



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 21th October 2017 in Newtown

2017.34 Opening worship

During our opening worship, number 16 of the *Advices and Queries* was read in Welsh and in English.

2017.35 Those present today

We welcome 46 Friends here today, as recorded on the attendance list.

Representatives from Area Meetings are:

- MWAM: Helen Porter
- NWAM: Ros Morley (reporting), Frances Voelcker, Frank Brown
- SMAM: Hilary Beynon
- SWAM: David Harries being prevented, Peter Davies has agreed to report from this meeting.

Our elder today is Cynthia Rowland of Montgomery meeting.

Our translator today is Glyn L. Jones

2017.36 Calon and *The Friend*

Lynn Moseley will write a report of this meeting for Calon, and Christine Trevett will write a report for The Friend.

2017.37 Greetings on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of MFW/CCC

Greetings and congratulations to MFW from the Recording Clerk, Paul Parker, have been read to the Meeting. We have received the following from the Deputy Recording Clerk Juliet Prager:

Dear Friends, the following minute was recorded at Meeting for Sufferings held in Manchester on 6th October. Please could you pass this on to Meeting of Friends in Wales when it gathers? We send our very best greetings, and hope you have a good celebration together.

MfS 2017/10/13 Meeting of Friends in Wales

Deallwn y bydd Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru yn dathlu ym mis Hydref 25 mlynedd ers ei sefydlu ac anfonwn gyfarchion atynt oll.

We note Meeting of Friends in Wales is celebrating its 25th anniversary and we send greetings to all Friends there.

Today in this meeting we are celebrating 25 years since the establishment of MFW in 1992. We have heard from Catherine James of some of the problems which had to be overcome when setting up the meeting and about some of the positive aspects and successes over the years. Now the question is, what next?

Heddiw, yn y cyfarfod hwn, dathlwn 25ain o flynyddoedd ers sefydlu CCC ym 1992. Clywsom gan Catherine James am rhai o'r problemau oedd rhaid eu goresgyn wrth sefydlu'r cyfarfod, ac am rhai o'r agweddau cadarnhaol a'r llwyddiannau dros y blynyddoedd. Bellach, y cwestiwn yw, beth nesaf?

2017.38 Cytûn Racial Justice Network

MFW values Quaker links with Cytûn and many Friends in Wales are involved with its projects and networks. Deborah Rowlands, who serves as a Board member of Cytûn, has spoken of her role and that of other Friends in it and has introduced Natalie Danford of Swansea Meeting. She has told us of the work of the Cytûn Racial Justice Network. Representatives of churches meet on this forum to keep the issue of racial justice in the public sphere, to work in solidarity as a group, campaigning and collaborating with others, particularly on human rights matters. Religious groups, she reminds us, play a major role in aiding migrants. Cytûn's reach and concern is not only for Christians. We thank Deborah and Natalie for their contribution today.

2017.39 Outreach

Gillian Sewell of *Quaker Life*, who is responsible for outreach at Friends House, has been welcomed. Outreach is not seeking conversion, she told us, but making the Quaker way known and understood. She encourages us to seek opportunities for a Quaker presence and to make use of the resources. 250,000 people attend the Hay festival, for which a bi-lingual information pack is planned. We were encouraged to point Friends to the survey on Outreach, and to suggest that they complete it. It is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Qoutreach17>
We thank Gillian for joining us today.

2017.40 QLRC report

We have received Angela Ormrod's report of the QLRC conference on 'Shape Shifting – New Models of Quaker Meeting and Community'. It had raised questions about the need for change and for appraisal of our Quaker formalism and administration; about seeking ways to do more things together and with inter-generational Quaker community-building in mind. Society has changed and 'We may need now to think again' about who we are and what we are doing, as Friends did in the Manchester Conference of 1895 and at its 1995 centenary. Should we seek to do fewer things but well? a Friend has asked. We thank Angela for this report and for her service in this last triennium.

2017.41 Royal Welsh Show

We thank Jeff Beatty for being co-ordinator for Friends' presence at the Show and for the report he has provided on our presence in the Cytûn tent there. He described it as an enjoyable experience with increased opportunity to offer silent worship this year. Should the question of providing a Quaker chaplain for the event be revisited?

2017.42 The National Eisteddfod

(a) Gerald Hewitson, who visited the National Eisteddfod on Anglesey this summer, has written an account of his impressions of our work in the Cytûn Tent, which has been circulated. We add that the *Churches Together in Wales* (Cytûn) tent is an ecumenical one, where the outreach is concerned mainly with Christian hospitality to all at the eisteddfod. Friends volunteer to oversee the Quiet Corner within it, for the use of all denominations and those of none. Gwyneth Hewitson was the co-ordinator for volunteering Friends this year and we thank her for that service.

(b) The eisteddfod lecture: Gethin Evans has reported on Huw Meredydd Owen's lecture at the eisteddfod in Anglesey/Môn in 2017 which was difficult but well received, and with a 'tickling' title. Next year's lecture at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff in 2018 will be given by Jane Harries, on aspects of the legacy of peace and peace-making in Wales, as commemoration of World War I comes to a close.

2017.43 BYM tabular statement

In the tabular statement created by Friends House on membership and attendance throughout BYM, Scotland is shown separately from England and Wales, but MFW is not shown as a separate body. Even the maps do not distinguish us as a country. We ask that this should be done in future, bearing in mind that our membership consists of all who live and/or worship in Wales. We send this minute to the Recording Clerk to be forwarded to the appropriate body.

2017.44 Biennial Meeting of clerks and trustees of MFW and Wales AMs

'We should do together all we can and only do apart what we can't do together.'
The report (quoted above) from the meeting of clerks and trustees of Wales has been circulated. We are not great in numbers in Wales and a great deal of effort is being made by Friends. How might MFW facilitate greater working together and mutual support across Wales? We encourage MFW to offer a response to the issues.

2017.45 The future path of MFW

Having heard of our past and something of our present work, we have received a number of suggestions for future action. Given limited time at this meeting, the matter will be subject to the discernment of the clerks and MFW's Wales Focus Group and will be brought to our next meeting.

2017.46 A Teaching Peace pack for Schools

As part of highlighting Friends' work in Wales during our meetings Hilary Beynon has spoken to us about the 'Teach Peace' pack for schools project. This is linked with the Hedd Wen group in Abergavenny/Y Fenni and it is available in both English and Welsh. She has also told us of the origins and use of the Hedd Wen peace garden and meeting place and we gained a sense of it through a visual presentation. We thank Hilary for her thought-provoking presentation.

2017.47 Quaker Housing Trust

Mary Hammond, a member of Cardiff Meeting, and of Quaker Housing Trust, which began 50 years ago, has spoken to us of this work, particularly in the Welsh context. Wales is making efforts to prevent homelessness and to support the building of social housing for rent. Nevertheless there has been an increase in the number of homeless. QHT relies entirely on donations, which are used to fund charity projects which are discerned as directly providing housing for people. Some projects are visited by a member of the committee. We were asked to consider our own housing, and how this affects our life, to consider whether we can help to fund QHT and whether there is a suitable project in our own area which needs our help.

2017.48 Resources

Ros Morley has spoken about the resources which we already have available and about the need to co-ordinate our work with that of Friends House. The map of Welsh Meetings is being updated, and a new banner is being prepared. Posters more relevant for use in Wales are needed.

2017.49 . Terms of Reference (TORs)

The updated TORs for Committees of MFW have been available to see on our website and during the lunch period. We have accepted the following new TORs for committees:

- (a) resources
- (b) nominations committee
- (c) arrangements committee
- (d) focus group
- (e) trustees

These will be appended to the minutes.

2017.50 MFW Arrangements for 2018

Arrangements proposed for 2018 have been approved as follows:

24th February 2018: St Thomas's church Lampeter, Huw Meredydd Owen: "The Moment, the Hour and the hole in the roof"/"Yr Eiliad, yr Awr a'r Twll yn y To" – from the Quaker Eisteddfod lecture 2017.

30th June 2018: Friends' Meeting House, Wreccsam, Ben Pink Dandelion: "The State of the Society' : an overview of the latest sociological research into British Quakerism and some suggestions as to what it may be telling us."

27th October 2018: The Pales, Llandegley: Gethin Evans: "Peace: The Quakers' Dilemma during the 1st World War / Heddwch: dilema'r Crynwyr yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf."

The *Work in Wales* item is presently arranged through the clerks and not by Arrangements Committee but for information, the following will figure in 2018:

February: The *Work in Wales* item will be Theresa Haine (Lampeter) on *Money for Madagascar*

June: The *Work in Wales* item will be Ruth Moore Williams (Ruthin) on HMP Berwyn

October: The *Work in Wales* item will be Maura Hazelden (Cardigan), 'Refugees in Cardigan and Surrounding Area'.

2017.51 Minutes of record between meetings:

(a) **MFW Archive:** A meeting was held in Aberystwyth on October 5th between Deborah Rowlands (former clerk MFW), Christine Trevett (present clerk), Jules Montgomery (Administrator) and Alan Clark (MFW archivist) to review progress on reconstitution of MFWs lost archive. Sadly some material is not recoverable. However, progress is being made on reconstituting the record of MFW's history and work. A deposit of pre 2011 records into archive will not happen until 2018.

(b) Commemorating 25 years of MFW in *The Friend*

The first gathering of the newly constituted Meeting for Friends in Wales (later to be called Meeting of Friends in Wales) took place in October 1992. It has been agreed that *The Friend* in November 2017 will mark this 25th anniversary with a number of pieces by and about Quakers and work in Wales, including about MFW itself. We thank those who are contributing to the writing.

2017.52 Nominations and appointments

At this meeting two Friends were sought to be a search group for a nominee from SMAM to Nominations Committee, for immediate service and to December 31st 2019. The names of Hilary Beynon and Carolyn Sansom were brought forward. These being acceptable to Friends the two Friends were appointed.

(a) Release from service:

- (i)** Joyce Gooding and Pauline Brind requested immediate release from their service on Arrangements Committee. This was done at the end of July and Nominations committee was requested to seek two Friends to serve immediately.
- (ii)** Kate Robertson (SMAM) has asked to be released from service on Nominations Committee and this was agreed in October.
- (iii)** D. Bryn Jones has requested release from service on Arrangements Committee. Nominations are asked to find a replacement for him also, to serve immediately.

(b) Nominations brought forward:

- Stevie Krayner and Carolyn Sansom, seeking a nomination for Nominations Committee for the coming triennium, have brought forward the name of Ann Boot (Penarth). This name was acceptable to Friends and she is appointed.
- To serve on the Cytûn Church and Society Policy Officers group, to 31.12.2018: David Harries. This name was acceptable to Friends and he was appointed.

(c) Nominations sought:

- Co-clerk to serve immediately and to 31.12.2019.
- Co-clerk to serve from 01.01 2018 to 31.12.2020.
- Trustee to serve immediately and to 31.12.2019
- An editor for Calon to serve from 01.01.2018-31.12.2020
- Three Friends to serve on Arrangements committee, immediately and to 31.12.2019 (or staggered end dates may be possible)
- A Friend to serve as MFW member on the Board of Trustees of Cytûn, from July 2018 to June 2021
- **From SWAM** to be co-ordinator for Friends' presence at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff, 2018.
- **From SMAM** a co-ordinator for Friends' presence at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanelwedd, 2018

(d) Appointments made between meetings:

A Friend to attend and report on the 500th anniversary commemoration of the Protestant Reformation, Cardiff, October 31st. Christine Trevett

Signed:

_____(Clerk MFW) _____ (Asst Clerk MFW)
Christine Trevett (clerk) Catherine James (Asst Clerk MFW)