

## The Royal Welsh Show 2018 report

Quakers were represented at the Churches Together in Wales (Cytûn) pavilion, which was a large marquee in a strategic position in the heart of the show ground. The show, lasting for four days from 23 – 26 July, was as usual enormously popular with visitors from all parts of the world as well as with politicians, including Teresa May and Michael Gove.

The pavilion was popular, too, providing a generally quiet space for visitors to rest, enjoy conversation with the many church representatives and to quench their thirst sometime during each and every day. There were spaces for children and young people to play, books to buy and displays everywhere, including those of Christian Aid, The Salvation Army, The Olive Tree Project (a charity supporting Palestinians) and of course ourselves.

Quakers were represented each day and one Friend was usually available from the time the pavilion opened until the early evening. Jeff Beatty was there throughout the day, usually to be found at one of the tables or at the display or in conversation. He did not see any other Quakers at all except on Tuesday when Carole Chapman, Friend in Residence at The Pales, and John Senior from Mid-Wales AM visited. Peredur Griffiths, Faith, Order and Witness Enabler, whose role was to organise the event, did so giving space for Quaker witness. The Chaplaincy was made available for quiet worship there from 4.00 p.m. every afternoon, but only our representative ever attended. There was an act of worship each morning, with prayers, hymns, bible reading and short interpretation of the text. At one of these our representative was invited to read Genesis 11, verses 1 – 9, The Tower of Babel, which is about human hubris and attempts to reach the divine, continuing the pavilion's theme, which was 'building'. In this connection, Friends may like to read Yuval Noah Harari's book 'Sapiens: A Brief History of Human Kind' and listen to his BBC Today interview on 6

*Item no.11*

August about human beings becoming more powerful and being 'on the verge of divine power'. Pause for thought dear Friends!

Altogether, the Quaker presence is hugely welcomed in the pavilion and hopefully adds value. As reported in last year's feedback we do not appear to have a significant impact, but we are recognised and our traditions are accepted and discussed. Indeed, Peredur's contact with Janet Scott has provided some insights into what happens during our Meeting for Worship. Perhaps next year he and some of the chaplains will experience quiet worship in the Chaplaincy. Perhaps next year, too, other Friends from MFW will lend their support!

*Jeff Beatty, RWS co-ordinator*

---

## Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Caerdydd 2018

Cawsom Eisteddfod ar ei newydd wedd eleni. Heb y `ffens` bondigrybyll `roedd croeso i bawb boed yn eisteddfodwyr neu beidio mwynhau`r bwrwm yn ddi-dal. Yr eithriadau oedd pedwar lleoliad ee y pafiliwn a`r babell len – theatr Donald Gordon a`r stiwdio Weston yn CMC. `Roedd lleoliad dda stondyn Cytun ddim nepell o`r CMC yn ei wneud yn hawdd i bobl fynd a dod. `Roedd yna newidadau eraill gan fod y stondyn gymaint yn llai a dim cyfleusterau i gynnig te a phice ar y maen. Heblaw am y wasanaethau dyddiol am 11.00 am – cynhaliwyd y weithgareddau eraill rhyw bum munud o gerdded i ffwrdd.

Wrth gwrs mae`r tywydd wastad yn gwneud gwahaniaeth a chafwyd tywydd hyfryd tan y ddydd Sadwrn olaf. Cafodd ennillydd y Tour de France – Geraint Thomas croeso cynnes iawn ar brynhawn dydd Iau hefyd.

Braf gweld fod y Crynwyr yn cefnogi`r Eisteddfod gyda Chytûn. Tawel oedd y stondyn ar y cyfan ond mae`n gwneud y broses o fod yno gymaint yn fwy pleserus gydag eraill o`ch cwmpas a Ch/chyfeillion yn bwrw mewn am sgwrs.

\*\*\*\*\*

There was a different arrangement to the Eisteddfod this year. There was no fence – therefore no payment to the `field`. Only if you wanted to go to four locations including for instance the pavilion - The Donald Gordon Theatre at the WMC - that one needed to pay. This meant that the Eisteddfod was visited by those who might not have done so otherwise – Cardiffians and visitors alike. The Cytûn tent was well placed near WMC. Smaller in size, it could not host the teas and coffee and welsh cakes. Also, apart from the 11.00 am service – other activities were held some five minutes' walk away.

The general feeling after the Eisteddfod was that it was a success. It was blest with good weather – apart from the last Saturday- which always makes a huge difference. Also, it was good to see that it was able at short notice to be included in the warm `croeso` to Geraint Thomas, winner of the Tour de France, on the Thursday.

It is good to see the Quakers supporting the Eisteddfod with Cytûn. The stand on the whole was quiet but it is so much more pleasurable with those around you and with F/friends calling in for a chat.

*Janet Rees, Eisteddfod co-ordinator 2018*

---

## **Eisteddfod lecture series 2016-2018**

The eisteddfod lecture Planning Group (Gethin Evans, Lynn Moseley, Christine Trevett) reports the completion of the three years of lectures. The question of whether a new series of Welsh language lectures will be implemented is to be addressed after a break.

On August 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 Jane Harries of Bridgend Meeting gave the last of the three at the Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay. A little short of fifty people listened in the *Societies* space in the Wales Assembly building, with simultaneous

*Item no.11*

translation provided. The lecture was well received, with a range of questions and responses around Jane's topic: *A Oes Heddwch? Golwg beirniodal ar dreftadaeth heddwch Cymru ers y Rhyfel Mawr* (Wales, a peaceful country? A critical look at Wales's peace heritage since the Great War). It has also been disseminated through You Tube.

The first and second lectures of the series (Gethin Evans's *John Edward Southall, "Galar Gwent": Crynwr, Cyhoeddwr, Gwladgarwr* (John Edward Southall, "Galar Gwent": Quaker, Publisher, Nation-lover, in Abergavenny in 2016 and Huw Meredydd Owen's *Yr Eiliad, yr Awr a'r Twll yn y To* (The Moment, the Hour and the Hole in the Roof in Anglesey in 2017) were repeated at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Warwick and at Meeting of Friends in Wales respectively.

All three persons who acted as Chair for the lectures (only one of them a Friend), had been chosen because they would be well-known names to such a Welsh-speaking audience. They performed the task free of charge. So thank you to Professor J. Gwynfor Jones; Dr. Rhian Parry and Dr R. Alun Evans.

All three lectures were given by Friends, though this was not a requirement for the series. Nor did the topic need to be anything other than one which would resonate with Friends' concerns. The intentional flexibility which was built into this series should perhaps be borne in mind in the event of a future series. It may prove to be a challenge to find in our small numbers a supply of the kinds of speakers we were fortunate to have found. They have been people with the command of a subject (which might be tailored in some years to the area where the eisteddfod takes place or e.g. to some event such as the centenary of 1918 this year), with the thorough command of the Welsh language and with something worth saying.

*Christine Trevett (for the Planning Group), October 2018*

---