

**Cyfeillion Amgueddfa Cymru - Friends Museum Wales**  
**69fed Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol – 69th Annual General Meeting**  
**Tachwedd 2<sup>il</sup> 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Chair's Annual Report 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**

This report covers the 12 months up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. We have put on 26 events of many genres and organised visits to many exciting places at home and abroad. We continue to inform you on our Mailchimp Newsletters and our Website which are the main sources of information and most of you are embracing much of the new technology. The majority of you, will access your information that way. We also send out Oriel and Events calendars twice a year to members with no computers, now about 80 in number.

**Members of the Board of Trustees**

I have been Chair of the Friends for 6 years and this year intend to stand down at the AGM but stay on the Board to assist my successor in any way I can. Achievements have been many during this time - keeping the organisation going through Covid and Lockdown, introducing Zoom talks via the Internet so that contact with members was still maintained, starting monthly Newsletters giving Friends up to date information and links to the Friends' website. At last, thanks to the tenacity of our treasurer, internet banking has been set up and many members can now pay for events and subscriptions by BACs. Lyn Owen is staying on as Treasurer.

Emrys Jones, our Membership Secretary, an expert on the Friends' Database also intends standing down but staying on the Board as a trustee to assist his successor in learning about what being the Membership Secretary entails. Maggie Lewis who has been invaluable in helping organise and plan events along with Heather Graves, is also standing down. Nigel Morgans and Sarah Watkins were co-opted to the Board at the last AGM in 2023 and wish to be elected to being full members of the Board of Trustees at this year's AGM. All other members are staying on the Board and I'm grateful to them all for the knowledge, ideas and commitment they have shown. We were sorry that Kathleen Jones our Secretary had to leave the Board for health reasons of her own but also those of her husband who has since passed away.

For much of this year our Board has been reduced in number to 14 and we do need more members to join the Board of Trustees to help share the amount of work we take on. The organisation is worth joining even it is for attending the events we offer, the friends you make or the satisfaction you get from knowing that your contributions are helping Amgueddfa Cymru survive in what has been a tortuous time for the Arts.

**Events**

Our main aim is to raise money for chosen projects in the Museum but it's also to enjoy learning new things, visit new places and meet new people in a safe environment. We try to cover all disciplines. Music - Geraint Lewis on Benjamin Britten, art - Professor John Hilary, 'A passion for fine art'. This led to us visiting his family home Nymans where he met us and talked about his family and the beautiful garden that had been created by them and literature at our visit to the Hay Festival. Two 'pop up' visits were made to Y Gaer in Brecon to see the David Jones Exhibition which was excellent and the Death of Tewdrick by the Brecon Sculptor John Evans Thomas. William Gibbs had previously given us a talk about him. The second was to see NYE the play about Aneurin Bevan and the NHS. We visited Vienna and Harrogate and environs which were both enjoyed by all.

We were able to donate to donate £5000 for a Digital Learning Programme, £10,000 for the glasshouses rebuilding which were in a sad state of repair and £1,540 for sponsoring the Organ Recital programme - £16,540 in all. After the AGM last year we had a splendid talk by Dr. Dafydd Wiliam on the Vulcan Hotel which drew in an audience of 75 people.

St. David's Day was celebrated with Welsh traditional music and of course Christmas Lunch again was a splendid occasion. I want to thank all the Board members who have arranged day trips, trips abroad and arranged talks with some very interesting people. Also those who coordinated the whole procedure deserve a special mention as it is not an easy task. These events have given you an amazing choice of both talks and visits and longer holidays and enabled you to meet new people and old friends of similar interests to your own.

As you know the money raised by us all is being put to really good use in the Museum itself but we also hope that in helping us to raise this money by attending events, you have a lot of enjoyment too.

### **Membership**

We now have 740 members on our database. This is very encouraging and we have been able to welcome 16 new members in the last year. However, a few members have still not yet renewed despite reminder emails and letters. The renewal date is in March each year but members can join or rejoin at anytime.

New members often join us on recommendation from their friends but can also access information and application forms from leaflets in the Museum or from our bilingual website [www.friendsmuseumwales.org.uk](http://www.friendsmuseumwales.org.uk) which is frequently updated. You can also access details of current and past events, magazines from previous years and a Friends' Blog from the website. We are also on Facebook.

We have had to review our bank accounts very recently due to increased charges. As a result, we have closed our Subscriptions Account and will, in future, be running one online account for everything. Unfortunately, this will mean that all members who pay by Standing Order will have to cancel their existing Order and take out a new one in readiness for next year. We will be sending details of how to do this in the near future and make it as straightforward as possible for you.

### **Our accounts**

Friends Museum Wales is a charity and we still fall into a Charity Commission category whereby we need our accounts examined but not audited. They have again been prepared by our treasurer Lyn Owen and have been approved by the Board of Trustees and examined by Dr. Tony Williams. The accounts are presented at this AGM to be received by the membership.

You have shown your commitment to us by attending the events we put on and have supported us loyally throughout the last year. All the profits from these events go directly to Amgueddfa Cymru, National Museum Wales, to enable them to develop and extend the current projects that they are undertaking.

**Very many thanks to you all.**

**Gwen Williams, Chair, Friends Museum Wales**