

Crynwyr



Quakers

Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru

Meeting of Friends in Wales

Annual Report 2010 Adroddiad Blynyddol

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

Bank/Banc:

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

Clerc gogyfer gohebiaeth

Julia Aspden

Clerc for correspondence

01492 592282 julia@gwynt.fsnet.co.uk

1. Object

The object of Meeting of Friends in Wales 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 2010

Co- Clerks: Julia Aspden, Deborah Rowlands

Clerc of trustees: Gethin Evans (appointed as clerk: June 2010)

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

3. Governance

Meeting of Friends in Wales (MFW) is part of Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) and has national responsibilities on behalf of the yearly meeting within Wales. It consists of all Friends who are members in Wales

The work of the Meeting is carried out by Friends appointed to do so and our employed administrator. Day meetings are normally held three times a year in locations throughout Wales, giving occasions for nurture, witness and fellowship as well as a time to make decisions together according to the Quaker business method as described in *Quaker faith and practice*. Dates and times of these meetings are published in the Book of Meetings and are circulated to all local and meetings within Wales and the borders. MFW also holds regular one-day events with specific focus and occasional residential

weekend gatherings. In all its activities the Meeting has adhered to its Data Protection Policy, conscious of its responsibilities to protect confidentiality and follow good practice.

During 2010, the Meeting appointed Trustees from all parts of Wales, drew up their terms of reference and adopted a governing document. Trustees have met twice. Their main focus this year has been on ensuring continuity of good governance, drawing up new terms and conditions of employment, with responsibility vested in the trustees, and recommending a budget for 2011.

4. Report of work carried out in 2010

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;

- The year opened with the **Welsh Launch of *Becoming Friends***: the new learning project programme from Quaker Life and Woodbrooke for those new to Friends and their meetings. How might this be adapted for use in Wales? Subsequently, several Friends in Wales have trained as companions
- In April we held a **retreat entitled *Roots, Shoots and Fruits*** to ground our life in the Spirit: What does really good community look like? How can we sustain it?
- The other two **day meetings focused on sustainability and diminishing resources** reminding us that we need not just to know but to hold these things in our hearts. We also need to reach out and share what we have found with those who are not yet motivated to change.
- **Calon**: The MFW newsletter is circulated to all Friends three times a year: its attractive new format and varied content help us keep in touch with Friends

Main priority for 2011: *Launching a series of events across the whole of Wales for learning and nurture over the next three years, working with Woodbrooke, after extensive consultation during 2010*

ii Representing Britain Yearly Meeting in Wales

- Our main focus is on **working with other churches through Cytûn**: this enables us to have a strong voice at the National Assembly through the Cytûn Policy Officer. We were particularly interested to hear about a scheme to make Wales, already the first Fair Trade nation, **the first Nation of Sanctuary** (an extension of the City of Sanctuary movement)
- This year we have appointed a representative to the **Wales Christian Aid** committee, who brings us regular feedback
- We were represented at an **interfaith gathering** to look at building good community relations
- We continue to be supportive of the idea of a **Welsh Peace Institute**

Main priority for 2011: *We have appointed a representative to attend a consultation under the auspices of the Muslim Council of Wales and The Church in Wales: **Finding a Common Voice – A Call to the Nation**' (Westminster and Welsh Assembly Government) ahead of the forthcoming National Assembly elections*

iii Communication with associated area meetings in Wales

- During 2010 we agreed **Memoranda of Understanding with each of the area meetings** within Wales, and those which have meetings on the borders to clarify 'who does what? These will need regular review but have helped to clarify our relationships with each other.
- A **Meeting was held for clerks**, and clerks of Trustees of the four area meetings with meetings in Wales. This produced a strong feeling of togetherness through visioning the future of Quakerism in Wales, and how we can make all our meetings for business more spiritually alert and effective
- **Children and Young People's Work Advocates** for the four area meetings concerned have met twice, once residentially for mutual support

Main priority for 2011: Ensuring effective contact between the area meetings concerned by exchanging Contact lists (Lists of Members and Attenders) amongst those who need them for their work throughout Wales, following a recommendation from a special meeting for those responsible in different ways for contact lists to share what we have rather than duplicate effort and resources

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
- We have set up a new **Welsh Language Consultative Group** to advise on translation for administrative purposes and for new resources: This works effectively by email. Our Minutes, agendas and posters are in both languages, or bilingual
- Quakers were well represented alongside other churches at the **Cytûn tent at the Eisteddfod**. We made contacts to broaden our witness into the Peace tent. Working and talking together fostered understanding with those of other churches and speakers of both languages
- We have carried out a **review of our Outreach Resources** in conjunction with the new Strategy for Outreach Resources at Quaker Life. As a result, we have liaised with Quaker Life for the production of several new posters in both languages, and one bilingual one. We have also ordered new display material and the popular bilingual leaflets which publications committee produced last year
- Friends in North West Wales have been involved in making a film in Welsh about Spiritual journeys: **Y Daith: Dilyn yr Ysbryd** which has already been the focus for local outreach in Welsh.

Main priorities for 2011: New translations of **leaflets about Quakers and peace** for use in the Peace tent and for Outreach week 2011.

Development of a project: **Dathlu Daith y Crynwyr, to celebrate the Quaker way in Wales**, with the encouragement of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable trust

v Representing Wales to Britain Yearly Meeting

- We have sent a **response to the queries** from Quaker Stewardship Committee concerning Priority G of a Framework for Action: **Using our resources well**. We have also sent our **minute and advices and queries on sustainability** to the group planning the yearly meeting gathering in 2011
- Our representatives to **Meeting for Sufferings give us regular reports**
- Through our Welsh Language Consultative Group, we have been involved in finding **appropriate Welsh wording for the new chapter in Quaker faith and practice on marriage**, for couples of the same sex as well as of the opposite sex. We expect to work on any revisions required to chapter 5 as required also
- We have sent representatives to **Quaker Life Representative Council, the Big Outreach Conference, Faith and Practice Conference**; they bring back not just reports but inspiration. They are heartened by participating in the wider Quaker world

Main priorities for 2011: Our administrator has been invited to visit Friends House to meet with the new Outreach Coordinator and other key personnel during 2011 to **ensure good liaison on resources for outreach week**

We expect to respond to the review of Meeting for Sufferings to ensure a continuing voice for Wales on this representative body

5. Financial Review – 2010

As part of Britain Yearly Meeting we are bound by its Public Benefit declaration, as found in their 2009 Annual Report of its trustees, thus the Meeting of Friends in Wales spends its resources on deepening and sharing our spiritual experience and on acts of witness which arise from our faith. For Quakers, belief and witness are indivisible. We work for peace and justice, a sustainable environment, the alleviation of suffering and upholding of victims of oppression.

At the end of the year, the **general fund** had a balance of £9596.72, a decrease of £300.05. In addition we retained a designated amount of £1000 from the 2008 John Roberts legacy as a reserve for future expenditure. With the £391 designated bursary fund, this makes a total of £10987.72 in unrestricted funds.

Two small restricted funds are held: -

Literature Fund: The balance of £1003.31 includes £17.15 transferred from the Spiritual Hospitality Fund in accordance with Minute 08/08 dated 15.03.08. (The 2009 report and accounts erroneously failed to report this transfer.)

Bursary Fund: (for residential events), at £8, unchanged from 2009.

MFW holds no **investments**; its balances are held in an interest-bearing current account. (CAF Bank currently does not offer an ethical option.)

Reserves Policy: Adequate funds are needed to cover the period from the end of the previous year, until money is received from Area Meetings and Britain Yearly Meeting. The Bank balance at 31.12.2010 was £12713.03, an increase of £102.89 on the same date in 2009.

Principal Funding Sources: Almost all the funding is raised by MFW agreeing a per (adult) capita amount at its first meeting in the year, which is paid by the four Area Meetings that cover Wales. MFW Treasurer passes this request to the AM Treasurers, and monies are usually received from April onwards.

Generating Funds: No significant other funds are raised, although residential events are expected to raise sufficient funds to cover their costs. This year a one day retreat in April generated a surplus of £101.24

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 2011. The grant this year was received in May. 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 £5081.61. Other administration costs were £1319.27.

Besides the amount spent on administrative support and office costs significant items of **expenditure** have been on publications, £243.80, on production of our newsletter *Calon*, £895.00, and on translation, £416.31. £560.10 was spent on supporting the attendance of MFW representatives at Quaker conferences and similar events. We commissioned work to improve our website by developing a Welsh language version at a cost of £505.71.

Examiner: The independent examiner, Sue Lewis, is also the examiner of accounts for South Wales Area Meeting.

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, thus all cheques need two signatories, and our treasurer reports regularly to the Meeting in session. We confirm that these procedures have been complied with in the current year.

Date:

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

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

..... *Lynn Moseley (Treasurer)*