

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

Committee Meeting 12th March 2007
Newport Museum and Art Gallery

11.00 – 2.00

1. Apologies

Martin (Alison Hembrow in attendance as observer), Chris M, Chris W, Annette

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as a true record

3. Matters arising

- Susan has spoken to Mari Gordon at Amgueddfa Cymru about raising the profile of Wales on the 24hr Museum website in conjunction with the Cultural Tourism forum. Mari will let us know how to progress, at the moment there is mainly Amgueddfa Cymru information on the site.
- Chris Delaney and Rachael Rogers will carry out the MICHAEL Project (due to a lack of interest from outside consultants). Chris M will do the paperwork.
- Archaeological Archives still needs to be looked at.
- **Chris D to talk to Linda Tomos about funding of the MDA after 2008.**

4. Finance Report (all figures have been rounded to the nearest £)

- Income to date for 2006/07 financial year: Membership - £3475, Forecast grants - £28,598 (Conservation Matters' Conference - £3030, Development Officer - £14, 583, MDA Project - £10,986)
- Expenditure to date for 2006/07 financial year: Travel - £614, Catering £1302, Venue Hire - £185, YMAG - £316, Lectures/Training - £512, Conservation Matters' Conference - £3030, Development Officer - £14, 583, MDA Project - £10,986. Total: £31,528.
- We currently have a reserve (Deposit Acc) of £85,598, (exclusive of forecast grant reimbursement)

5. Use of reserves

- It was agreed that we would put aside £5K as a risk reserve (we would also look at Public Liability)
- £50K in a high interest account as a Development Fund.
- £3k in a fund for travel bursaries for Fed/CyMAL/MA events – information to be posted on the website.
- The remaining money can be spent. It was suggested that we spend more on a training programme, perhaps with a focus on

objects. **Scott to talk to Amgueddfa Cymru, Michael Freeman and the Dress and Textile Specialist Group.**

6. Membership

- Amgueddfa Cymru has not yet joined.
- We need to approach individual National Trust Sites. **Rachael R to send John/Chris W a list of people who have attended MDA courses. John to talk to Wales Director.**
- Chris W to now invoice for membership directly.
- Institutional membership should be targeted rather than individuals.

7. Business Plan

- **John to investigate promotional material to advertise the Federation.**
- **John to look at a Marketing Plan.**

There was a break to meet with Dr Eurwyn Wiliam from Amgueddfa Cymru. See notes below.

8. Conference

Chris D, John and Rachael R met with Sue Mace from CILIP to discuss two day library conference with one day focusing on museums. This will include a chance for people to comment on the proposed museum strategy. £1600 has been pledged by the Federation to subsidise costs for Federation members.

9. Beecham Report

It was suggested that the Federation should have a view on this. The report suggested that museums should share resources. Our concern is that we don't have resources to share – rather deficits!

10. HLF Collections Initiative

Up to £250 K is available to spend on pilot studies. Half to be spent on objects and half on access and education. Museums would work in partnership with Amgueddfa Cymru

11. WAG Elections

It is too late to influence the manifesto, but we will request a meeting with the minister when appointed.

12. MA Programmes

- Conference 2007, Glasgow – want a home countries feel and Welsh issues fed into the policy session.
- Conference 2008, Liverpool – theme is 'Regeneration'
- MA would like home countries involved in Diversify. Suggestion to approach CyMAL – **John to do this** to discuss possibility of

funding one or two people, possibly in partnership with Amgueddfa Cymru.

- John to circulate something about the Collections Forum.
- Rachael Anderton to join the Workforce Entry Working Party. There is some information about this on the MA website. The MA is also looking to update salary details.
- Chris W to join Museum Journal panel
- Articles on Amgueddfa Cymru and Abertillery to appear in Museum Journal.
- John to write an 'opinion piece' – **suggestions to John please.**
- MA events in Wales need to be commercial. Items for 2008/2009 may be able to be combined with CyMAL programme.
- Policy events could be run alongside other programmes.
- Money awarded from Monuments Trust to collection information from retiring curators. Bruce at Newport has volunteered to get involved.

There was a break to meet with Carol Whitaker from CyMAL. See notes below.

13. Presidents Report

Chris has been working with John on the CILIP Conference

14. Editors Report

Gail and Annette have resigned from the committee and Barbara and Emma are assisting Rachael A with YMAG (they are also working on the website). There will be an issue published in May and enough printed to give to all delegates at the CILIP conference. **Rachael A to liaise with John.**

15. Correspondence

None

RE: Website which has been updated. It was suggested that Barbara speak to Steve Kingston at CyMAL about websites. **Barbara to talk to Ian in the first instance.**

16. Wales Development Officer

Covered elsewhere in agenda,

17. Reports from Sub Groups

- Events and Training
 - **A venue in the North/Mid Wales needs to be considered for the AGM.** This could be a National Trust one with part of the day spent looking at Disaster Planning.
 - **John and Scott to look at hosting an event in the Autumn** – possibly with Sally Cross from the MA re Disposal Toolkit.

- Stewardship
 - 500 people have downloaded the Conservation conference notes from the website.
 - There will be an event on 14th June at St Fagans 'Showcases and Enclosures'.
 - There will be conservation article in Museums Journal.

18. AOB

- Denbigh Museum is likely to go in store in the next few months. This is because the Local Authority is unable to provide the capital money required to relocate the collection and gain Accreditation. It is hoped that this is a temporary situation. A meeting is due to be held with MLA, CyMAL and local representatives to progress.
- It has been suggested that an exhibition of 'Treasures' could be held at the Senedd (similar to one held at Westminster) for Museums Month. Nothing definite has been agreed but just an example of what might be possible. Carol Whittaker has suggested that if the Fed wanted to progress this then CyMAL could probably assist with contacts.

19. Date and Venue of next meeting.

6th June – Powysland Museum, Welshpool, 11am

Meeting with Dr Eurwyn Wiliam, Director of Collections and Research, Amgueddfa Cymru

1. Opportunities for partnership. Chris D suggested using the collections expertise in Amgueddfa Cymru, perhaps along same lines as Renaissance.
2. Extended national collections. Susan Dalloe is talking to Mark Lodwick, Portable Antiquities Officer for NE Wales, which may help links. Amgueddfa Cymru would like to show more of their collections in Wales. We agreed investigating obtaining a grant from the MA's Effective Collections to carry out a pilot study. **John to meet with Sally Cross, MA, Eurwyn and rep from Fed.**
3. Sharing databases, co-operation in collecting. Amgueddfa Cymru a developing a policy for contemporary material. **Eurwyn will look at collecting/joint collecting policies.** It would be useful to bring these together to avoid duplication and gaps.
4. Richard Brewer is looking at the money that is being spent on obtaining 'Treasure' that no one else wants. The HLF Collections initiative could be approached to carry out a project to look at this.
5. Fed is keen to sign up Amgueddfa Cymru as a member so we are speaking for everyone. It was agreed that Eurwyn is the contact regarding membership. Eurwyn or Richard Bevins (Keeper of Collections Services) could attend Fed meetings as co-opted members.

CyMAL Meeting

1. Notification of grants will be made this week. There were 81 applications for a total amount of £350k. £331k has been allocated. Some has been retained for the small grant scheme. There will be press releases about the awards.
2. Those interested in joining 'Ancestry' (Details have been sent out) should contact Elizabeth Bennett at CyMAL.
3. The Spotlight survey has been completed, it is hoped it will be published in May. This will be a printed publication and will possibly be posted on the website. It will be distributed beyond Wales. There will be a commentary with it.
4. The Diversity survey is at a similar stage. Katherine Thomas, CyMAL's Equal Opportunity Officer is working on that.
5. Bilingual posters will be available for MGM. There are no leaflets. CyMAL have requested that anything happening in May is branded under MGM. Logos are available on the website. Lesley-Ann is working with 'Working Word PR' company and WAG. News and photos on any events can be sent to Alyson Tyler for Current Awareness and the newsletter.
6. An NVQ assessment centre is now available at Amgueddfa Cymru. Denise Lavis is meeting with assessors from the Wales Consortium to discuss accessibility for non Amgueddfa Cymru candidates.