North Wales AM, Mid Wales AM, South Wales AM, Wirral and Chester AM, and Gloucestershire AM. The MoU with Southern Marches AM will come to their November meeting. Work is still ongoing with Worcester and Shropshire. It was noted at the clerks' meeting that the details of a MoU may be altered from time to time by minute, and that the MoUs need to be reviewed periodically.

2010.35 Arrangements for 2011

Dates for Meeting of Friends in Wales in 2011:

February 26: Brecon

June 25: The Pales

October 22: Llanidloes

The main theme for the year will be Outreach, and at the February meeting our speaker will be Alan Thomas, speaking on: *How are Quakers perceived? How can we respond?*

Our Arrangements Committee would welcome suggestions for a speaker for the June meeting.

2010.36 List of Members and Attenders (Contact Book)

A meeting was held at The Pales on 30th September of the List Editors for the four area meetings – North Wales, Mid Wales, South Wales and Southern Marches – together with our Administrator. This was not a decision-making meeting, but it was helpful in discussing common practice and considering the best way forward to provide Friends in Wales with the contact information they need.

We agree not to attempt to renew the all-Wales contact book (The White Book). Meeting of Friends in Wales will purchase a number of lists from each of the four area meetings and distribute them to Friends who need them for their work for MFW, and to Friends in the area meetings who have requested them.

2010.37 Report from Meeting for Sufferings

Stevie Krayner has reported on Meeting for Sufferings.

There is a strong possibility that a reduction in the size of Meeting for Sufferings will be recommended by the Review Group, and this may have implications for our representation on Sufferings.

In considering the wording of Quaker Marriage ceremonies, the issue was raised of ensuring that the language used in Welsh and in English should match.

Several area meetings had raised concerns about the impact of government financial cuts. Stevie added that Wales will be disproportionately affected, not only by a bigger cut than to the other devolved nations, but also because of Wales' need for benefits and the high proportion employed in the public sector. Possibly the economic situation could be discussed at our June meeting when we will have more definite information.

2010.38 Report from Quaker Life Representative Council

Liz Butler reported On the Council held 15-17 October. The Council was lively and buzzing. The main focus was eldership, discussed in groups and plenary sessions. Katie Frost, Quaker Communications Department Fundraising Officer, gave an inspiring talk on giving. Money is a necessary tool for change. Everyone can give, whether it is with money, time, or energy. Quaker Life supports our meetings, and Liz had heard about the work done with children and young people, outreach, and other matters.

2010.39 Report from Trustees – charitable registration, budget, BYM grant

Gethin Evans, clerk of trustees, has told us that from 10.09.2010 we are a registered charity, number 1137955. This number will now be placed on our governing document and letterhead.

Trustees recommend that we ask Sue Lewis, the examiner of South Wales Area Meeting, who is a professional accountant, and not a Friend, to examine our accounts this year to ensure that the examination is independent. There will be a cost for this service.

Our treasurer, Lynn Moseley, has presented us with a budget for 2011. We will ask for contributions from area meetings at the same rate as last year. The grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative support for Friends in Wales has been renewed for next year at the same rate as this year, but it is reviewed on an annual basis; we therefore need to keep sufficient funds in the account to sustain the employment of our administrator in the event of the grant not being renewed, until other arrangements could be made. There is money budgeted from the Designated and Restricted Funds for the proposed Woodbrooke training events and the JRCT initiative.

A new contract and terms of employment have been drawn up for our administrator to reflect that fact that Trustees now have responsibility for these matters.

2010.40 Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) and other Christian and interfaith matters

Catherine James said that we, as part of Cytûn, are present at the National Eisteddfod, the Urdd Eisteddfod, and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

The Cytûn Enabling Group, which is the Trustee Board together with representatives of local groups, met in Llandudno on 19th October. The question arose about how to register local Cytûns with the national office, as there is no effective national network. Inderjit Bhogalhad spoken about the City of Sanctuary movement, suggesting that Wales, as the first Fair Trade nation, should become the first Nation of Sanctuary. 'No-one is safe until we are all safe'. What is needed is a lot of towns and cities where the policy is to be open and welcoming. Cytûn had embraced this idea. Aled Edwards, the Chief Executive, had been impressed by Swansea Meeting standing in silent worship around the mosque, when the English Defence League marched in Swansea.

Other churches: We have been invited to send a representative to the United Reformed Church Synod, which takes place in Newtown on 13th November.

2010.41 Nominations and Appointments – including Nominations Committee

(i) Release

At the request of the Friends concerned, we ask Meeting for Sufferings to release the following Friends from service:

Alice Southern - Quaker Committee on Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR).
Heather Wilcox – Meeting for Sufferings

We ask our Nominations Committee to seek nominations for Friends to serve.

We have heard with sadness of the death of Malcolm Thomas, from South Wales, a member of our nominations committee. We ask the group appointed at our last meeting to search for two Friends to serve on Nominations Committee.

(ii) Nominations:

Our nominations committee has reported to us. They bring forward the following nominations

Assistant Clerk (to end 2011) – Christine Trevett (SW)

Archivist (to end 2013) – Jane Brunning (NW)

Trustee (to end 2013) – Rosemary Yale (NW)

Arrangements Committee (to end 2013) – Dorothy Bell (MW) *see note below

Publications Committee (to end 2013) - Dic Williams (NW)

These names being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed.

(iii) Nominations requested

We note that the following appointments are required to serve from 1.1.2011 and ask Nominations committee to find Friends to serve.

Co-clerk (to end 2013)

Cytûn International Affairs Committee - (to end 2013)

QCCIR – one vacancy (to end 2012)

Meeting for Sufferings representative (to YM 2012)

Cytûn Board member from October 2011

(iv) Nominations Committee

The group appointed to seek names for Nominations Committee has reported to us. So far they have been unable to find two Friends to fill the vacancies on the committee.

*However, please see note below regarding between meetings decision.

2010.42 Sustainability – motivating change

Gwen Prince, Jeremy Thorp and Gabi Smith have continued the theme of Sustainability, in particular Climate Change, and motivating change in our local community. How can we acknowledge the reality of climate change, and follow this with action? There are specific problems – there is no precedent in our history; climate change has never been exacerbated by human activity before; also it does not appear to be happening quickly. We acknowledge that climate change is happening, but we don't engage with it, partly because the threat seems too great.

It is not just an environmental issue, it will have many humanitarian effects. The big issues are humanitarian. Because of flooding and drought there may be many refugees trying to move to countries such as ours, and war will become more probable.

What are our next steps?

We divided into four groups, thinking of four types of people (Traditionalists, do-gooders, Strivers, and Copers), and tried to think of ways to persuade these groups of the need for change. How do we make decisions? Are we rational? How do people move to making a life style choice?

Notes of the four groups' discussions will be circulated with these minutes.

We finished with worship sharing, reflecting on how our Quaker testimonies enable us to respond to the issues we had discussed. We thank Gwen, Gabi and Jeremy for leading us in this experience.

Deborah Rowlands
Julia Aspden
Co-Clerks

** Since the meeting the following between meeting decisions have been made, at the suggestion of the Friends concerned:

Dorothy Bell released from Arrangements Committee
Dorothy Bell appointed to Nominations Committee to end 2013
Dave Butler appointed to Arrangements Committee to end 2013

We are still searching for a Friend, preferably from South Wales Area Meeting, to replace Malcolm Thomas on Nominations Committee until the end of 2011.

Notes from the four groups (see minute 2010.42)

The Copers

The natural responses of this group are likely to be 'no time, no energy, no money' and they are the group most likely to resent being made more guilty.

what might help:

- small things that might make their lives easier or more economical while also raising awareness e.g. giving out energy meters or low energy light bulbs.
- work with children i.e. work in schools so that children will take the ideas home; and an emphasis on change for the sake of children.
- local activity e.g. setting up food co-ops that would make it easier to buy local food; encouraging local shops to give vouchers (a low footprint food fortnight cf fair trade fortnight)
- mutual support – rather than outsiders talking at people, the chance to meet and talk with like-minded people/people in the same boat struggling to cope can help people make small changes together.

All this is work at local level, building community capacity and confidence to make changes.

Notes from “Do-gooders” group

- The issues are linked – you can show how the person's charitable concern is affected by climate change, eg third world poverty exacerbated by drought etc.
- ... but also sometimes in conflict, eg when person involved in aid work takes long haul flights. Tender consciences could make them open to green alternatives, eg video conferencing.
- Unlike many, they are already aware and concerned about *present* suffering elsewhere in world, so not waiting for it to happen here.
- Prevention is better than picking up the pieces afterwards, eg people working with refugees presumably would prefer it if no-one needed to flee in the first place
- Those interested in animal welfare could also be shown effects of drought, loss of habitat etc.
- Encouraging people to look at contradiction between work for a better world and personal behaviour.
- Need for education – people can't grasp the issues because bombarded with disinformation - lack of scientific training so can't evaluate evidence.

Traditionalists

These are people who dislike change being fast; they might well be prepared to follow instructions from the government – the drawback for the aim of sustainability is that government is made up of politicians who don't want to introduce unpopular measures. Many traditionalists will hark back to World War II – if they could be persuaded that there is a common enemy, they would be prepared to make sacrifices – but there needs to be a visible common enemy.

Strivers – defined as ambitious people, whether for financial wealth, status or career

Task:

- What arguments will Strivers use **not** to engage with Climate Change?
- How do we persuade them?

Strivers will always turn a problem to their advantage so for example

- Better to allow them to make money out of wind generators than a nuclear power station

Strivers will be conferring at high levels, always flying round the world

- Better to make video-conferencing fashionable perhaps by using highest tech (if lower Eco-Footprint than flying) and by emphasizing the saving in their valuable time.

Strivers with an area of special expertise might be susceptible to flattery

- Give them kudos and public profile for philanthropy (and maybe taxbreaks, provided they give enough to social goods)

Strivers will compete to win, so

- Government needs to penalize non-green and inequitable behaviours and give tax breaks for low Eco-Footprint and spreading-the-benefits developments

Some Strivers are celebrities not necessarily wealthy, still roll-models

- We need to get to the point that a Rolls Royce is seen as an Albatross round your neck

If the aim is to arrive at acceptance of a per-capita EcoFootprint ration for all, then Strivers will get satisfaction for working out how to do best within this ration.

- We need to identify and laud these Strivers.