



## Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013 at The Pales

### **2013.17** *Opening Worship and Welcome*

Minute 36 from Yearly Meeting 2011 has been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome 40 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet.

The following Friends have been appointed by their Area Meetings to attend:

North Wales: Frances Voelcker, Angela Burton, Donald Saunders

Mid Wales: Dorothy Bell

South Wales: Julia Lim, Hock Lim

Southern Marches: Kate Binney, David Binney

Lynda Williams and Linda Green are our Elders today.

### **2013.18** *Calon and The Friend*

Lynn Moseley has agreed to write a report on this meeting for *The Friend* and for *Calon*.

### **2013.19 Report: Quaker Life Representative Council**

Liz Butler's report from the April 2013 QLRC meeting has drawn attention to the importance of recognizing and exploring Friends' spiritual gifts. Potential for renewal among Quakers may lie in the work of our Nominations Committees. We thank Liz for this report.

### **2013.20 Our ecological footprint**

Minute 36 of Britain Yearly Meeting (Canterbury), 2011 read: "We are called to live simply and equitably, sharing the earth's resources fairly now and in the future. One way of assessing if our current way of living is unfair now and to future generations is to measure the fossil- fueled energy needed to support our current consumption. .. In order to take action, we need to establish the current level of BYM's consumption and consequent emissions. Each LM has been asked to calculate its average emissions."

Frances Voelcker has guided us in what we need to do so that these may be calculated for MFW over the course of a year and she will produce the calculation on the basis of data which Friends supply each meeting. Information is on the MFW website. We thank Frances for this work.

### **2013.21 Children's and Young Persons' Advocates Report**

CYP Advocates now exist for all of our area meetings. They are committed to promoting the inclusion of children and young people in our worship and witness, at local and area meetings level and are conscious of new Safeguarding legislation. Kate Binney records that the Advocates support one another in this work and

they have been encouraged and informed by the Advocates' conference held at Woodbrooke. The number of children and young people in meetings in Wales remains small, Link Groups and inter-visiting are not much in evidence, which poses a challenge to us all to create an accepting, inclusive and flexible worshipping community in which the young are the *present* among Friends, as well as the Society's future. We also need to take account of contemporary ways of social networking. We thank Kate Binney for this report and thank our CYP Advocates and Safeguarding officers for their continued commitment to the task.

### **2013.22 Update on the JRCT project**

Rhian Parry's April interim report records progress towards completion of the two books on Quakers in Wales, one in English, one in Welsh, as outcomes of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust funding. Rhian has expressed special thanks to Catherine James in sharing the long work of compiling and arranging material but also to the editors and readers for both books and to Deborah Rowlands for her work with the group. Catherine James has further updated us today. The task is ongoing, to strengthen and make coherent the work, which will serve as outreach and as witness to our worship and way of life, as well as our testimonies. We thank all those Friends who have contributed to the writings in the books and to all who are devoting time to this painstaking process. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this labour in the Autumn, under the titles 'Seeking the Source' and 'Tua'r Tarddiad.'

### **2013.23 QCCIR report**

Our representative to the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations, Martin Plant has told us of that committee's focus on three areas: a Quaker response to documentation from The World Council of Churches; the issue of same-sex marriage and thirdly enabling local meetings to meet challenges with confidence in inter-church and interfaith contacts. At a time when the nature of Quakerism is changing some of the committee's work throws into relief tensions between Quaker beliefs and the language and thought of the world-wide Christian church. On January 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 QCCIR will hold a one-day conference on the topic of *Theism and non Theism*. At its recent meeting in Wales at Llangasty Retreat Centre the committee welcomed Aled Edwards General Secretary of CYTŪN and Deborah Rowlands. It heard of CYTŪN's interfaith engagement in practical terms and in dialogue, its engagement with government and the advantage for ecumenical work of not having an 'established' church in Wales. The QCCIR conference at Woodbrooke in 2013 signalled need for Friends to work with, and for, communities in inter-church and interfaith ways. Friends and Meetings are encouraged to contact Martin with experiences of ecumenical and interfaith activity. Martin reminds us of present sensitivities in relations between Quakers and Jews in Britain because of Friends' pronouncements on boycotts of goods from the Israel/Palestine region. We thank him for his report.

### **2013.24 Quakers and Unitarians**

Dr Carwyn Tywyn, Welsh Dept. Secretary for the Unitarian Church, has met with Christine Trevett and spoken of Unitarians' interest in exploring ways of co-operative working with Quakers in Wales, in matters of shared concern, policy campaigns and annual events such as Inter Faith Week and the Royal Welsh Show. Unlike Quakers Unitarians are not members of CYTŪN. We welcome this contact with fellow worshippers in a liberal tradition and we would wish to explore further dialogue and to encourage Meetings in the links which exist. We invite Carwyn Tywyn to our October Meeting.

### **2013.25 *Living the Quaker Way*, Woodbrooke at Aberystwyth**

Rex Ambler and Catherine King Ambler facilitated the day at Aberystwyth on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Dorothy Bell reports that 27 Friends attended and that the subject *The Light Within, Then and Now* provided a rich source for thought and renewal. We remind Friends that only two of the nine *LQW* days remain, the next being in Bangor on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Then Beth Allen, the 2009 Swarthmore Lecturer, will explore the topic of 'Leadings'. We encourage clerks and elders to remind people of this coming Woodbrooke-MFW day.

## **2013.26 Wales Focus Group (from Minute 2012.46)**

Catherine James has reported on the Group's thinking about how our energies and relatively small numbers might be best employed in making the Quaker voice heard in Wales.

- We should reflect the work of BYM and actions agreed by Meeting for Sufferings but addressing the issues within the Wales context
- We should be aware of LM and AM concerns and initiatives and be a voice to be utilised. We have a stronger voice as MFW than at local level only.
- We should be familiar with campaigns and concerns in Wales which complement our own, and support them as appropriate, not trying to duplicate what is done better by other organisations in Wales. WCVA's (Wales Council for Voluntary Action) briefing papers might be monitored for information.
- As core concerns at present we should continue to work with churches through CYTŪN and in interfaith contexts; we should respond to public consultations initiated by the Wales Assembly government, making use of individuals and groups of Friends with appropriate expertise, to respond within the MFW mechanism; we should monitor the Assembly website and have MFW listed as a body to be consulted.
- At the present time we should also have a special concern for the impact on Wales of government spending cuts and for monitoring and encouraging AM witness in relation to commemoration of WW1.

This Meeting requests that information relevant to Friends in Wales and gathered by Central Nominations might be made available to MFW. In the first instance the Clerks' and Trustees' meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> will combine with the Wales Focus Group to discern ways of taking forward the matters in this report.

## **2013.27 Ken Bramhall: *Visit to Kigama: the North Wales Area Kenya Link***

North Wales AM has for several years had a Link to work in partnership with Quakers in Kigama Monthly Meeting, Kenya, following a visit to North Wales by pastor Seth Chayugah of that Monthly Meeting. Most people in the Kigama region are Quakers and of evangelical type. The area is impoverished and people have little land. Friends have primary and secondary schools there and a particular concern for work with widows and orphans of AIDS. Orphans are cared for among local families. Ken Bramhall has described for us his visit and the work being done. We thank him for his interesting report and have agreed to hold a collection for the Kenya Link at this Meeting. We encourage LMs to do this also.

## **2013.28 Communications and Publications update**

Ros Morley, Jules Montgomery and (for part of the meeting) Huw Meredydd Owen met with staff of Quaker Communications department at Friends House on June 10<sup>th</sup>, at their invitation. This was a fruitful meeting and the department's technical help will be valuable in the creation of new maps descriptive of MFW and its meetings and of Quaker posters distinctive to Wales. More discussion will be needed to clarify matters of MFW identity in relation to wider BYM identity, including use of our bilingual Logo and to develop within MFW a clear and agreed process for production of our distinctive poster material. We shall return to the possibility of establishing a project board to provide a brief for posters and a representative to the Friends House project board. The matter will be on the Agenda for our October Meeting. Our English and Welsh language MFW websites are to include links to publicly-available (online) material relating (a) to the history of Quakers in Wales and (b) to the First World War and Friends' Peace testimony. We invite Friends to contact our administrator ([quakersinwales.jm@btinternet.com](mailto:quakersinwales.jm@btinternet.com)) if they know of such material or of unpublished Quaker history relating to Wales (such as local history or about individuals). Similarly material relating to Wales, war and the peace testimony, including family stories would be welcome.

## **2013.29 Yearly Meeting 2013**

Dorothy Bell on behalf of Alun Williams has read a report. Alun Williams of Aberystwyth Meeting attended YM for the first time this year, held in London. It was a mixed experience which left him critical of the

plenary sessions but he found great food for thought in much that happened at YM. We thank him for his stimulating report.

### **2013.30 Meeting for Sufferings**

Meeting for Sufferings on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 considered a number of pressing issues including possible boycott of Israeli goods; the effects of 'cuts' and revision of welfare benefits; possible revision of our Book of Discipline. David Butler has highlighted the following areas in which individuals and Meetings might make their voices heard: in relation to Israel/Palestine "*working locally with other groups, entering into dialogue, visiting the occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, and inviting Ecumenical Accompaniers to speak.*" In relation to review of *A Framework for Action*" (on July's agenda) to send a Minute to Meeting for Sufferings if wished, and in relation to revision of our *Book of Discipline*, to begin to discern whether revision is necessary. We thank David Butler for his report.

### **2013.31 Arrangements 2014**

Arrangements Committee presents the following plan for 2014, which is agreeable to Friends. All venues are accessible and with a hearing loop.

<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014</b>	Montgomery
<b>28<sup>th</sup> June 2014</b>	Abergavenny
<b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>	Aberystwyth

### **2013.32 The Wales Peace Academy (from Minutes 2013.08; 2013.16)**

We have had a comprehensive report from Donald Saunders on the conference in Aberystwyth in March 2013 to explore the possible creation of a Wales Peace Academy. A number of Friends were present among the 70+ people who attended. At that conference our Friend Jane Harries was one of those elected to the steering group to take the plan forward. Donald Saunders told how in an increasingly militarised Wales the conference desired to see a Peace Academy such as some other countries have established. This could provide an informed voice for peace, in matters of development, international relations and social justice. The nine person steering group has subsequently held a public meeting in Llandudno and plans are moving forward. We uphold Jane Harries and the work of the committee.

### **2013.33 Digital Storytelling Proposal**

From South Wales Area Meeting we have received the proposal for the creation of a DVD for distribution to schools in Wales. This digital storytelling project would make available the Friends' peace testimony, conscientious objection and peace-makers' experiences to a youth audience. Funding is being sought for this project, which this Meeting greets with enthusiasm. It will cost between £7,000 - £10,000. We authorise our Trustees and the MFW treasurer to determine an appropriate and generous contribution on our behalf.

### **2013.34 Between Meetings actions: Recruitment in Schools and the *IF* campaign**

Between meetings (a) the clerks of MFW signed a letter from church leaders for publication in the press on March 18<sup>th</sup>, in advance of the meeting of G8 leaders. This was in support of the Christian Aid 'Enough food IF...' campaign, calling for attention to the root causes of global hunger. (b) We were indebted to our Wales Focus Group and in particular to Gethin Evans for the clear submission made between meetings to the Petitions Committee of the Wales Assembly, in respect of military recruitment in schools. This submission may be read on the MFW website.

### **2013.35 The National Eisteddfod 2013 (from Minute 2013.14)**

Friends' presence at the 2013 eisteddfod in Denbigh is being co-ordinated by Rhian Parry. Ecumenical committee meetings have brought the following decisions: in the Churches Together tent Friends will have responsibility for a Quiet Corner. Plans for Quaker worship sessions are being made. Jane Harries has said she is willing to be one of the afternoon speakers in the tent, on Ecumenical Accompaniment in Israel/Palestine. Material on this topic is presently being translated into Welsh for use by MFW and EAs returning to Wales. It will be available to all as a resource from our administrator in due course. Friends are encouraged to sign the volunteers' rota for the Churches Together tent and/or to contact Rhian about willingness to help.

### **2013.36 Nominations and Appointments**

We ask Liz Butler and Julia Aspden to bring to our October Meeting the name of a Friend to serve on Nominations committee from January 2014-December 2016:

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### **Between Meetings appointments**

Gwyneth Hewitson of Holyhead Meeting to attend the welcome gathering of the Union of Welsh Independents' Annual Assembly, Bangor, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

John Lewis of Swansea meeting and Yvonne Ruff of Carmarthen to attend the Eisteddfod 2014 Proclamation ceremony at Carmarthen on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Following Minute 2012.46** the names of Alun Williams MWAM and Catherine James NWAM were brought by Nominations Group and they were appointed to Wales Focus Group.

### **Following Minute 2013.16**

Donald Saunders to attend the Wales Peace Academy Conference, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Aberystwyth

Brian Scrivener of Montgomery Meeting to attend the URC annual gathering at Newtown on our behalf.

Alun Williams appointed to report to MFW on Yearly Meeting.

### **Nominations sought**

This Meeting has decided to ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve on Cytûn International Affairs Committee.

### **Other Nominations sought**

1 Trustee for January 2014-December 2016

Co-clerk for January 2014-December 2016

Archivist from January 2014-December 2016

Two Friends for Publications committee:

(a) to December 2015

(b) from January 2014- December 2016

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Ros Morley, Christine Trevett (co-clerks).