



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 21 February 2015 at Brithdir, Dolgellau

2015.01 Opening worship and welcome

Chapter 12:1–3 of the New Testament *Letter to the Romans* has been read in Welsh and in English in our opening worship.

We have welcomed 52 Friends to this Meeting, as listed on the attendance sheet.

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

North Wales: Rhian Parry

Mid Wales: The appointed person was prevented. Karen Goswell has agreed to report.

Southern Marches: Peter Hussey

South Wales: Did not appoint. Lynn Moseley has agreed to report.

Our elders today are: Dorothy Bell and Gethin Evans

2015.02 *Calon and The Friend*

Rhian Parry has agreed to write about this Meeting for *Calon*.

Lynn Moseley has agreed to write for *The Friend*.

2015.03 The Swarthmore lecture and beyond

Ben Pink Dandelion, Swarthmore lecturer 2014–15, has shared with this Meeting his thinking since writing the book *Open for Transformation: Being Quaker*, speaking of his continuing journey with its themes. He reported the fact that some Friends had found elements in the book discomfiting, notably his use of the term 'secular' and his own ease with God-language. He has stressed for us the importance of openness for transformation as a key to understanding being Quaker. In speaking clearly to each other we create Meetings and a Society free of misunderstandings, where we ask 'From what place are we acting?'

2015.04 Report on Quaker Life Representative Council

Liz Butler's enthusiastic report on a QLRC weekend points us to a new online resource which was previewed there: *Being Friends Together*, which she encourages Friends to use in due course. She reminds

us that *Being Friends Together* may be added to. In due course Friends in Wales may wish to consider a Welsh language dimension for this resource.

2015.05 Report on Meeting for Sufferings, December 2014

The Religious Society of Friends will register with the Electoral Commission under *The Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning Groups and Trade Union Administration Act 2014*. In his report on the December 2014 Meeting for Sufferings Dave Butler told us of the discernment and ongoing concerns about this. Material would be prepared to explain Friends' stance in relation to this Lobbying Act. He also reported Meeting for Sufferings' encouragement to Friends to build bridges for countering Islamophobia and to find ways to promote tax justice.

2015.06 Meeting for Sufferings South Wales regional day

Jenny Sen attended this second such gathering in Wales, held in Cardiff FMH in November 2014. It was a valuable source of information about the work of Meeting for Sufferings and a reminder of the importance of active communication to and from Area and Local meetings, about ongoing concerns. Lynn Moseley had attended the same meeting and noted that the idea had been mooted there of paid Quaker Life workers by region (Wales would be one of those regions), akin to travelling ministers.

2015.07 Wales Remembers/Cymru'n Cofio

The 'Wales Remembers' Board plans and coordinates events to commemorate Welsh involvement in WW1. For MFW Alan Armstrong has reported on its December 2014 meeting in Cardiff, outlining for us the *Wales for Peace/Cymru dros Heddwch* plans (Wales Centre for International Affairs) and commemorations of Welsh involvement in the Gallipoli landings of 1915-16.

2015.08 Wales and peace issues

Jane Harries's report has updated this meeting in respect of (a) a group working for a Conscientious Objectors Day in Wales and a forthcoming petition to the Assembly and (b) on progress on the *Wales for Peace/Cymru dros Heddwch* project (Wales Centre for International Affairs and other groups). Friends are encouraged to sign the petition to have a Conscientious Objectors Day for Wales. The matter of MFW and support for initiatives dependent on Lottery funding will be on the agenda for our June 2015 meeting in Lampeter.

2015.08 Report from CYTŪN

From the CYTŪN Enabling Group Deborah Rowlands has outlined some of CYTŪN's activities and engagement. In particular Friends are invited to explore ways of working with CYTŪN and others, to advocate for policies in line with our concerns as a Society. We agree to set up a group of people to meet with Gethin Rhys, CYTŪN's policy officer, the group to include BYM's Advocacy Officer (subject to consent) and others determined in consultation with clerks and MFW's Wales Focus Group.

2015.09 Friends in Wales: contact books

This Meeting reminds Area and Local Meetings in Wales that it has no budget for free provision of contact books for Wales-wide Quaker contact, to Friends who might want them. It supplies them free of charge to designated Meeting functionaries in Area Meetings and to others whose service to Meeting of Friends in Wales necessitates having them. Last year Minute 2014.11 indicated that 'if possible this decision should take effect immediately. Our contact list editors should advise meetings that personal books need to paid for.' We continue to consider providing this information digitally as well as, or in place of, on paper. We shall circulate AMs to initiate discussion about using PDF format, which would be less costly.

2015.10 Outreach Matters

i. Laying down the JRCT project

The project for creation of the books *Towards the Source* and *Tua'r Tarddiad* and also a DVD, funded by a grant from *The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust*, is now being laid down. The task has been completed and the final report to the charity has been made. It has involved several years of hard work for a number of Friends and in various ways the involvement of many more. The results have been circulated to schools and libraries, appear on YouTube and remain on sale. They are beautiful and are acting as a valuable source for outreach in both Welsh and English. We are indebted to all who made this possible and we share with the organising group in being glad to have something which adds to the pool of understanding of what it means to be Quaker, in different parts of the world.

ii. Resource Group

Poster Group and Publications Group were formerly part of MFW's provision for outreach in Wales. These groups are now laid down and their roles are subsumed in the work of the Resources Committee, which is a re-naming of the Project Group.

iii. CYTŪN Quaker presence at the Royal Welsh Show, Llanelwedd, 2015

Presently we do not have two Friends to replace John and Bridget Senior as our representatives working with CYTŪN at the Royal Welsh show. We are seeking nominations urgently. It will be at Llanelwedd, nr. Builth Wells, 20th–23rd July 2015.

iv. Quaker presence at the National Eisteddfod, Meifod, 2015

Alan and Cynthia Rowland attended the initial planning meeting in February. Cynthia has reported on that meeting and volunteers will be needed to help in the CYTŪN/Churches Together tent. She reminds us of activities such as morning worship and regular talks and music there throughout the week, as well as provision of refreshments, plus a Quiet Corner. Arrangements are at an early stage and the next planning meeting will be April 27th. Our administrator will send forms to local meetings inviting volunteers for the week's activities.

v. Eisteddfod Friends' lecture committee

The group set up under Minute 2014.39 has met. This was to consider the matter of Friends sponsoring a lecture at the National Eisteddfod. This need not be an annual event and lectures need not be delivered by a Quaker. Lectures would address a topic matching Quaker faith and concerns or be to do with Friends' history, and with the Welsh context in mind. Lynn Moseley reports that experimentally the 2016 Eisteddfod at Abergavenny will have the first such lecture. The topic will be the Quaker publisher and educationist John Edward Southall, who lived in Gwent. Dr Gethin Evans has agreed to give the lecture. Friends are invited to provide suggestions for other topics and Welsh speaking lecturers for future years. These should be made to the planning group either directly or through their Local Meetings. We agree to set up a designated fund for future use, for payment of a fee and expenses to invited lecturers, as necessary. Friends are invited to contribute to this fund.

2015.11 MFW Residential weekend, Machynlleth

"Taking the next step" in fulfilling our commitment to be a Sustainable Community: The MFW Residential Gathering, will be at the Centre for Alternative Technology, 27th February to March 1st. 38 Friends have registered. There will be four facilitators and two children are registered also. In relation to the topic these facilitators will explore with Friends the spiritual, the economic, and taking action and campaigning. Martin Hughes has agreed to report to us on this Residential weekend. We thank Frances Voelcker for her work in organising this gathering.

2015.13 Trustees and Finance matters

Trustees have met today and approved the accounts for 2014 submitted by the Treasurer which have been signed off by the Examiner. These, together with the Annual Report, will be submitted to Britain Yearly Meeting as required as a condition of their annual grant. A copy of the Annual Report and accounts will be placed on the Meeting of Friends in Wales website for Friends to peruse. Anyone unable to access the website who wishes to receive paper copies of the documents should contact our administrator. Any matters concerning the accounts and the Annual Report may be raised at our next (June 2015) meeting.

The accounts show two residual restricted funds with small amounts of money in them. Trustees recommend that the restricted Literature fund containing £3.31 be wound up and this amount transferred to the JRCT book project account which is still active. The restricted Bursary fund containing £8.00 will also be wound up and the amount transferred to the designated Bursary fund which stands at £391.00. We accept that recommendation.

Trustees have reviewed the Contract of Employment of our administrator and have agreed to amend the clause dealing with hours of work to enable the administrator to be paid at a later date for hours worked during the year in excess of contractual hours. At present the clause only provides for time off, in lieu of additional payment, to be taken. The arrangement will be reviewed after two years.

2015.14 Future MFW Meetings

During the present year MFW will meet:

