

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 20th December 2005
The Old Library, Cardiff

1. Apologies

Jane Henderson, Dafydd Roberts, Susan Dalloe

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as true record.

3. Matters arising

- § Membership – a few individuals have enquired about membership. No new institutions. **Chris W** to let Chris D know which institutions haven't joined, **Chris D** to chase up. Frank has been unable to find out who deals with heritage matters in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan. **Chris W** to send Chris M and Scott list of members. **Chris W** to send membership forms to Frank and Rachael A. Andrew reminded us that it is possible to join via the web.
- § Performance Indicators are now with the Welsh Assembly Government for consultation.
- § The proposed digitization project will be explored further in light of findings of the 'What's in Store' project.
- § Our paper at the MA Conference was well attended and well received.
- § The balance of account was presented by Emma at the AGM.
- § Chris D, Frank and Rachael R attended a meeting with representatives from CyMAL and Amgueddfa Cymru to discuss the need for a 'Museums Strategy in Wales'. It was agreed that this needs to be taken forward, possibly by someone working for the Federation, a grant application will be made to fund this. (See later notes).

4. President's Report

A cheque for £107,964 was presented to Chris D prior to the committee meeting by Brendan Doyle Associates, following approval by the ex Executive members of CMW's final accounts. Small amounts of money may follow. **Chris M** to pay the cheque into the Federation account.

5. Editors Report

The next copy of YMAG will be published in Spring 2006. **Rachael A** to send the issue prior to the current one for inclusion on the website. **Rachael A** to send Chris W spare copies of previous YMAG's for membership mailouts.

6. Correspondence

Information received from the Charity Commission regarding the Annual Return.

7. Reports from Sub Groups

- § Frank is holding a meeting for the Diversity Group in the New Year. There is no interest from small museums regarding the proposed offer of fax machines.
A problem has been encountered with the British Association of Local History Insurance scheme, who say that their public liability insurance does not cover the general public, only members. Frank is talking to the insurers and those museums who have already taken the insurance out. It was considered whether the Federation could help in some way but it was agreed that as we are unable to monitor individual organisations we cannot take on this responsibility.
- § Andrew - the education and access group has decided that they will meet on an annual basis. They have agreed that education is covered by GEM, however their role may be to focus more strongly on Wales, given the proposed changes in the way education is treated differently in England and Wales. The group may focus more on access and to support organisations without education officers. Andrew has expressed an interest in reducing his role in the group. **Chris M** to talk to his Lifelong Learning Officer about getting involved.
- § Chris W spoke for Jane about the Stewardship Group. Lots of people have left the group due to changes in their own roles. Heather Paerry of Cynon Valley Museum may get involved in regenerating the group.
130 people attended the two 'Conservation in Wales' events that were supported by the Federation. Jane and Chris W would like to do more of these events in conjunction with the Federation, perhaps accessing grant money from CyMAL through the Federation, to enable high quality speakers to attend and papers to be published.

8. Events + Training

- § 12th January 2006 – Dressing up the Past
- § 14th February 2006 – Documentation for Accreditation (Bodelwyddan)
- § March (TBC) – Documentation for Accreditation (2 events)
- § TBC – Information about training and training providers
- § TBC – Ethnography day, perhaps to include identification storage, display, ethics. Chris W offered Cynon Valley Museum as a venue.
- § TBC – Contemporary Collecting. **Scott** to liaise with Anna Smith.
- § Andrew has discussed with staff at Amgueddfa Cymru about the possibility of people shadowing them following requests from museum professionals. **Andrew** to investigate ways this proposal could work.

9. Federation funded post from CyMAL

Chris D and Rachael R will make an application to CyMAL for funding for a 'Development Officer'. It was agreed that the role would include developing the business plan, preparing a museum strategy for Wales, commenting on papers, investigating the remit of the Federation and its sustainability and to raise the profile of the Federation. It was agreed that the Federation did not want to get involved with

employing people so the application should be submitted based on employing someone on a consultancy basis over an initial period of 2 years. Costs would be based on 100 days over 2 years plus additional costs for travel and miscellaneous costs such as translation.

10. Projects

Whats in Store

A grant of £15k has been received and Phil Parkes was appointed as consultant to the project, he began work in November 2005. Questionnaires have gone out. Frank is preparing a discussion paper on how to drive forward Archaeological Resource Centres on a national and/or regional basis.

MDA grant application

We have received a grant to enable the following provision for museums in Wales who are members of the Federation:

Free membership for the mda (to run from October 2005)

9 'Accreditation for Documentation' sessions to be run between now and March 2008

Training to be provided for those interested in becoming mda trainers.

Digihubs

All of the sets are now out:

Two with the South Wales museums group

One with Cynon Valley museum

One with Ceredigion Museum

Two with Denbighshire Museums Service

One with Newport Museum

One with Carmarthen Museum (this one will soon be available)

It was emphasised that any museums who wish to use the sets must be a member of the Federation in their own right.

11. AOB

Abertillery Museum have been awarded £222,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Nantgarw China Works is no longer part of RCT Museum Service and they are not going for museum status. They may investigate working with their Friends Group to obtain Trust Status.

The Federation responded to a statement made by the Shadow Minister for Culture who had said that Cardiff needed a museum. It was pointed out that work is currently taking place to realise this vision.

Susan Dalloe will attend Welsh Tourist Board meetings on behalf of the Federation.

12. Date of next meetings

Wednesday 15th March 2006

Monday 12th June 2006

(Venues TBC, **Chris D** to talk to Susan D about travelling to South Wales. **Rachael R** to talk to Anna Smith and Eva Bresdorff about potential locations)