

Crynwyr



Quakers

Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru  
Meeting of Friends in Wales

**Annual Report**

**2012**

**Adroddiad Blynyddol**

Charity Number: 1137955. Registered with the Charity Commission in September 2010

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**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 2012**

**Co - Clerks:** Julia Aspden 01492 592282 julia@gwynt.fsnet.co.uk

Christine Trevett Trevettc@lineone.net

**Clerk of trustees:** Gethin Evans gethine45@yahoo.co.uk

(Mid-Wales AM Re-appointed as clerk October 2010 to serve until Dec. 2012)

**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 living in 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 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 or more, and find that the work of the meeting is harmonious and well organised.

### **4. Report of work carried out in 2012**

The work of the Meeting will be considered under the five headings set out in 5.04/05 of *Quaker faith and practice*, being the document of governance which regulates the organisational life of the Yearly meeting, 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 staff from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre has completed its second three events which proved both stimulating and challenging and were well supported. We look forward to the third and last tranche in 2013.
- **Celebrating the Quaker Way:** This generously funded project by Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust [JRCT] of a DVD and a book in Welsh and English has completed its first phase, and the DVD entitled *Y Ffordd Dawel? Tystiolaethau Pump o Grynwyr/The Quiet Way? Five Quakers' Experience*, has been well received. The care and diligence shown by those managing this project is very much appreciated.
- **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.
- **Whoosh and vibrancy:** The presentation by Paul Parker, the Yearly Meeting's Recording Clerk at our June meeting was a challenge for us to focus on what might be the future direction of the Society, and how it can keep its witness both alive and meaningful in an increasingly secularised society. This is a project which should exercise the Meeting in the coming years.

*Main priority for 2013: Our meetings for learning and nurture alongside Woodbrooke, will continue and we hope inspire Friends in their searching. Work on the JRCT book will continue with publication expected 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 voice at the National Assembly through their machinery.
- We continue to be supportive of the idea of a Welsh Peace Institute/Academy provided it does not duplicate work carried out in similar institutions elsewhere.

- Representatives were sent to the Gathering of the Covenanting Churches the largest ecumenical gathering held in Wales for some time.

*Main priority for 2013: Maintain our vigilance especially regarding the effects of cut-backs and reductions being made to services, but also to be more pro-active on the way Welsh affairs are handled and respond appropriately where this is seen to be necessary.*

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

- The annual Meeting for all Clerks associated and relevant to the work of the Meeting was postponed this year, but we are mindful that networking amongst the relevant bodies associated with us remains important.
- **Children and Young People's Work Advocates** have again met twice to consider how and in what way our Area Meetings can respond to the challenges and needs of our Children and Young People. Quaker Life agreed to publish a Welsh version of their children's book 'Quaker Meeting and Me.'

*Main priority for 2013: 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;**

- Our new Welsh language Website is now on line but we are aware that more input from interested Friends would help strengthen its outreach potential
- Our Welsh Language Consultative Group combining advice on translation for administrative purposes and for new resources has proved successful, involving a wide group of Friends from across Wales.
- We were again well represented at the Cytûn tent at the National Eisteddfod. Discussions concerning ecumenical provision at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show have been before us, aware that any call for an input may make unrealistic demands upon us as a small denomination.

*Main priorities for 2013: For 2012 we agreed that we need 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. This remains unchanged.*

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

- Our long-standing concern for economic justice has led us to focus on the economic challenges facing the country, and the savings or cuts that will be imposed upon many sectors, concerned that those most vulnerable will suffer disproportionately. Our aim is to explore in what way a new vision of the economy could create greater equality.
- The threat of militarization with the First Minister suggesting that Trident could perhaps be relocated to Wales was a matter for concern and we are aware of our responsibility to monitor such utterances and respond accordingly
- We receive regular reports on the deliberations of Meeting for Sufferings

- We gave our support to Wales moving towards becoming a Nation of Sanctuary as cities agree to participate in the movement, and are grateful that there is deep discernment in Cytûn with regard to such matters

*Main priorities for 2013: To continue to monitor the work and efforts pursued by the Yearly Meeting so that these can be reflected in our work and discussions, mindful of our responsibilities to witness to issues relevant to Wales.*

## **5. Financial Review – 2012**

**Funds:** At the end of the year, the general fund had a balance of £10,212.10, a decrease of £3,15.56. 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 £17,379 out of the JRCT grant was spent to complete the DVD project. An income of £155 was received from sale of DVDs. The remainder of the £30,863 budget will be expended on the projected book during the coming year. This includes a contingency of £500.00 earmarked out of the restricted Literature Fund in 2013.

**Reserves Policy:** The total of funds held at year end in 2011 was unusually high, reflecting the cash flow of the JRCT project. In contrast the accounts for 2012 show an overall deficit of £17,539.56, which is due to spending during the year of grant accumulated in the previous year. At the end of the year total funds stand at £13,060.40, a very healthy figure in line with 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 31.12.2012 was £13,158.80.

**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 £65.00.

**Grant from BYM:** We continue to be in receipt of a grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative costs, which will again be available in 2013. The grant of £6365.00 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 £4,871.79. Other administration costs were £1,312.08.

**Examiner:** The independent examiner is Sue Lewis FCCA, who is in the third 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 of cheques and the approval of expenditure. We confirm that these procedures have been complied with in the current year.

Date: 3 APRIL 2013

Signed: Frank L. Brown Name: FRANK L. BROWN Position: CLERK OF TRUSTEES

Signed: Lynn Moberley Name: LYNN MOBERLEY Position: TREASURER

Signed: Christine Trevett Name: CHRISTINE TREVETT Position: Co-CLERK MFW