

Crynwyr



Quakers

Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru

Meeting of Friends in Wales

**Annual Report**  
**2011**  
**Adroddiad Blynyddol**

Charity Number: 1137955. Registered with the Charity Commission on 10.09.10

---

**1. Object:**

The object of Meeting of Friends in Wales (MFW) is the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain within Wales, and beyond.

**2. Officers of the meeting in 2011**

**Clerk:** Julia Aspden 01492 592282  
[julia@gwynt.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:julia@gwynt.fsnet.co.uk)

**Assistant Clerk:** Christine Trevett

**Clerk of trustees:** Gethin Evans (Mid-Wales AM. Re-appointed as clerk October 2010 to serve until Dec. 2012)  
[gethine45@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gethine45@yahoo.co.uk)

**Treasurer:** Lynn Moseley                      **Examiner of accounts:** Sue Lewis

**Other trustees:**

Rosemary Yale (North Wales AM), Vivienne Streets (South Wales AM), Frank Brown (North Wales AM)

**Administrator:** Jules Montgomery

**Bank:** CAF Bank Ltd., 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ,ME19 4JQ

**3. Governance**

MFW is part of Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) and has national responsibilities on its behalf within Wales. It consists of all Friends who are members in Wales. Its work is carried out by Friends appointed and our employed administrator. Day meetings are normally held three times a year and are publicised widely. They give occasions for nurture, witness and fellowship as well as a time to reflect and make decisions together. In all its activities the Meeting has

adhered to its Data Protection Policy, conscious of its responsibilities to protect confidentiality and follow good practice.

Trustees from all parts of Wales have now served for one year and find that the work of the meeting is harmonious and well organised.

#### **4. Report of work carried out in 2011**

The work of the Meeting will be considered under the five headings set out in 5.04/05 of *Quaker faith and practice* where the responsibilities are defined: -

##### **i. Promoting the spiritual life and witness in Wales, facilitating contact between Friends of all ages, and opportunities for mutual support for those with special responsibilities:**

- **Living the Quaker Way:** This programme organised and presented by Woodbrooke has completed its first three events which proved both stimulating and challenging. We look forward to the second tranche in 2012.
- **Celebrating the Quaker Way:** This generously funded project by Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust [JRCT] of a DVD and book in Welsh, which will have an English version, on this theme has begun, and the work is well in hand. We are conscious of the demands that this imposes on Friends and are grateful for their diligence and faithfulness.
- **Calon:** The MFW newsletter is circulated to all Friends three times a year and keeps meetings informed of activities and issues relevant to the life of the meeting.
- **Sharing the Quaker Story:** We found Alistair Fuller's address to us on this a timely reminder that all Friends have a responsibility in some way to communicate their Quakerism widely.

*Main priority for 2012: Our meetings for learning and nurture alongside Woodbrooke, will continue and we hope bring Friends closer together. Work on both the JRCT book and DVD will continue during 2012 with perhaps issue of the DVD during the year.*

##### **ii. Representing Britain Yearly Meeting in Wales**

- Our main focus continues in working with other churches through Cytûn: this enables us to have a strong voice at the National Assembly through their machinery.
- We continue to be supportive of the idea of a Welsh Peace Institute provided it does not duplicate work carried out in similar institutions elsewhere.

*Main priority for 2012: Maintain our vigilance and seek opportunities for witness especially with regards the effects of cut-backs and reductions being made to services.*

##### **iii. Communication with associated area meetings in Wales**

- A Meeting was again held for clerks, and clerks of Trustees of the four area meetings that cover Wales. This further strengthened our contact and visioning the future of Quakerism in Wales, and the challenges that we all face.

- Children and Young People's Work Advocates for the four area meetings concerned have met twice, once residentially for mutual support.
- At the request of one of our Area Meetings, we appointed three Friends to consider a member's appeal against an AM decision (under QF&P 4.25) This was a painful experience for everyone reminding us that we have a role to play in wider governance, and that the Society inevitably has to adhere to its own discipline to maintain its own integrity.

*Main priority for 2012: Ensuring effective contact between the area meetings remains a concern and we shall ensure that the system of sharing AM contact lists widely is realised.*

#### **iv. Responding to issues on living in a bilingual society and outreach in Wales;**

- We have launched a new Welsh language Website to complement rather than duplicate the English Language site.
- Our Welsh Language Consultative Group to advise on translation for administrative purposes and for new resources has developed a method of work that is both informal and effective, and involves a wide group of Friends from across Wales.
- We were again well represented at the Cytûn tent at the National Eisteddfod and are aware of developments being thought about for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

*Main priorities for 2012: To ensure that Britain Yearly Meeting remains aware of its responsibilities to the Welsh language and that its publications mirror this as far as practically possible.*

#### **v. Representing Wales to Britain Yearly Meeting**

- We are conscious that our deliberation should shadow and mirror discussions taking place within the Yearly Meeting. Our session on the plight of the Palestinians was an example of this. Many friends are committed to the wish to have all Quakers be low-carbon consumers and we have focused on this issue.
- Our representatives to Meeting for Sufferings give us regular reports.
- The Welsh Language Consultative Group, remains in touch with the Recording Clerk's office with regard to translation needs for *Quaker faith and practice*.
- We have sent representatives to Quaker Life Representative Council and the meeting of the Undeb yr Annibynwyr [Welsh Congregational Union].
- We forwarded two minutes to Sufferings; on the concern of North Wales AM regarding the strengthening of Area Meetings, an issue which obviously challenges the wider membership within the Society in Britain, and on the effects of government cuts.
- The Assistant Recording Clerk was with us in February and we value this link.

*Main priorities for 2012: To monitor the work and efforts pursued by the Yearly Meeting so that these can be reflected in our work and discussions, mindful however of our responsibilities to witness to issues relevant to Wales.*

## 5. Financial Review – 2011

**Funds:** At the end of the year, the general fund had a balance of £10,527.66, an increase of £930.94. There was no change in the John Roberts legacy fund nor the designated Bursary Fund. There was no change either in the two restricted funds held, the Literature Fund and a small bursary fund for residential meetings

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant:** During the year a new designated fund was opened with a major grant donated by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. That fund stands at £17,669.99 at the end of the year, £5,693.01 having been expended out of a total receipt of £23,363.00 thus far. A total of £30,863.00 is expected to be received before completion of the project, which is on programme.

**Reserves Policy:** The total of funds held at year end of £30,599.96 is unusually high and reflects the cashflow of the JRCT project. The figure for the general fund is a clearer indicator of our success in maintaining year on year consistency in the balance between income and expenditure and adherence to our reserves policy, which requires that adequate funds are maintained to cover the period from the end of the previous year until money is received from our funding sources

**Investments:** MFW holds no investments; its balances are held in an interest-bearing current account. (CAF Bank currently does not offer an ethical option.) The Bank balance at 31.12.2011 was £30,614.16.

**Funding Sources:** MFW is funded from year to year on the basis of an agreed per (adult) capita amount paid by the four Area Meetings that cover Wales. Monies are usually received from April onwards.

**Other Income:** Donations are from time to time received from individual Friends, who this year contributed £125.00.

**Grant from BYM:** We continue to be in receipt of a grant of £6365.00 from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative costs, which will again be available in 2012. The grant this year was received in January. We use this to support the employment of our part time administrator. The costs of employing the administrator together with ancillary office expenditure amounted to £4333.28. Other administration costs were £1294.88, of which £218.37 were defrayed by a contribution from an area meeting.

**Examiner:** The independent examiner, Sue Lewis, is also the examiner of accounts for South Wales Area Meeting. This is the second year of her appointment.

**Risk assessment:** Meeting of Friends in Wales owns no premises; when holding our regular meetings in hired premises or Quaker meeting houses we will take reasonable care on health and safety matters. The contract of employment covers the health and safety of the employee. Insurance has been taken out through the BYM policy. For relevant events we ask that all volunteers working with children and young people have CRB checks in their local meetings, according to their area meeting policy.

**Financial policy:** Our Financial policy sets out procedures for budgeting and accounting, the issuing cheques and the approval of expenditure. We confirm that these procedures have been complied with in the current year.

**Date:** ..... **Signed:** ..... *Gethin Evans, (clerk of Trustees)*

..... *Julia Aspden (Co-clerk)*

..... *Christine Trevett (Co-clerk)*