



## Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 24th October 2015 at Welshpool

### 2015.32 Opening Worship and Welcome

We have welcomed 30 Friends to this Meeting, as listed on the attendance sheet.

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

**North Wales:** Frances Voelcker, Angela Arnold, Martin Hughes

**Southern Marches:** Hilary Beynon

**South Wales:** Maryse Newnham

For **Mid Wales:** Bryn Jones and Dorothy Bell will report

Our elders today are: Angela Arnold and Catherine James

### 2015.33 Calon and The Friend

Efa Wulle has agreed to write about this Meeting for Calon and Martin Morley to write for The Friend.

### 2015.34 Meeting for Sufferings

Frances Voelcker has provided a report on several Meetings for Sufferings attended by Helen Still and herself. We note that Welsh Friends and Wales's Area Meetings are actively engaged in the activities and concerns which this report describes and that the document *Our Faith in the Future* will soon be available in Welsh.

### 2015.35 Quaker Life Representative Council Report

From Angela Ormrod's report we have had an overview of the recent QLRP weekend and of the current work of Quaker Life both for support and nurture of meetings and for preparation for future revision of Quaker Faith and Practice. She has told us that mutual learning takes place among the representatives at these gatherings.

### 2015.36 QCCIR Conference 2015

The annual conference held at Friends' House in September was on the challenging subject of Inter-faith peace-making. Joan Darbyshire of Swansea Meeting was appointed to attend on our behalf. We have received her report and Friends are invited to contact her for further information about the day.

### 2015.37 Mid Wales Area Meeting, Peace Education in Schools Project

Helen Porter of Montgomery Meeting provided a report on the Peace Education Project which is a concern of Mid-Wales Area Meeting and is now beginning to extend beyond it. The project offers programmes to schools for years 2 to 7, covering basic conflict resolution, handling anger, co-operative working and peer

mediation. Helen would welcome interest from volunteers. There is a particular need for a Welsh-speaking tutor. Friends should please contact Helen Porter to offer service.

### **2015.38 The Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod**

(i) The Royal Welsh Show: Friends' presence at this annual event in Llanellwedd was muted this year because of health and other difficulties which affected our representatives Gill Branch and Christine Lewis. Gill Branch liaised with Cytûn's co-ordinator for the ecumenical work and attended as possible. Quaker material was on display. The Christian Centre for Rural Wales is now open, she reports, and this is a facility in addition to the chaplains on the site during the Show.

(ii) Friends' presence at The National Eisteddfod 2015 at Meifod was co-ordinated by Alan and Cynthia Rowland. Cynthia's report tells of a journey from uncertainty through discovery to finding ecumenical work at the Eisteddfod to have been a very positive experience. For her as a Welsh learner, it was also a challenge and opportunity to witness personally and publicly to Quaker faith in an ecumenical service. The report has shown us that our annual presence works, due to the input of many Friends: the co-ordinators; our Quaker volunteers who attend during the week; Jules Montgomery who supplies resources for display and distribution; seasoned Friends who know the eisteddfod scene well. This year there were walks to Dolobran as part of the eisteddfod activity, sharing Friends' history in the region and an experience of Quaker worship. We thank Rhian Parry and Catherine James for their work in organising this.

### **2015.39 A Vision for Wales Workshop**

Minute 2015.18. [ii] required the organising of a Workshop on September 19<sup>th</sup> to consider what Quakers' vision for Wales might be in advance of the 2016 elections to the Assembly; where our priorities and focus should lie and ways in which we might better engage with political processes. 23 people, including speakers from CYTÛN and General Meeting for Scotland and BYM's parliamentary engagement team were present at what was agreed to be a valuable Workshop. We have received a report on that day from Deborah Rowlands, which is attached with these Minutes. In today's Meeting Friends have spoken of the need for involvement, for going online and engaging. We need to bear witness to, and to fight for, the community caring which is part of Wales's heritage. We should engage with 'future generations' legislation. The clerks will ask the Focus Group, which will meet in early November, to nominate one of their number to write for the coming issue of Calon on this process.

### **2015.40 Speaker: 'A tour to Palestine under occupation'**

We have welcomed our speaker Naseer Arafat, an architect from Nablus. In his talk he has told us of the complex and changing divisions of his region and of the effects of occupation upon it. 'To exist is to resist'. May we learn from others' stories. May we act upon them so that justice and peace may prevail and resistance be no longer necessary, because the full humanity of each is acknowledged.

### **2015.41 Trustee and Finance Matters:**

MFW Trustees suggest a standstill budget for 2016 and that Area Meetings' contribution of £5.25 per adult member remains the same.

### **2015.42 Cymru'n Cofio**

Alan Armstrong reports that there is an opportunity, in association with the Wales for Peace project and Cymru'n Cofio, to have a Friends' Faith and Action Exhibition in 2016, centred on the First World War. The Birmingham Quaker Faith and Action exhibition had impressed the Cymru'n Cofio Board and the hope is to use it, to provide a translated Welsh version and to add panels which are Wales-centred, additionally highlighting Friends' war and peace-related work in Wales to the present. We support the creation of this

exhibition and encourage Friends with information relevant for it to contact the North or South Wales Community co-ordinators Hannah Huws and Ffion Fielding or Alan Armstrong of Penarth Meeting. No financial support for this project is required of MFW. MFW will circulate Area and Local Meetings about this matter.

## **2015.43 Minutes of Record**

### **2015.43 (i):** CO's Day petition

MFW was represented by Jane Harries, and its Logo was used, on September 30<sup>th</sup> in Cardiff, when along with Cymdeithas y Cymod / The Fellowship of Reconciliation, CND Cymru, the National Justice and Peace Network, the Welsh Centre for International Affairs and other organisations a petition was delivered to the Senedd for the creation of a Conscientious Objectors' Day.

### **2015.43 (ii):** Eisteddfod Lecture 2016

The eisteddfod lecture planning group (Minute 2014.39) reports that an application has been made and acknowledged for an 11.0'clock slot in Pabell y Cymdeithasau, on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of eisteddfod week, at the 2016 National Eisteddfod, 29<sup>th</sup> July-6<sup>th</sup> August, in Abergavenny. Dr Gethin Evans will give the lecture entitled "*Galar Gwent*": *John Edward Southall, Crynwr, Cenedl ac Iaith Garwr*. Its subject John Edward Southall was an English Quaker printer-publisher based in Newport, whose work witnessed to a love of Wales and its language.

### **2015.43 (iii):** Westminster government's consultation on Sunday Trading law

Between meetings MFW through Gethin Evans, convener of its Wales Focus Group, submitted a response to the government's consultation on revisions to Sunday Trading law. This was sent also to Cytûn to help in its formulation of faith groups' response and for its meeting with the Westminster Department for Communities and Local Government. Friends' response spoke of our position on sabbath observance and recommended that in Wales decisions on the matter should be devolved not to local authorities but to the Assembly.

### **2015.43 (iv):** Llandrindod and Pales Meeting

Quakers in Llandrindod Meeting have decided no longer to meet there and to transfer to The Pales, which is the oldest Meeting House in continuous use in Wales. Because of the need for extensive and expensive refurbishment of The Pales Cottage, Southern Marches Area Meeting is involved in discerning the right way forward for use of the Pales site. The AM clerk Jeff Beatty has expressed the hope that Friends from Wales more widely will contribute to this discernment process. MFW has circulated local meetings with information on the first 'Threshing Meeting' which is being held at the Pales today (October 24<sup>th</sup>) and Friends from Wales with particular architectural and heritage expertise have been in touch with the SMAM clerk.

### **2015.43 (v):** Administration and website

A meeting was held in Aberystwyth on September 18<sup>th</sup> to consider matters of MFW administration and its website. Its co-clerks, two trustees, treasurer and by invitation Deborah Rowlands were present. Nominations Committee is asked to find members for two task and finish groups in relation to these matters.

## **2015.44 Nominations and appointments**

### **i. Appointments made between Meetings**

- As a recommendation for QCCIR, from 09/2015 to Yearly Meeting 2017, Gethin Evans's name has been forwarded to Meeting for Sufferings.

- Joan Darbyshire was appointed to represent MFW for the QCCIR conference on *Interfaith Peacemaking*.
- To represent MFW in the Laser group meeting of Church and Society Officers from Churches affiliated to Cytûn: David Harries to 31/12/2016.
- To represent MFW at the presentation at the Senedd of a petition for an annual CO's Day: Jane Harries was appointed.
- In response to a request from FWCC and EMES for someone from Wales to help to plan a UK and Ireland one day event in 2016, to rebuild support for the European ecumenical peace church network *Church and Peace*: Jane Harries was appointed.

## ii Nominations received

- For Co-clerk January from 01/01/2016-31/12/2018: Efa Wulle.
- For MFW Trustee from 01/01/2016-31/12/2018: Frank Brown (third triennium).
- A Friend to serve as Trustee of Meeting of Friends in Wales, from 01/01/2016–31/12/2018: Peter Davies.
- A Friend to serve on the Resources Group 01/01/2016–31/12/2018: Ros Morley
- A Friend to serve on Arrangements Committee from 01/01/2016-31.12.2018: Joyce Gooding.
- For MFW Nominations Committee 01/01/2016-31/12/2018, the sub-group brings forward the name of Judith Hedges.

These Friends being willing to serve, they are appointed.

## iii. Nominations sought

- A Friend to serve on Arrangements Committee from 01/01/2016-31/12/2018.
- Assistant clerk from 01/01/2016–31/12/2016.
- A Friend to serve on the Resources Group, immediately and to 31/12/2016 to be appointed between meetings.
- A Friend to serve on the Resources Group from 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2018.
- A Young Friend to serve on Focus Group (see minute 2012.46) immediately and to 31/12/2017. We also ask Nominations Committee to suggest staggered dates for existing members of this committee.
- A Friend from Southern Marches Area Meeting to serve on the Focus Group.
- A Friend to work in a task and finish group reviewing MFW clerkship and administration, to June 2016, to be appointed between meetings.
- One Welsh speaking Friend and another with experience of website technology to work in a task and finish group reviewing the website, to June 2016, to be appointed between meetings.

In future meetings of Meeting of Friends in Wales nominees will withdraw from the meeting when appointments are discussed and Friends will be requested to examine the nominations list in advance of the item and to bring any concerns to the clerks at lunchtime.

Ros Morley (*clerks*) Christine Trevett