



Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 22nd October 2016 in Llanwrtyd

2016.32 Opening worship and welcome

We have welcomed 40 Friends to this Meeting, as listed on the attendance sheet.
Advices and Queries No. 8 has been read in Welsh and English in our opening worship.
Eurwyn Pierce-Jones provides simultaneous translation today.

The following Friends were appointed by their Area Meetings to attend:

North Wales: Martin Hughes (reporting), David Mellor and Frank Brown.

Mid Wales: Alan Rowland being absent, Gwen Prince has agreed to act as reporter.

Southern Marches: Jeff Beatty

South Wales: Pam Greenup

Our elder today is: Peter Hussey

2016.33 *Calon and The Friend*

Pam Greenup has agreed to write about this Meeting for *Calon* and Jules Montgomery for *The Friend*.

2016.34 Outreach at The Royal Welsh Show and The National Eisteddfod 2016

We have heard from Jeff Beatty that at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanellwedd a number of Friends provided a Quaker presence. We shall check with the organisers at Cytûn whether a Quiet Corner might be created at the Show, as at the eisteddfod. Stevie Krayner and Hilary Beynon have sent us a positive report of their experience as co-ordinators and of Friends' presence at the eisteddfod this year. We thank all the Friends who volunteered at both venues. We never know what seeds we are sowing when we talk to people. Given the good response to the first of the Quaker lectures at the eisteddfod this year we would like to see the lecture offered in English as an event at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Warwick University in 2017 and ask the clerk to send a minute to its Agenda Committee to that effect.

2016.35 Minute to Yearly Meeting Gathering Agenda Committee

At the Meeting of Friends in Wales in Llanwrtyd Wells on October 22nd 2016 we heard of the positive response to the first of a series of three annual Quaker lectures to be given at the National Eisteddfod. The lecture in Welsh, delivered in lively manner by Gethin Evans, was on John Edward Southall (see QFP 2.53) an English Friend and publisher based in Wales. We would like to see this offered (in English) as an event at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Warwick in 2017 and ask Agenda Committee to consider this request and its timetabling.

2016.36 Resources report

Ros Morley has told us of the challenges in providing suitable material for outreach in Wales. We have received two Minutes from this group, as follows:

TWO MINUTES FROM MFW RESOURCES GROUP

1. At a meeting of the Resources group on 6 October 2016, we minute: We feel that the present procedure for acquiring Welsh materials from Friends House is unsatisfactory. We ask Meeting of Friends in Wales to send a minute to Britain Yearly Meeting, impressing that we need better procedures for producing materials for use in Wales which need to be interpreted and translated. In particular we ask that Meeting of Friends in Wales should be involved in decisions at an early stage, and hope that Meeting of Friends in Wales can appoint a Friend to attend Publications Committee Meetings.
2. At a meeting of the Resources group on 6 October 2016, we minute: We ask Meeting of Friends in Wales to make available the sum of £250 in order to produce a second banner, and for replenishing stocks of leaflets, posters etc. which are outside the remit of Friends House material.

The first of these (cf. too Minute 2014. 39 [iii]) will not be sent to BYM, in the light of the Recording Clerk's observation at this Meeting about change and concern for relevance in Quaker publications which is presently being discussed. This matter, and other matters relating to the Welsh language, will be for discussion at the meeting of MFW and GMS clerks with the Recording Clerk at the end of November. The second Minute, on funding, has been agreed by this Meeting.

2016.37 Focus Group report and Laser Group

MFW's 5 person *Wales Focus Group* from all parts of Wales is an important source of between Meetings discernment for many Wales-related items. We have seen its revised Terms of Reference, which is a work in progress and have heard from Gethin Evans of what it does. A Focus Group member serves on the Cytûn *Laser* group of denominations' Church and Society officers, and through this Quakers in Wales are helped to have an eye to Assembly legislation as it develops. David Harries our representative spoke about this. Focus Group is aware of the need to improve communication with Friends House as it finds its way in dealing with the media and it greatly appreciates the excellent work of Cytûn's policy officer Gethin Rhys.

2016.38 Report of the Task and Finish Group on Clerkship and Administration

This group has reported to Trustees and its recommendations have been brought to this Meeting. They include increasing the hours of our administrator and suggestions for aiding the clerk(s). More work comes of increased and faster communication. Both additional hours for the administrator and the costs of simultaneous translation mean that we shall request an increase in our grant from BYM. The Minute of 2016.29 has been activated and the clerk, Catherine James and Lynn Moseley have been visiting some local Meetings to encourage participation in the work of MFW and understanding of its remit. We thank this group for its work for us.

2016.39 Report of the Task and Finish Group on the Website

Recommendations from this group were for change to a single bi-lingual website, change in hosting and the setting up of a group of Friends to propose a fresh design as a starting point for work with a new website developer.

We ask our Nominations Group to bring the names of four Friends, at least one of them Welsh speaking, for this initial task. We thank this group for this work for us.

2016.40 Visit of the Recording Clerk

We have welcomed Paul Parker to our Meeting today. He has spoken to us of his role with BYM: working with Yearly meeting itself, with Meeting for Sufferings, BYM's Trustees and with an overview of all aspects of Friends' work. We need to listen for the unity we have, and value and support, not least financially, the great work which Friends' are doing. He has pointed us to the opportunities and challenges outlined in the document *Our Faith in the Future*. We thank Paul for his input today.

2016.41 Vibrancy in Meetings

Both Rachel Matthews of BYM's *Vibrancy in Meetings* programme and Helen Oldridge, its new appointee for work with Meetings in Wales have been with us. Rachel co-ordinates the pilot programme and hopes it will indeed support meetings to be vibrant, all Meetings being different. *Our Faith in the Future* may prove a useful framework. Helen told of her ways of working: to be available to answer queries and provide 'tourist information'; getting to know meetings and supporting them in projects; linking local and area Meetings more closely with Friends House and Woodbrooke. We look forward to the working out of this exciting development and thank Rachel and Helen for visiting us today.

2016.42 Work in Wales: The digital *Voices of Conscience* project in retrospect

Ruth Harding has described The *Voices of Conscience* project (Minutes 2013.33 and 2013.46), its development and continuing usefulness. The project, out of SWAM and with wider funding, was devised to present a distinctive Quaker voice in the ongoing commemoration of World War One. The bilingual DVD resource which was produced was made copyright free and available to all. The production of teachers' notes made it usable for schools and good use of media and good marketing has ensured that this resource can reach a wide audience, including every primary and secondary school in Wales. We thank Ruth for this cheering retrospective on the project.

To see all 12 short films: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/users/4579>

To download all teachers notes, resources and references:

<http://www.breakingbarriers.org.uk/?p=918>

2016.43 Trustee and Finance Matters

Frank Brown has reported as follows from Trustees: (a) that they wish authorisation of signatories for MFW cheques to be delegated to Trustees. This is agreed.

(b) in the following Minute from MFW Trustees: 'We ask Area Meetings to support the work of Meeting of Friends in Wales in 2017 on the same basis as in the current year (i.e. £5.25 per adult member).'

2016.44 Mental Health Care: Personal Reflections

Carolyn Sansom has been our speaker today and has told us of the integration of her Quakerism with her work in mental health care. The inherent value of each person was a central theme in what she told us, as also silence, listening and letting others be heard when they are in mental distress. Speaking truth to power is also necessary. As Quakers how do we balance the needs of an individual Friend with mental health issues and the wider needs of the Meeting? We need as Friends to be ready to engage with 'right to die' questions, in which mental ill health should also figure. We need to be tender with each other in our day to day interactions, especially given Quakers' expectations about normative Quaker behaviour. We thank Carolyn for her insightful and thought-provoking talk to us.

2016.45 Ecumenical representatives by region.

We have welcomed the suggestion that Area Meetings be asked to nominate at least two Friends who might act from time to time as representatives of Quakers in Wales (MFW) and not their Area Meetings, to events which occur in their region. These may be of Christian ecumenical kind or for example involve Assembly consultations. Members of this panel of representatives appointed by MFW would be called on infrequently and one at least in a region should have a knowledge of Welsh. Travel expenses will be paid by MFW. After further consultation the clerk will circulate Area Meeting clerks with a request for nominations.

2016.46 Minutes of record between Meetings

- (1) **Eisteddfod Quaker Lectures:** the first of the Quaker Lectures was given by Gethin Evans at the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny on August 2nd 2016, on the topic of John Edward Southall. The lecture planning group announces that the next lecture in the planned series of three will be given by Huw Meredydd Owen, on a topic incorporating insights from architecture (title t.b.f.) at the National Eisteddfod in Bodedern, Anglesey, in August 2017. The planning group (which includes the clerk of MFW) would welcome suggestions from Friends for a topic and a (Welsh speaking) speaker appropriate for the Eisteddfod in Cardiff in 2018.
- (2) **Launch of *Housing Justice Cymru*.** David Harries, MFW and Focus Group's representative to the Cytûn Laser Group, was present at the launch of Housing Justice Cymru in Cardiff on September 29th. His report is displayed at this meeting.
- (3) **Cytûn churches BREXIT working group.** MFW has corresponding membership with this group which is presently drafting a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the human rights implications of Brexit.
- (4) At the **Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee Threshing Meeting** to be held on November 11th-13th at Woodbrooke our representative from MFW will be our Wales Focus Group member Gethin Evans. It is important that voices from Wales are heard in considering issues to be addressed in the longer term by Meeting for Sufferings and the Yearly Meeting.
- (5) **Request for additional funding to MFW:** Between Meetings and as part of annual reporting from MFW to the Yearly Meeting our treasurer Martin Hughes has indicated to Britain Yearly Meeting need for a substantial increase in funding to MFW. It was agreed that the treasurer's submission to BYM would be updated in the light of Trustees' deliberations and Friends' discernment at our meeting on October 22nd (this meeting).
- (6) **BYM Sustainability Group questions to Local Meetings:** We have received from Frances Voelcker of BYM Sustainability Group some questions for our local Meetings in Wales, which will be circulated to LMs to help gauge the progress of the concern and engagement with it:
In 2011 the yearly meeting made a commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. BYM Sustainability Group is charged with eldership and oversight of the commitment. In order to assess how far the sustainability commitment has been undertaken in other parts of the yearly meeting, we ask LMs to tell us if they have engaged with three specific actions (already practised at Friends House) ... (Has your LM)
 - 1) *divested from fossil fuels?*
 - 2) *committed to fair trade products?*
 - 3) *switched to green energy suppliers?*

2016.47 Nominations and Appointments

Appointments made between Meetings

- (i) Ecumenical representative to the URC Synod in Carno, October 15th: Christine Shelley, Machynlleth.
- (ii) Continuing as Cytûn *Laser* Group representative from MFW Wales Focus Group, to December 31st 2017: David Harries
- (iii) A Trustee of MFW to serve from 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2019 David Utting

These names being acceptable to the Meeting the Friends are appointed.

Nominations received

(From Stevie Kraye and Jeff Beatty seeking names for Nominations Committee)
Kate Robertson (SMAM) to serve from 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2019
An Archivist for MFW records to serve immediately and to December 31st 2018:
Alan Clark (Aberystwyth Meeting).
A Trustee for MFW to serve from 01.01.2017-31.12.2019, David Utting

These names being acceptable to Friends, they are appointed.

Nominations sought

- (1) A Friend to serve on Nominations Committee, preferably from NWAM
- (2) A co-clerk with immediate effect and to December 31st 2018
- (3) An Assistant clerk with immediate effect and to December 31st 2017
- (4) A Friend from North Wales to serve on Wales Focus Group from January 1st 2017 to December 31st 2019
- (5) A Southern Marches Friend to serve on Arrangements Committee from January 1st 2017 to December 31st 2019
- (6) A Trustee for Meeting of Friends in Wales to serve from January 1st 2017 to December 31st 2019

Signed by Clerk:

Christine Trevett