



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 26 February 2011 at Brecon

2011.01 Opening Worship and Welcome

Quaker Faith and Practice 29.01 has been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome 39 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

North Wales: Frank Brown
Mid Wales: Tom Brown
South Wales: Joan Darbyshire
Southern Marches: Peter Hussey

Christine Lewis has been appointed to act as Elder.

2011.02 *Calon and The Friend*

Gethin Evans has agreed to write a report on this meeting for *The Friend* and to report for *Calon*.

2011.03 Outreach (i) – How are Quakers perceived? How can we respond?

Alan Thomas has led us in a workshop based on the questions raised in a survey made by Quaker Quest in 2009. The notes provided will be filed with these minutes. The research was about awareness of Quakers among the general public, and it is clear that we have a lot to do in promoting accurate awareness. People need to know that we exist, what we stand for, and that we are welcoming. Suggestions for action from the group work are attached at the end of these minutes. We thank Alan for this very useful presentation.

2011.04 Outreach (ii) – report on liaison with Quaker Life Outreach team

Deborah Rowlands together with Jules Montgomery, our administrator, have visited the Quaker Life offices and had a useful meeting with Alastair Fuller, the new Outreach officer.

Three leaflets on peace have been translated, and will be available before the Eisteddfod.

There will be new posters focusing on peace for Quaker Week and we hope that some of them will be available in Welsh.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness is going to produce a peace toolkit for schools and when it is ready we would like our Publications Committee and Welsh Language Consultative Group to advise whether we should have it translated/adapted. We hope to make a decision at our next meeting.

The Outreach resources leaflet will show items available in Welsh marked with a dragon.

There is a new little booklet for children 'Quaker Meeting and Me'. A between meetings decision was made that this should be translated, and Quaker Life will arrange to produce and distribute the Welsh version.

There is information on the website about Outreach clusters; we would welcome Friends interested in outreach forming a Welsh cluster.

We thank the group who have been working on Outreach resources, and agree that their task is finished. We are grateful to Quaker Life for their co-operation. We agree that our main contact with Quaker Life Outreach will be Jules Montgomery, who will channel requests for advice to our Publications Committee and the Welsh Language Consultative Group.

We remind Friends of the existence of the *Non-Violence Handbook for Wales*, produced by Cynefin y Werin, and available from Del Harris (Aberystwyth Meeting) coney@gn.apc.org.

2011.05 Celebrating the Quaker Way (refers to minute 2010.32)

A meeting was held in Dolgellau on 15th January to take this matter forward. An open invitation to this meeting was extended to any Friend interested. Friends present included present or former clerks of this meeting, together with members of Publications Committee and the Welsh Consultative Group. The conclusions of this group were that two projects should be suggested to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, a DVD and a book in Welsh, making use of the material already collected in Llwybrau'r Ysbryd. Full notes of that meeting are available and will be filed with these minutes. It is suggested that two groups of four Friends should be appointed to take the projects forward, and that one or two Friends from each group, together with Deborah Rowlands, should form a project board to link both ideas, and to put together a proposal to go to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in April. Both groups could call on others for assistance when needed. The proposal should be agreed by our clerks before being submitted. This meeting agrees these proposals. The names of Rhian Parry, Dic Williams and Awel Jones have been nominated for the book group, and Catherine James and Jane Harries for the DVD group, and we appoint these Friends. We appoint Deborah Rowlands, Rhian Parry and Catherine James to form the Project Group. We note that there are vacant places in these groups and we ask our Nominations Committee to liaise with the groups, to fill the places.

2011.06 Working with Woodbrooke – Living the Quaker Way (minute 2010.33 refers)

Deborah Rowlands has worked with Lizz Roe (Woodbrooke Programme Leader-off-site) to arrange a three-year programme of day events to take place in various locations within Wales. We have preliminary information on the first year's meetings available today, and individual leaflets will soon be available. Julia Aspden will act as on-going contact with Woodbrooke for these meetings.

2011.07 Archived material

Past papers have been lodged with our archivist at Denbighshire Records Office. These include correspondence from 1982 onwards, files concerning the Spiritual Hospitality Project, Mae'r Gân yn y Galon, and files relating to structures in Wales and the Borders. Jane Brunning, our archivist, has advised that the material should eventually be stored in the National Library of Wales, and she will arrange for this to be done.

2011.08 Contact lists (minute 2010.36 refers)

Jules Montgomery, our administrator, has contact lists from North Wales, Mid Wales and Southern Marches Area Meetings for those who ordered them, and for Meeting of Friends in Wales postholders. We hope to have contact material for South Wales Area Meeting when available. We will consider at our next meeting whether to continue this system.

2011.09 Meeting for Sufferings

Stevie Krayner has sent us a report on the meeting of 4th December, which has been read to us. We ask Friends to note any effects they notice of cuts to benefits and public services, and to be prepared to discuss this matter at our June meeting.

2011.10 Financial and Trustees' matters.

- (i) We receive the annual report, presented by Gethin Evans. This will now be put on the website.
- (ii) Our treasurer has presented the accounts. We will ask for contributions from area meetings at the same rate as last year. The grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative support for this meeting is currently reviewed on an annual basis. We have received the grant this year, but we need to keep sufficient funds in our account to sustain the employment of our administrator, should the grant not be forthcoming next year.
- (iii) Cheque signatories: we authorise any two of Julia Aspden, Lynn Moseley and Christine Trevett to sign cheques on behalf of Meeting of Friends in Wales.
- (iv) Our trustees have approved a website policy, which will be placed on both websites; we welcome suggestions for improvements from individual Friends, or area or local meetings. Any such suggestions should be sent to Gethin Evans, as Clerk of Trustees.

2011.11 Cytûn and National Eisteddfod

- (i) Maria Haines has been appointed by North Wales Area Meeting to co-ordinate our presence in the Cytûn tent, and Friends wishing to help at the National Eisteddfod should contact Maria (Llangollen Meeting).
- (ii) Catherine James has reported on Cytûn. Cytûn still has financial difficulties but these may be eased since the Church in Wales explained how much Cytûn does on behalf of all the churches. Catherine will be working at the Royal Welsh Show this year, where Cytûn always has a presence, and Cytûn provides chaplains who will work at all the events taking place on the Royal Welsh grounds.
There is a meeting in Swansea on 10th March to plan for the Urdd Eisteddfod. Alan Thomas will take this matter to Swansea Meeting.

2011.12 Christian Aid National Committee for Wales

Lynn Moseley attended a meeting on 18th November. This is a consultative committee with representatives from all the denominations in Wales. The new director of Christian Aid, Loretta Minghella was present and gave an account of what she had been doing since her appointment. She had been on a world tour to see the work being done by Christian Aid and she emphasised the future concern of Christian Aid – Living out our Faith; it is a professional organisation doing professional work. There is going to be a conference in North Wales on Climate Change and Theology. Christian Aid can partner meetings with projects overseas, and leaflets are available about this.

2011.13 Appointment of an Appeal Group

An area meeting has asked Meeting of Friends in Wales to appoint an appeal group under section 4.25 of Quaker Faith and Practice. Frank Brown (NW), Kate Binney (SM) and Liza Brown (MW) have been appointed by our clerk and clerk of trustees, with the approval of Nominations Committee. We ask the group to work according to the guidelines provided by the Recording Clerk, and to inform the meeting whether the appeal was upheld or not, when their task is completed. Information and conversations will be kept confidential.

2011.14 Nominations and Appointments

(i) **Between meetings appointments.** The following appointments and releases were made between meetings

- **Arrangements Committee:** Dorothy Bell was released; Dave Butler was appointed in her place to serve until 31.12.2013
- **Nominations Committee:** Dorothy Bell appointed to serve until 31.12.2013
- We note that Ros Morley is now convenor of Publications Committee, and we thank Barbara Prys-Williams for her work as convenor.
- Mary Cook has been released from Arrangements Committee and we thank her for her service.

(ii) Appointments.

Our nominations committee has reported to us. They bring forward the following nomination: To be nominated to Meeting for Sufferings – Dave Butler (MW). We note that Dave is already representing Mid Wales Area Meeting. We agree to nominate Dave Butler.

(iii) Nominations requested

We note that the following appointments are vacant and we ask Nominations Committee to find Friends to serve.

Co-clerk (to end 2013)

Cytûn International Affairs Committee - (to end 2013)

QCCIR – one vacancy (to end 2012)

Cytûn Board member from October 2011

Arrangements Committee – one vacancy (to end 2011)

Friend to attend **United Reformed Church National Synod** at Newtown on 13th March

(iv) Nominations for Nominations Committee:

We note that we still have a vacancy on Nominations Committee, preferably to be filled by a Friend from South Wales.

2011.15 Quaker Life Conference – ‘Being Quaker, Doing Quaker’

Catherine James attended the conference held 19th-21st November. The outcomes of the conference will be produced by Quaker Life as study material. Catherine told us about the creative part of the conference and gave us a chance to create for ourselves. We made ‘little people’, containing representations of our spirit, or creative squares.

Julia Aspden
Clerk

<p>Group 1 How to increase awareness about Quakers among 18-34 age range? Film/ Twitter – used by this age group. Get into a popular soap. Go to festivals – have a tent and flag – footfall would be high. Save Quaker museum in Dolgellau – for use with pupils studying “Ystafell Ddirgel” These are Thatcher’s children – there is work to do there! Badge our involvement with Fair Trade, Cymdeithas y Cymod, Greenpeace, etc. Need a platform where young people can test their ideas. Have a table at a craft tent at fairs.</p>	<p>Group 2 How to increase awareness about Quakers among 18-34 age range? Visual: cryptic slogans on side of buses Popular soap Secret room – is where they get these images - schools follow-up; visits to schools; school visits to Meeting Houses etc. Young people’s organizations – get involved Cyber cafes Younger people think they are atheists because of secular society – organised religion not always successful Individuality of modern society Use of Web/ Facebook/ Twitter Social action/ environmental groups Spiritual rather than religious as a term Current Outreach material good small format Pubs & Clubs; Young Farmers Silence scary – programmed worship? Folk music – adaptations</p>
<p>Group 3 How to make the majority of people (who may have heard of us) more aware of what we actually believe and do? Advertise on buses Good websites Presence at Eisteddfod – link with Peace tent (rather than Cytun [Churches Together]) Impact of national events e.g. Cadbury takeover Be less ‘Quakerly’ in the way we deal with the media – be prepared to be controversial Use ‘right of reply’ to local papers Recruit ‘friends of Friends’ (?with membership cards?) Important that it’s ‘No Strings’</p>	<p>Group 4 How to make the majority of people (who may have heard of us) more aware of what we actually believe and do? Take all opportunities to use media Take all opportunities to use conversation Using personalities e.g. Sheila Hancock Visual perception – heads on posters OK e.g. astrophysicist, but let’s also spread relevance and have bus drivers etc. Q. Oats has positive associations e.g. trust, integrity, wholesome Maximising involvement in activism within the area Radio 4? Other media Linking Quakerism to other (public issues) Web etc. (to establish integrity of Q.; to increase awareness of Q.) Link peace activism to increase awareness of Q. Local events – promote Q. presence: Fair Trace, Green Fairs, Charity Fairs (money raising for benefit of other charitable causes?) Use of Meeting Houses where possible – publicity; ‘feel’?</p>
<p>Developments of some of above in conversation Rather than deny the association with Q. Oats, build on it: e.g. Car Stickers saying “Not just Q. Oats ... <i>but also</i> ...” In Wales, link work in schools to Welsh curriculum e.g. “Ystafell Ddirgel” Be opportunistic with regard to local (and national) media e.g. respond to relevant controversy or news with contribution from Q. perspective that makes clear we are open, active, involved, etc. Hence need more people prepared to be interviewed, write letters to editors, respond on web feedback sites, etc. (Example: current controversy over use of Cardiff Meeting House by <i>Exit</i> - Cardiff Friends put out an excellent Press release and several were interviewed for local media. This type of thing should be regarded as an opportunity not a threat.) Each local Meeting build up list of ‘friends of Friends’ - people happy to be circulated about events and activities promoted by local Quakers; and to pass on information At Festivals etc., not just a presence with tent, flag, information, someone to answer questions, but also put on a short Quaker-Quest-style event e.g. two hours or even 90 minutes on ‘My spiritual journey’ with three speakers, small groups, open question and answer and a 30-minute Meeting for Worship. Maybe develop a template for this so it’s easy for a small number of people to do it.</p>	