

Ffederasiwn Amgueddfeydd ac Orielau Celf Cymru
The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales
Charity Registration No. 1102270

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 7th September 2005
Powysland Museum, Welshpool

1. Apologies

Andrew, Emma, Gail, Annette, Chris W, Jane, Dafydd, Scott, Kevin

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as true record.

3. Matters arising

- § Chris D is still waiting to hear from Brendon Doyle Associates re details of CMW assets.
- § **Rachael A** to ask Denise Lavis for an article about NVQ's for the next YMAG.
- § Current membership stands at 22 individual members and 30 institutional members. NMGW has joined. We would also like to encourage the National Library to join. Local Authorities who have a museum service, which have not joined are, Ynys Mon and Pembrokeshire. Chris Delaney has spoken to them all and we are expecting them to join. The Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend are not members but do not have museums. **Frank** to find out who to contact.
- § Susan Dalloe spoke at the Cultural Conference. Chris D has sent a thank you letter.
- § Frank reported on 'What's in Store' Project. A grant application has been submitted by the Federation on behalf of RCHAM. The project will work towards a single standard for the deposition of archaeology. A meeting is to be held on Friday 16th September. Update: A grant of £15K has been awarded. The post of consultant to the project is being advertised on the Federation website.
- § A final meeting has been held regarding performance indicators. Two PI's have been put forward for museums. 1. The number of pupils in an organized school group who visit the museum. This will include outreach visits and loans to schools (Evidence will be required of who actually uses loans, not allowed to just count whole school). 2. Accreditation (For service run museums this will be as a percentage of the number of museums within the service). These PI's have been accepted by the working group, and are now with the Welsh Office Data Unit for approval. It is hoped that they will be introduced from 1st April 2006.
- § Twenty-five people attended the 'Sharing the Treasures' event.
- § Two DIGIHUB kits have been delivered to Denbighshire and one to Newport, training has been provided. Further applications were received and two sets will be given to Cardiff Museum, one to Ceredigion Museum and one to Carmarthen Museum. **Chris D** will submit a report to CyMAL by end of December, stating where the

equipment is. **Chris D** will ask people for information and pictures showing how they have been using the equipment.

4. President's Report

Chris D and Rachael R met with Michael Freeman to discuss applying to CyMAL for a grant to work with the MDA (see item 9) and the proposed digitisation project. The digitisation project is intended for both public and professional consumption. We need to look at whether there are good examples in other museums and the ways they are doing it. We think one approach would be to carry out annual surveys of collections, filling in a few fields at a time, so we can build up knowledge gradually. This seems a more manageable way than waiting until individual websites are accessible. We will talk to Culture Net Cymru about the Gathering the Jewels Project for advice as well as the work being done on archaeological collections.

Michael to look at the project in detail and apply for a grant from CyMAL.

Michael is meeting with CyMAL on Thursday 8th September (Update – it has been suggested that we wait until the new round of grants in January 2006).

The need to involve members more with projects such as this was raised.

5. Editors Report

A copy of YMAG will be produced in November. There is no theme.

6. Correspondence

Information received about HLF and Carnegie Fund. MA response to DCMS Consultation, Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life.

7. Reports from Sub Groups

Jane has asked CyMAL to put the conservators directory on their website.

Frank has the contact details for smaller museums and will talk to them about proposed offer of fax machines.

Frank is working with Denise to provide accreditation courses in the north.

Frank has been approached by Ann Lloyd Williams about setting up a North Wales group. **Frank to speak to Ann to suggest she sets it up and talks to Anna Smith for advice.**

Andrew - no report

8. Events + Training

§ **Rachael R to write something for Andrew relating to conference for the website.**

§ Rachael A reported that Anna Smith is keen for an event to be held on contemporary collecting. The Social History Curators Group had done something recently, could we follow this up?
Rachael A to ask Anna to liaise with Scott.

§ Funding has been provided by CyMAL to support our paper for MA Conference. Chris D will be speaking on behalf of the Federation on Weds 26th October at 10.30-12.00 as part of a paper looking at National and Regional Networks: partnership working. The other speakers are Susan Lansdale, EMMS, Jane Mckinley Scottish Museums Council and Briony Crozier, Northern Ireland Museums Council.

§ 'Whose advocating for Wales' will be postponed until the Spring, once MA representative is in place.

9. Federation funded post from CyMAL
Agenda item postponed until the next meeting.

10. MDA grant application

Michael Freeman is talking to Nick Poole, Director of MDA, he is due to talk to Carol Whittaker, CyMAL on Thursday 8th September (update –Michael has made a grant application).

11. Free entry - Commissioning research

It was agreed that it was not currently a priority of the Federation to look at this issue.

12. AGM

It was suggested that attendance was likely to be greater if it was held on November. Update – The AGM will be held at Wrexham Museum on 30th November 2005.

13. AOB

Emma to provide final balance of accounts.

Rachael A to put information out re the MA editorial panel.

14. Date and venue of next meeting

TBC

Meeting with Carol Whittaker, CyMAL

- § RCHAM bid is with the Minister
- § Carol was updated re the DIGIHUB situation. **Rachael R to send a list of who has equipment to Carol Whittaker and Chris D.**
- § CyMAL are unable to provide literature for MA conference.
- § Carol would like copies of the Fed membership leaflet. **Frank to speak to Chris W.**
- § Carol would like to organise a training session about grant applications with HLF but HLF cannot do anything at the moment. It is not worth doing something just on CyMAL grant plans, but applicants need to be encouraged to provide more information when applying for grants. It may be possible to do something next year with HLF.
- § 'At your library' CD is a strategy for library development. Want a long term strategy for museums, tied into long term assembly aims, making museums less vulnerable in Local Authority. Suggest meeting with committee for a brainstorming session.
- § **Chris W is a grant advisor who** will pass comment on validity of CyMAL grant applications if required.
- § 23rd September 4pm – launch of MDA 'Collections for All'
- § Meeting with AIM Council to find out what AIM is doing at the moment, and to inform AIM about CyMAL, what it is doing and how it differs from the other MLAs, and discuss some areas where we might be able to work with them - e.g. match funding sustainability grants.