

Crynwyr



Quakers

Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru

Meeting of Friends in Wales

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL

Registered Charity Number 1137955

Registered with the Charity Commission in September 2010

1. Object

The object of the 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 2015

Clerk: Ros Morley ros.morley@btinternet.com

Co-clerk: Christine Trevett christinetrevett01@gmail.com

Assistant Clerk: Efa Wulle efawulle@gmail.com

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

Clerk of Trustees: Frank L Brown frank.brown4@tesco.net

Other Trustees: Peter Davies, David Utting, Dorothy Bell

Administrator: Jules Montgomery

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd., 25, Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, 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 living and/or worshipping 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 provide occasions for nurture, witness and fellowship, as well as 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 have met twice in 2015, within the day meetings referred to above, with e-mail contact between meetings, as required.

4. Report of work carried out in 2015

The work of the Meeting is considered under the five headings set out in 5.04/5.05 of *Quaker faith and practice [5th edition]* being the document of governance which regulates the organisational life of BYM, 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;

* **Residential Weekend** In February, a very successful gathering at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth was held, "Taking the next step in fulfilling our commitment to be a Sustainable Community".

* **Celebrating the Quaker Way** This JRCT funded project published a book [following a DVD], entitled "Tua'r Tarddiad" in Welsh, and 'Towards the Source' in English, last year. The books have continued to sell well, and the proceeds will help to finance future activities of MFW. It will be a responsibility of Trustees to ensure that these monies are spent wisely, and productively.

* **Calon** – the MFW newsletter was only able to be produced twice this year. It is intended to be circulated with Quaker News [a BYM production], to reach individual Friends – especially those who are less involved in Quaker activities, or are prevented from attending MFW sessions in person.

***MFW in Session** MFW continued to meet three times in 2015 – at Brithdir, near Dolgellau in February, at Lampeter in June, and in Welshpool in October. The mix of business matters and themed talks continued.

In February, we were delighted to welcome Ben Pink Dandelion, following up his Swarthmore Lecture of 2014. In June, Alexandra Bosbeer described the work of QCEA, which was particularly helpful as preparation for the forthcoming referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union. In October, our attention once again focussed upon Palestine and Israel, when Naseer Arafat, an architect, gave a personal account of the trials and tribulations faced by Palestinians in their daily lives.

* **A Vision for Wales*** A workshop to consider this topic was held in Aberystwyth in September, which attending Friends found stimulating and helpful.

Priorities for 2016. To work with Cytûn as the Assembly election in May approaches, and also, with BYM and General Meeting for Scotland, to consider the effects of devolution on BYM.

ii) Representing BYM in Wales

We actively contribute to the central work of Cytûn, working with its member churches. At a national level, Deborah Rowlands is a Trustee, and Peter Davies is on the Finance Committee.

Cytûn has a presence at the National Eisteddfod in August each year, and the Royal Welsh Show in July. The former is well-established. The Royal Welsh Show has a different audience and is an opportunity to contact the rural population. Doing this from a permanent showground [unlike the National Eisteddfod] brings its own difficulties, mainly a tendency to become a rather ‘local’ production, rather than an evolving nationwide one.

Priority for 2016 – to maintain our contribution, and seek ways to develop it further.

iii) Communication with associated Area Meetings in Wales

- Children and Young Peoples advocates continue to meet, but the small numbers of children, and large areas make effective work difficult.
- Contact lists are made available to essential users, facilitating links. From this year, individual Friends who wish to have copies are expected to purchase their own directly, which is simpler for our administrator.
- In September, AM and MFW representatives met in Aberystwyth, to review the work done by each, as a networking exercise.

Priorities for 2016. Trustees are becoming aware of an increasing difficulty in finding Friends able and willing to give service, as our membership ages. This has not yet been faced.

iv) Responding to issues on living in a bilingual society and out reach in Wales

- Work on the website continues to be a problem, and a small group is to consider how to achieve progress.
- National Eisteddfod and Royal Welsh Show - see ii) above.

Priority for 2016- to develop the website, by appointing a task and finish group, which is asked to report back in June 2016. Also to review the workload of the clerking team, who have struggled to respond to requests for information and Welsh Quaker statements on current issues.

v) Representing Wales to Britain Yearly Meeting

In last year’s Report, Trustees said that many of our concerns and issues are UK wide. This continues to be so. Across Britain Yearly Meeting, Friends are following a programme of studying *Quaker Faith and Practice*, in preparation for a new version. This may lead to MFW representations about contributions

Our representative attends Meeting for Sufferings, and reports back to MFW in session.

Priority for 2016– To continue to play our part in BYM – sometimes to support the mainstream thoughts and ideas, and sometimes to highlight the variations which exist within the UK.

Signed

Frank L Brown, Clerk of Trustees

Date:

Meeting of Friends in Wales

Balance Sheet 31 December 2015

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	
			2015	2014
Current Assets at 31 December 2015				
CAF Bank current a/c	13,754.95	0.00	13,754.95	13,394.32
Total assets	13,754.95	0.00	13,754.95	13,394.32

Represented by

Accumulated Fund

Balance at 1 January			13,334.32	20,839.79
Excess of Income over Expenditure			420.63	-7,505.47
Balance at 31 December			13,754.95	13,334.32

Summary of accounts YE 2015

Income

General funds

Area Meetings	2,873.50	
Grants	6,730.00	
Events	6,764.00	
Total general funds		16,367.50

Designated funds

Bursary	0.00	
JRCT Project	856.40	
Total designated funds		856.40

Restricted funds

Digital Voices	0.00	
Total restricted funds		0.00
Total income		17,223.90

Expenditure

General funds

Administration	1,422.46	
Employment	5,298.99	
Translation	366.12	
Events	6,520.70	
Website	0.00	
Publications	0.00	
Calon	610.00	
Children's and Young People Advocates	0.00	
Committees	0.00	
Total general funds		14,218.27

Designated funds

Bursary	0.00	
JRCT Project	965.00	
Total designated funds		965.00

Restricted funds

Digital Voices	1,620.00	
Total restricted funds		1,620.00

Total expenditure **16,803.27**

Excess of income over expenditure 420.63

Statement of financial activities 2015

	General funds	JRCT Project	Bursary (designated)	D. Voices (restricted)	Literature (restricted)	Bursary (restricted))	Total, 2015	Total, 2014
INCOME								
Voluntary income	9,603.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,630.50	15,309.00
Investment income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.67
Income from Quaker activities	6,764.00	856.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,620.40	3,338.58
TOTAL income	16,367.50	856.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,223.90	18,656.25
EXPENDITURE								
Cost of Quaker activities	14,218.27	965.00	0.00	1,620.00	0.00	0.00	16,803.27	28,961.72
TOTAL expenditure	14,218.27	965.00	0.00	1,620.00	0.00	0.00	16,803.27	28,961.72
NET income	2,149.23	-108.60	0.00	-1,620.00	0.00	0.00	420.63	-10,305.47
RECONCILIATION								
Balance at 31.12. 2014	8,481.10	2,830.91	391.00	1,620.00	3.31	8.00	13,334.32	23,639.79
Receipts and Transfers	16,367.50	859.71	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,235.21	18,656.25
Payments and Transfers	14,218.27	965.00	0.00	1,620.00	3.31	8.00	16,814.58	28,961.72
Balance at 31.12. 2015	10,630.33	2,725.62	399.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,754.95	13,334.32

Financial Review – 2015

Funds: 2015 The year 2015 saw our financial position returning to a more usual level after a busy two years in 2013 and 2014. At year end our unrestricted funds stand at £13,754.95, a £420.63 increase on 2014. Our aim was to manage a break even budget and the surplus would have been smaller but for an underspend on our newsletter Calon, which due to production difficulties did not produce a third edition by year end. We took the opportunity during the year to close two small restricted funds totalling £11.31.

Digital Voices Project: The balance of £1,620.00 held in the restricted fund maintained by Friends in Wales on behalf of the project was transferred during the year to Breaking Barriers, the Charity acting on behalf of the project group set up by South Wales Area Meeting, who have been instructed to carry out appropriate additional publicity and outreach work. The restricted fund has accordingly been wound up.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Project Fund: The book project having come to an end, it was decided to use further receipts from book sales to fund continuing work to improve our bilingual web site. To date £965 has been expended on this work, leaving a balance of £2725.62 at year end. This decision does not preclude use of these funds in the future for other outreach purposes.

Conference at Machynlleth; During the year a residential conference was held at the Centre for Alternative Technology outside Machynlleth which was very well attended and involved considerable organisational work. The cost of £6,520.70 was more than covered by income from attendance fees of £6,764.

Reserves Policy: At the end of the year total funds stand at £13,754.95 none of which are restricted. This is a healthy position in line with our reserves policy, which requires that adequate funds be 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.)

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

Grant from BYM: We continue to receive a grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative costs, which will again be available in 2015. The grant of £6730.00 for 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 £5298.99. Other administration costs were £1,422.46.

Examiner: The independent examiner is Sue Lewis FCCA, who is in the sixth 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. Our Insurance Policy with Ansvar Insurance through our brokers Arthur J Gallagher includes cover for our public and employers liabilities. 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 of cheques and the approval of expenditure. We confirm that these procedures have been complied with in the current year.

Lynn Moseley

Treasurer