



News of Friends and Meetings



Pilgrimage to York

Our Friend (and MFW Co-clerk) Catherine James is planning to walk all the way to the Yearly Meeting Gathering at York this summer in memory of Dorothy Owen, of Dewisbren Uchaf, near Dolgellau, who is known to have walked twice to London Yearly Meeting.

Catherine writes: "Dorothy was a recognised Quaker minister who also walked and spoke to meetings throughout mid Wales, and who was the inspiration for the building of the Meeting House near Dolgellau, once known as Tyddyn-y-Garreg Meeting House; when it was sold to the Independents it became Tabor Chapel. I have found her practical Christianity an inspiration.

"I want to start my walk from the chapel, probably on July 3rd; I will walk to Glanllyn for Area Meeting on the Saturday, and go on from there. I intend to take two copies of the Psalms with me, in both languages. I find one learns so much by comparing translations. It is illuminating to see the different imagery used. I will also have Advices and Queries with me; *Quaker faith and practice* will be too heavy to carry, unfortunately!

"All this depends on good health, on better planning than I am prone to, and on finding overnight stays. I will walk as far as I can, and hope to arrive on foot in York on the Saturday

of YMG. I have a few tentative promises of companionship, and would welcome more - with a warning - I don't walk quickly! But usually I can keep going!"

Contact Catherine on 01341 423328 or e-mail catherinetjames@aol.com if you would like to join her for all or part of her journey.

Mid-Wales Area Quaker Meeting

(Cyfarfod Crynwyr Rhanbarth Canolbarth Cymru)

The new **Mid-Wales Area Meeting** has now formally come into being. It consists of **Aberystwyth, Dolgellau, Dolobran, Llanidloes, Machynlleth** and **Newtown** local meetings. Dates for meetings are as follows:

18 April, Machynlleth

11 July, Aberystwyth

14 November, Newtown

Times of meetings will be arranged with consideration for local train times. Contact the clerk, **David Utting** for further details. (Note: The remaining part of the old Hereford and Mid-Wales AM has now decided to call itself by the poetic name of Southern Marches AM.)

Lampeter and Llanybydder move.

Lampeter and Llanybydder friends have finally taken the plunge and started meeting at a single venue each Sunday: Canolfan Steffan, Peterwell Terrace, Lampeter. Meetings will continue to start at 10.45 am. All welcome - but let the clerks know if you are bringing children. The midweek meeting on the first Wednesday of every month will continue to be held in Room 2, Old Building, University of Wales Lampeter, at 5 pm.

Lampeter and Llanybydder are planning to celebrate the move with an afternoon of music and dance led by violinist and composer Helen Adam on Sunday 18 October. Come and join them - details to follow in the next issue.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We are keen to receive any articles, news, events, poems, and pictures, as well as any feedback. Please send your contributions to:

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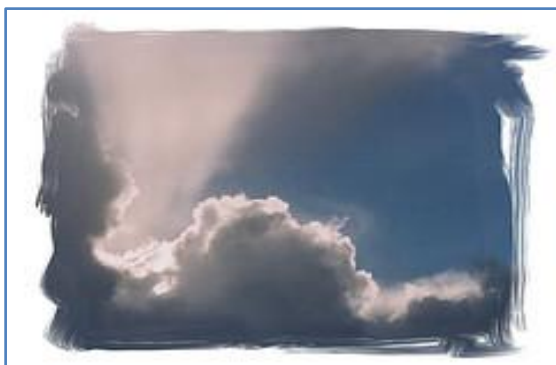
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**THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT
CALON: Monday 13 July 2009**
**The theme will be OUTREACH AND
THE WELCOMING MEETING**

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru

The National Eisteddfod of Wales is being held this year in Bala between 1st and 8th August. This major festival on Wales' annual calendar celebrates Welsh culture and heritage and promotes language and the arts. As usual quakers in Wales will be part of the Cytûn tent. Cytûn is the ecumenical Christian organisation of Churches Together in Wales. This years quaker volunteer co-ordinator, Mari Evans would very much like to hear from anyone potentially interested in helping out on the stand for a few hours. Contact Mari on: 01678 521652

Your CALON:

What you really, really want.....

Greetings, dear Friends, from your new editor! Cyfarchion, annwyl Gyfeillion, gan eich golygydd newydd!

Actually, I'm not quite new - a 'slightly used' editor in fact, as some of you may recall. Things have changed a bit since I edited the very first *Calon* twelve years ago. In those days it was a rather apologetic-looking, overcrowded little black-and-white A5 job, hardly more than a leaflet. Since then, there have been quite a few changes. *Calon* has got bigger and brighter. But we hope that it will become brighter and better still. Among other things, we plan to have some themed issues. *Please note: the theme for next time will be Outreach and the welcoming meeting, to coincide with National Quaker Week. Do send us your stories, plans, reflections and suggestions to share with other Friends.*

New technology brings all sorts of new possibilities. With Friends in Wales now on the web – find us at www.quakersinwales.org.uk or www.crynwycymru.org.uk – you'll be able to download *Calon* without having to wait for your poor overburdened clerk to get round to distributing paper copies. As the website develops, we're also hoping to post longer articles and perhaps translations that we might not have room for in the paper version. Who knows, maybe there will even be an interactive forum!

One thing hasn't changed, though – *Calon* is here to serve *you*. In my very first editorial I wrote that we had chosen the name *Calon* ("Heart" in English) not only as a symbol of love and warmth but also because we hoped it would be "a vital organ for circulating news, ideas and fellowship around our system". But we need to hear from *you* how you think we can best support Friends around Wales in their spiritual lives and witness. We need your news, your ideas and your feedback. So please do tell us what you really, really want from your newsletter!

Stevie Kraye

A Personal Response to February's Meeting of Friends in Wales

Barbara Prys-Williams (Swansea LM)

It feels good when MFW meets at Llanidloes, hub of a network of good roads from many parts of Wales. We gather in a light, spacious church hall above the River Severn, an inviting setting for companionable and cobweb-clearing lunch-break walks.

After worship, our morning session, led by Lesley Richards, took us to a deeper understanding of the opportunities Yearly Meeting Gathering at York in July might bring, weaving together, as it will, traditional Yearly Meeting, the newer and more informal Summer Gathering and Junior Yearly Meeting for 16-18 year olds. In groups we pondered what benefits those of us with personal experience had derived in the past from each of these strands. As a gathering of 1,500 is anticipated, careful planning and community-building strategies are in place to encourage a rich sense of belonging in individual Friends. It is planned that 75 home groups will meet daily, offering a range of possibilities from music making, creative listening, arts and crafts or cup of tea and a chat. Further facilitators are still needed for these groups

The treasurer presented the budget for 2009, the most substantial item being the employment of an administrator, paid for by a grant from Britain Yearly Meeting. We agreed to ask Area meetings for £5 per head per adult member, a sum unchanged since 2005. Amongst appointments agreed were Lynn Moseley as Assistant Clerk of MFW and Alice Southern as our representative

on the BYM Committee for Christian and Interfaith relationships.

We share a united witness with other churches through Cytun, enabling a presence at, the Urdd Eisteddfod (the youth festival), the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod. This year's theme is to be the environment and the Quaker contribution is likely to include a display of relevant Advices and Queries. This year's National Eisteddfod is to be at Bala, heartland of early Quaker witness before the emigration of hundreds to the Welsh tract in what became Pennsylvania, after savage persecution. We heard that MFW hopes to produce a bilingual leaflet that celebrates those faithful lives.

I rarely attend MFW without experiencing a profound sense of gratitude for the faithful, even dedicated, work that is done on our behalf. As the day proceeds, our awareness grows of the extensive and thorough preparation undertaken by the clerkship team. For those of us in since MFW's beginning sixteen years ago, it is exciting to see how seeds sown put up green shoots. Long years of teasing away at Quaker structures in Wales and the Borders, largely by a steering group, is showing results. A new Mid Wales Area Meeting comes into hopeful being on April 1. Following Quakerly discernment, equal value has been given to both our languages from the beginning and throughout that time the same loyal and expert Friend has delivered simultaneous interpretation through headphones when contributions are made in Welsh. English is by far the most prevalent language, but it is a delight, too, to hear the from time to time the different and distinctive dialects of Welsh and to experience the thrill of the intimacy of the old Quaker 'thee' through the Welsh 'ti'.

Visitors from Finland

Dorothy Bell writes: Aberystwyth Friends were delighted when one of their attenders, Nigel Kelly, told them that his daughter and her husband were coming to stay and wanted to meet us. We arranged a typical Quaker bring and share lunch and welcomed Heather Lundberg Fowler, Clerk of Finland Yearly Meeting and her husband Mike.

We had a Meeting for Worship and lots of chat about the difficulties of keeping Quaker communities and isolated Quakers in touch with each other. Compared to the distances Quakers in Finland have to cope with we have no problems in Wales!

"We were inspired by Heather and Mike's enthusiasm and dedication. We hope to establish a meaningful link.

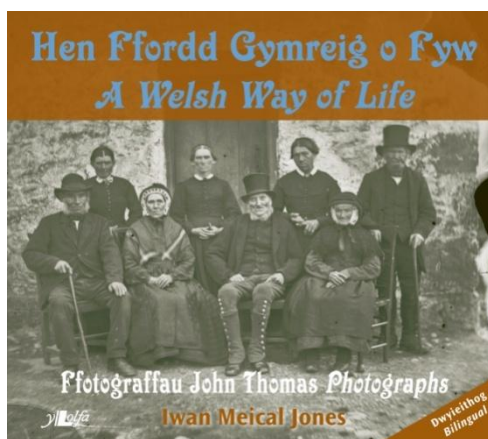


CALON CYMRU

Hen Ffordd Gymreig o Fyw – A Welsh Way of Life gan Iwan Meical Jones

(Y Lolfa, £14.95)

Rhwng 1867 ac 1899 bu John Thomas, ffotograffydd o Gymro yn wreiddiol o Lanbryn-mair, yn tynnu lluniau o fobl a golygfeydd hyd a lled Cymru. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw tynnodd filoedd o luniau. Mae tair mil ohonynt yn y casgliad yn y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn Aberystwyth. Yn y llyfr yma ceir detholiad o gant tri deg a thri ohonynt ynghyd â hanes byr o fywyd John Thomas a thrafodaeth o'i arwyddocad a'i bwysicrwydd fel ffotograffydd.



Mae lluniau John Thomas yn gofnod unigryw o fywyd Cymreig yn ystod Oes Victoria. Mae'r golygfeydd o felinau, rheilffyrdd a chwareli yn dangos y datblygiadau diwydiannol ddiwyddodd yng Nghymru yn y cyfnod a'r lluniau o farchnadoedd ac o fywyd cefn gwlad yn tystio ar yr un pryd i fwrlwm y bywyd amaethyddol. Ond hynodrwydd arbennig John Thomas yw ei luniau o fobl Cymru yn y cyfnod. Yn wahanol i'r rhan fwyaf o ffotograffwyr ei gyfnod mae John Thomas yn tynnu lluniau nid yn unig o'r pwysigion ond hefyd o'r werin gyffredin. Ac mae'n gwneud hynny gyda chydymdeimlad a deallusrwydd. Mae caledi eu bywydau i'w weld yn y portreadau hynny ac ar yr un pryd mae'r lluniau yn darlunio'u balchder a'u pernderfyniad i ddygyddod a'r drefn oedd ohoni.

Yn ei atgofion mae John Thomas yn cyfeirio at ei hun fel artist. Mae ei luniau'n brawf fod ganddo hawl i wneud hynny. Ar ddiwedd y llyfr mae Iwan Meical Jones yn dweud peth fel hyn: "Mae John Thomas yn ffotograffydd Cymreig o bwys

Calon hopes to feature at least one article in each issue in Welsh. Contributions in Welsh will be especially welcome.

This time we feature a book review by Dafydd Jones (Porthmadog).

Mae Calon yn gobeithio cynnwys un erthygl o leiaf bob tro yn y Gymraeg. Bydd gyfraniadau yn yr hen iaith yn arbennig o dderbynol

Dyma adolygiad lyfr gan Dafydd Jones (Porthmadog).

ond y mae hefyd yn un o ffotograffwyr mawr y byd." Medrwn fyl Cymry ymfalchio yng ngwaith John Thomas a diolch i'r awdur am gryfrol sy'n codi'r llen ar Gymro unigryw.

Er gwell neu er gwaeth mae'r gyfrol yn ddwyieithog. I mi mae'r penderfyniad hwnnw gan y cyhoeddwr yn gamgymeriad. Mae'n rhoi'r argraff mai llyfr bwrdd coffi ar gyfer twristiaid yw'r gyfrol ac mae John Thomas yn haeddu gwell na hynny. Mae'r awdur hefyd, mewn ambell i frawddeg, yn cryfhau'r teimlad hwnnw. Mae brawddeg fel "Roedd Ceiriog yn fardd telynegol huawdl ac ef a ysgrifennodd rai o ganeon enwocaf Cymru" yn debyg o daro'n chwithig ar glust unrhyw Gymro diwylliedig. Holti blew efallai yw beirniadaeth o'r math yna felly brysiad i ddweud imi fwynhau'r gyfrol. Mae'n haeddu croeso.

[Editor: Dafydd recommends highly this small selection from thousands of pictures taken by the photographer John Thomas, who travelled up and down Wales in the Victorian era recording a now-vanished way of life and, more importantly, the faces of the ordinary hardworking people of Wales so rarely considered worthy of attention by other photographers. The photos demonstrate John Thomas' sympathy and understanding of his subjects, as well as his artistry. The text is bilingual, a decision about which Dafydd has reservations, fearing that it might reduce the work to a mere coffee-table adornment for tourists to buy. However, if I may add my two penn'orth, it also gives an opportunity for non-Welsh speakers to acquaint themselves with the life and work of a truly great photographer who may not be known to them. SLK]

Framework for Action (2009 -2014)

On 6 September 2008 Meeting for Sufferings, after widespread consultation with local meetings, agreed a framework to guide and unite Quakers in Britain and their central organisation, Britain Yearly Meeting, in their life and work at every level. It builds on the complex lives and experience of Quakers over 350 years, drawing on our Christian roots.



It reflects in particular our Testimonies to Truth and Integrity, Equality, Peace and Simplicity.

The Framework is a strategic focus for activity, not a straightjacket; it outlaws nothing but

provides a focus for work for and of Friends across Britain and an opportunity to achieve a more visible and effective witness for our faith.

There is something special, something wonderful at the heart of Quakerism and if that is to survive and grow, bureaucracy and busyness must not smother it.

Eleanor Coss, Consultation report, March 2008

Responses from Local Meetings in Wales

Lynn Moseley, Assistant Clerk of Meeting of Friends in Wales, has analysed all the responses which went to Friends House from local meetings in Wales. The full analysis will be before MFW on 27 June, when the meeting will look at how it can support Friends in their local initiatives.

So far, eight local meetings have sent responses, about 25% of meetings in Wales. Apart from Colwyn Bay meeting all of these were from South Wales Area Meeting sent under cover of a minute from the Area Meeting. Responses from North Wales meetings have been reported by way of an unified minute from the Area Meeting.

No response had been sent from meetings in Mid Wales by the deadline. The Meeting of

Friends in Wales sent an interim response of its own.

All of the responses were generally very supportive of the Framework and its identified priorities for 2009 to 2014. The fact that none identified any alternative priorities is reassuring and reflects the extensive consultation that was undertaken to draw up the Framework document. North Wales Area Meeting identified a need for more research to be produced centrally on the energy crisis and on effective ways to support Asylum Seekers and the Homeless.

Six out of the eight responses highlighted the importance of strengthening the Society's spiritual roots, either by saying so explicitly or listing the initiatives they supported in this field. Most Friends recognised the truth of the conclusion that without this emphasis none of the other priorities has integrity.

Of the five 'witness' priorities, our **Peace Testimony** remains uppermost in the minds of Friends, followed closely by concern for social justice under the heading of **Strengthening Local Communities**. But there is also plenty of activity in the areas of **Crime and justice** and **Speaking out in the world**. Perhaps surprisingly, there was rather less emphasis on **Sustainability**, although several meetings reported involvement in the Transition Towns movement. The picture might well have looked different if there had been responses from Mid Wales.

Lynn's full analysis document will be sent out to local meetings in May. The full version is also available on the MFW website

http://www.quakersinwales.org.uk/pdf_files/framework_response_LM09.pdf

Further copies of the Framework for Action can be downloaded from the BYM website www.quaker.org.uk or you can ring or e-mail the Recording Clerk's Office: 020 7633 1000 enquiries@quaker.org.uk

Note: Calon plans to focus on each of the "Framework" priorities over the coming months.

Only when we go forward in discomfort can we hope to find our feet in a troubled world.

Margaret Amor in Meeting for Sufferings, April 2008

There's more to Quakers than I realised!

Jules Montgomery (MFW Administrator)

My first encounter with Quakers was at the last stop of my ecumenical 'walk-about'. I was brought up the eighth child of eight in a Catholic family. Church going was a religious affair and we were there, sat on wooden pews on Sundays, come rain or shine. In my teens I struggled with Catholicism, and worked hard not to 'throw the baby out with the bathwater'. I appreciated the value of community and communal worship and got involved with an Anglican project which allowed my spirituality to blossom. The project brought young people together and linked then in a group with a parish in need. I lived 'in community' for a year and started exploring other churches, visiting Baptist and Methodist congregations. So it was no surprise that eventually Quakers would get a turn! I found myself attending meeting in Stafford and enjoyed the richness of the silence and the welcome of strangers.

I then left all forms of communal worship and church-going for about 10 years. It was time-out to turn the page and start again. When I moved to Ceredigion my interest was rekindled. I met a local Quaker in our village, Jo Engelkamp, who introduced me to Aberystwyth meeting.

I came to Wales because I'd fallen in love with a Welshman. Fifteen years on we have two wonderful sons, who we are home educating,

and we've recently moved into a house we built with a strong focus on renewables.

I have been an attender at Aberystwyth for nearly 10 years now and I feel very fortunate to find myself working for Meeting of Friends in Wales (MFW) as administrator. It's curious to me how little I understood or knew about MFW when I started the job. I had been one of those attenders who gains a great deal from being present but I didn't want to be told about 'the party line' – I didn't want to feel I had to subscribe to a creed or doctrine.

Now that I've found out more I find the concept of MFW – to provide support for meetings in Wales and facilitate contact between Friends and to enable an interchange of views – very pragmatic and valuable. There is great potential across the various meetings in Wales to promote quakerism, cultivate community, and do good works. Quakers have a rich history but honestly, that hasn't yet stirred my curiosity. I see it has a grounded base and a strong sense of identity. What I value are Quakers sense of living christianity and spirituality. I admire the bold step it takes to allow and respect each individuals own journey.

Although I only work 8 hours a week for MFW I have really enjoyed both the work and being part of the larger dimension of Quakers across Wales. I have met many interesting people whose integrity and contribution I admire.

For your diary:

- 27 June** **Meeting of Friends in Wales**, Memorial Hall, Felinfach, Lampeter.
10.30 for coffee, 11am opening worship. Finish with tea and cakes at 4.30pm
On the agenda: Christine Trevett introducing the subject of Committed partnerships.
Lynn Moseley's paper on local responses to the Framework for Action.
- 25 July** **Yearly Meeting Gathering** at York: a new kind of residential event, with the theme
to *Creating Community: Creating Connections.*
1 Aug Contact YMG office at Friends House, London 020 7663 1040 ymg@quaker.org.uk
- 1-7 Aug** **National Eisteddfod, Bala.** Volunteers needed. If you would like to help
 Contact Mari Evans 01678 521652 (You don't have to be a Welsh speaker!)
- 24 October** **Meeting of Friends in Wales** Llanellwedd. Details to be confirmed.

If you would like to advertise your local or area events here please contact us.