



# CYMDEITHAS CYFIEITHWYR CYMRU

A report on 2011-12 activities

**Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru is sponsored by the Welsh Language Commissioner**

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# Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru

## A report on 2011 – 12 activities

The main aim of Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru – the association of Welsh translators and interpreters - this year has been to continue to maintain and develop professional translation standards and to improve, increase and expand the knowledge and skills of translators and interpreters.

This was achieved in various ways, including:

- increasing and developing our membership to represent ever greater numbers of translators and interpreters;
- holding membership examinations for translators and interpreters;
- providing a varied and successful training programme to promote professional development;
- nurturing relationships with Higher Education institutions, including the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol;
- investing in academic research for the benefit and advancement of the translation profession/industry;
- maintaining and nurturing our links with other bodies and institutions;
- promoting and marketing the Association and its members.



## **Increasing and developing our membership to represent ever greater numbers of translators and interpreters**

On 31 March 2012, membership of the Association stood at **352 individual members** (compared with 348 members on 31 March 2011), as follows:

Full Members - 163  
Basic Members - 176  
Interpreting Members - 59 (13)\*

\* The figure in parentheses represents the number of members who are solely Interpreting members. The remainder are also either Full members (27) or Basic members (19).

We have **7 Corporate Members**: Calan, Cyfaith, Cymen, Pennawd, Prysg, Testun and Trywydd.

Our first **8 Institutional Members** were approved: Gwynedd Council, Ceredigion Council, Powys Council, St. Helen's Welsh Centre (Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Councils), Bangor University, the Food Standards Agency, the Countryside Council for Wales and the National Assembly for Wales. We will continue to develop procedures that acknowledge and reflect the variety of translation units that exist within the public sector.

A new category of membership was established for **Students**. This will provide a means of attracting prospective translators and interpreters from the ranks of students who are studying postgraduate translation and interpretation courses into the Association's networks. Members in this category will not have voting rights at the Association's activities.

The Board of Directors decided to remove the category of 'Friends'. This decision was taken after evaluating the role of this category within the Association during recent years, as well as the value 'Friends' received for their subscription. Another factor was the small number of 'Friends'.

Since April 2011 all members of the Association have been bound by the **Professional Code of Practice**. This is a first in the field of Welsh/English translation and interpretation.

## **Holding membership examinations for translators and interpreters**

**Text Membership Examinations** were held on 9 April 2011 and 1 October 2011. The results were as follows:



	April 2011		October 2011	
Total number of candidates *	41		47	
	Candidates	Passes	Candidates	Passes
Full *	18	0	25	9
Paper 1 – into Welsh	16	0	23	8
Paper 2 – into English	7	0	7	1
Basic *	23	5	22	12
Paper 1 – into Welsh	22	5	18	8
Paper 2 – into English	7	0	12	4

\* Some candidates sat both papers

In October 2011, for the first time ever, more candidates sat the Full examination than attempted the Basic papers, thereby indicating that the efforts the Association has made in insisting that bodies and institutions use Full Members are having a positive effect.

However, the low pass rate in the Full examinations and the fact that translators working at a senior level are failing to achieve the required standard still give cause for concern. There were many good and promising features in the candidates' translations and a large proportion of them reached the required standard in one piece but fell short of satisfying the examiners' requirements for the paper as a whole. It is obvious that candidates are becoming increasingly aware of what is expected of them at this level but there were far too many elementary mistakes that could not be justified even under examination conditions, such as insufficient editing and reading of work prior to submission, clumsy expression, and many examples of work that did not flow naturally in English/Welsh.

In the Basic examinations the standard of translations submitted by candidates varied. Several candidates showed promise and the truly hopeless entrants are now few and far between (this can be attributed to the translation e-workshop, in which individuals get a good idea of their level of ability). The more general shortcomings stemmed from insufficient command of the essentials of Welsh grammar; inadequate knowledge of sentence construction and English/Welsh idioms; lack of punctuation; a failure to use dictionaries appropriately; and, as was the case in the Full examinations, insufficient editing and reading of work prior to submission.

The **Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize** was withheld in 2011. The Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize is presented - in memory of a former secretary of the Association and pioneer in the field of translation in Wales - to the most promising candidate in the Basic Membership examination for translation into Welsh across both rounds of examinations held in the autumn and the following spring, if a worthy recipient is identified.

A new examination procedure has been agreed. This will involve a team of 3 examiners - a Chief Examiner and two Deputies, one of whom will be responsible for translation into Welsh and the other for translation into English. The team will be responsible for all issues related to the Association membership examinations at Full and Basic level, and for the strategic direction of the examination procedure. This will be achieved by working closely together, alongside the office staff. Fiona Gannon is the Chief Examiner and the two Deputies are Mary Jones for translation into Welsh



and Meinir McDonald for translation into English. Membership of the Examination Board was amended to include the examiners as core members, and they will be joined by the relevant markers, who will act as members for that particular round only. This will mean that candidates receive their results sooner than in the past.

The only **Interpreting Test** of the year was held on 16 March 2012 at professional sound studios in Cardiff and Groeslon, and 7 of the 9 candidates were successful.

### **Providing a varied and successful training programme**

In order to promote professional development, a varied and successful training programme was organised, attracting 365 registrations. It included workshops, a mentoring scheme and the translation e-workshop. The Association is the only body that offers regular training and professional development opportunities to both translators, prospective translators and interpreters.

A total of 226 different individuals benefited from these activities, 108 of whom were already members of the Association. Of the remainder, the majority were translators working for central government, local authorities, the education sector or other public institutions. This demonstrates the fact that these organisations value the importance of this special provision by the Association as a means of facilitating their staff's professional development.

During the year 11 face-to-face workshops were organised. Most of them were held in more than one location across Wales, and on the whole they were very well received. A list of workshops can be found in Appendix 2.

The **translation e-workshop** remains popular and it has proved to be an effective means of offering training to people in their own time and within a timetable and structure. Individuals translate 2 pieces of the same length and standard as in the Basic examination and then receive comments on their translations from tutors who are both professional translators and examiners. The translation e-workshop was aimed at prospective candidates for the Basic examination. During the year 7 translation e-workshops were held, attracting 64 participants.

During the course of the year 4 individuals benefitted from the **Mentoring Scheme (Text)**.

Two new training schemes for interpreters were introduced during the year. The Interpreting Exercises give people an opportunity to interpret in a studio twice in order to familiarise themselves with the procedure and requirements of the Interpreting Test, receiving critical and constructive feedback from a tutor and having a chance to discuss the interpretation. There were 11 participants in this scheme. Two individuals embarked on the **Mentoring Scheme (Interpreting)**.

### **Nurturing relationships with Higher Education institutions**

The Association has nurtured a close relationship with officers from the **Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol** (whose main aim is to increase, develop and broaden the range of Welsh medium



study opportunities at universities in Wales). It is encouraging that the Coleg recognises translation and interpretation both as an important field and as one it wishes to support.

In December 2011 the Coleg announced that it would be funding two new academic posts in the field of Translation Studies as part of its Academic Staffing Scheme. One post would be located in Swansea University and the other in Bangor University (including an element of co-operation with Aberystwyth University). But since the applications failed to offer a national framework or a guarantee that there would be no duplication in terms of provision and funding (and the number of students involved would be relatively small) it was not possible to agree to fund the applications as submitted.

On 25 January 2012 representatives from Bangor University, Swansea University, Aberystwyth University, Cardiff University and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David attended a meeting in Aberystwyth, at which the Association was also present. Various aspects of the field were discussed in detail and at length but no agreement could be reached regarding a way forward. (In order to identify ways of investing in Translation Studies, the Coleg established a Task and Finish Group in July 2012 to propose a suitable national framework that would enable it to give further consideration to funding the two submitted applications, possibly in a different format from the original submission).

The Association played a key role in the development of a Postgraduate Certificate in Interpreting by the **University of Wales Trinity Saint David**, the first such qualification to be offered in Welsh/English interpreting. The Certificate will provide an opportunity to gain an academic qualification which is relevant in the workplace and also fulfils the needs of the translation profession/industry. It will be suitable for beginners and experienced interpreters alike. Intensive learning sessions will be held on the University campus at Lampeter, where there is a purpose built language laboratory, as well as in the workplace, thereby adding an important vocational element to the course. It is hoped that the first students will start their course in November 2012.

The Association collaborated with **Cardiff University's School of Welsh** to develop a vocational translation module for third year undergraduates. This module will be introduced for the first time in the 2012-13 academic year.

The Association is a non-academic partner in a 6 month project by **Bangor University's School of Modern Languages** entitled, 'Translating cultures: a research network on translation', with grant funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The intention of the project is to establish and develop a network for those people who are researching translation in Wales. The aim is to promote the Science of Translation in Wales and raise the profile of Wales within the discipline. The network comprises academics from Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea Universities.

### **Investing in academic research**

Dawn Wooldridge from Swansea was successful in her application to complete a PhD at Bangor University in the Linguistics Department and in conjunction with the Language Technologies Unit in Canolfan Bedwyr. Her research topic is 'Profiling errors: a study of errors made by prospective English-Welsh translators'. She will profile and analyse the errors found in translations from English



to Welsh, and she hopes to propose recommendations for improving current training courses. The Association will sponsor Dawn's PhD for a period of 2 years.

Dawn's PhD thesis will further the research she carried out for the MRes degree she was awarded in 2011, a degree sponsored by the Association. The topic of her research at that time was 'Improving Cysill for translators: identifying English interference in Welsh texts'. The thesis can be viewed on the the Association's website.

The PhD is part of the KESS Scheme supported by the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government.

### **Maintaining and nurturing links with bodies and institutions**

The Association was one of the **Welsh Language Board's** main partners. It was a key member of the Welsh Language Board's Translation Forum and the Chairman and Chief Executive attended all three meetings held during 2011-12. As one of the Welsh Language Board's main partners, the Chief Executive was regularly in attendance at the meetings of the main partners. (This group will continue as a Group for the Promotion of the Welsh Language, co-ordinated by the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Unit). The Association was represented on the Board's Place Names Panel by **Meinir McDonald** and on the Terminology Standardisation Panel by **Richard Glyn Roberts**.

The Association has maintained its close relationship with **HM Courts and Tribunals Service**. In his address at the Wales Justice Stand at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham, Mr Justice Lloyd Jones referred to the high standard of Interpreting provided in the courts, and to the contribution made by the Association in order to ensure such a provision: "Using two languages in court hearings means that reliable, accurate interpretation is essential. I am pleased to say that we have an excellent team of interpreters who make a valuable contribution to the administration of justice in Wales. I am particularly grateful to Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru for responding so positively to our request in 2008, and setting up a formal mechanism to assess the capability of court interpreters. This has ensured that it is interpreters of the highest calibre only who are employed to interpret in court hearings."

The relationship between the Association and **Translators' House Wales and Tŷ Newydd Llanystumdwy** was strengthened. The Association sponsored the Bardic Staff that was awarded to Hywel Meilyr Griffiths, the winner of the 2011 Translation Challenge, for his skilful translation of Lin Sagovsky's poem, 'Old Bank Notes'. The staff was presented to him by Berwyn Prys Jones in a ceremony held at Aberystwyth University's stand at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham. The second residential workshop on literary translation was held at Tŷ Newydd, Llanystumdwy, on 10-11 March 2012.

The Chief Executive served as a member of the **Welsh Language Strategy Advisory Group** under the chairmanship of Leighton Andrews AM, the Minister for Education and Skills. The Welsh Language Strategy 2012-17, 'A Living Language: a Language for Living' was published on 1 March 2012.

The Association was invited to become a member of the **Welsh Government's Shared Welsh Translation Services Project Board** as it moved into its delivery phase. The project comprises 3 work streams: People, Processes and Systems, and Procurement.



Menter Iaith Conwy received funding from the **Rural Development Plan** to establish a Community Translation Scheme in north Wales. The Association was invited to become a member of the steering group.

The Association responded to the public consultation on the **Assembly's Bilingual Services** in September 2011, emphasising the need to produce a fully bilingual Record of Proceedings, and the necessity to entrust translation and interpreting work to qualified professionals. In March 2012 the Association was approached to present verbal evidence regarding the National Assembly for Wales (Official Languages) Bill to the Assembly's Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee.

The Association liaised with several public bodies for the benefit and development of the profession, including the Welsh Government's Translation Service, the National Assembly for Wales' Translation and Reporting Service, and local authorities and public bodies.

The Association is a member of: FIT (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs / International Federation of Translators); the Wales Council for Voluntary Action; Mantell Gwynedd; the Institute of Welsh Affairs and Celebrating Our Language.

## **Promoting and marketing the Association and its members**

### **Hedley Gibbard Memorial Lecture**

The **Hedley Gibbard Memorial Lecture** delivered by Gareth Davies Jones on Tuesday afternoon at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham was well attended. The lecture, entitled 'Nene Ene', was a study of the Rhos dialect.

The work of developing the **Association's website** is ongoing. A new database was created to store information about our members and the way in which names appear on the site has been altered.

The Association has adopted a new method of ensuring that the membership list on the website is completely up to date. From now on if members do not pay their membership fee by 1 June every year their names will be deleted on that day (but they will reappear as soon as payment is received).

A **special logo** was designed for use by Full, Interpreting, Corporate and Institutional members, and guidance was issued regarding use of the the Association's name.

The **Association's adverts** include the message: "Looking for a translator? Go to the only place to find a qualified translator: [www.cyfieithwycymru.org.uk](http://www.cyfieithwycymru.org.uk)". Several people have mentioned that they have noticed these adverts in 'Golwg' and 'Y Cymro' and this raises the profile of the Association.

Approval was given to the Association's application for inclusion in the **HM Customs and Excise list of approved professional bodies** – List 3 under Section 343/344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. This means that members can claim their membership fee against tax.





## **The financial situation**

The Association received a grant of £97,269 from the Welsh Language Board for 2011-12, compared with £109,844 in 2010-11. Whilst we are grateful for the funding we receive annually towards the cost of running the Association, we were naturally disappointed that there was a further reduction in the grant.

The grant enabled the Association to employ its three permanent members of staff, to maintain the examination system and to organise a programme of training, continuous professional development and events.

Despite the increase in members, membership payments fell slightly from £43,500 in 2010-11 to £42,381. The income generated by examinations and interpreting tests increased: £10,109 compared with £9,180 in 2010-11. There was a reduction in the income from professional development activity and training: £13,090 compared with £15,661 in 2010-11, but the Association's provision continues to meet the demand for professional training and is popular and highly regarded amongst translators and employers.

Ann Corkett has stepped down as Treasurer of the Association following several years in post. Her contribution to the work of the Association in the role of Treasurer has been considerable, and has been greatly appreciated by the office staff and directors; indeed, all members of the Association are indebted to her. We will not be appointing a new Treasurer, mainly because the Association has a team of full-time staff who carry out the day-to-day financial duties as part of their work. Furthermore, Owain Bebb & Company, Caernarfon, carried out a comprehensive review of the Association's internal systems during the year, and their findings demonstrated that the Association's procedures are sound.

## **And finally**

I would like to thank Nia Wyn Edwards and Judith Kaufmann for their hard work and commitment to the Association and also our Chairman, Berwyn Prys Jones, for his constant support and ready wit. I am also grateful to all members of the Board of Directors, the Examination Board, the Interpreting Board and the Membership and Professional Standards Committee for their dedication to their committees and the sound judgement they exercise when undertaking their duties. The congenial air of co-operation between staff, directors and committee members is one of the strengths of the Association – long may it continue.

**Geraint Wyn Parry**

Chief Executive

July 2012



## **Appendix 1 – the Association’s Boards and Committees**

### **The Board of Directors**

The following were members of the Board of Directors during the year:

Berwyn Prys Jones (Chairman), David Bullock, Ann Corkett, Fiona Gannon, Heini Gruffudd, Wyn Hobson, Dewi Morris Jones, Elfrys Jones, Mary Jones, and Meinir McDonald. Ifor Gruffydd and Lowri Roberts were co-opted members.

The Board of Directors met on 26 July 2011, 14 December 2011 and 28 March 2012.

### **The Examination Board**

The following were members of the Examination Board during the year:

Berwyn Prys Jones (Chairman), Ann Corkett, Meg Elis, Eric Evans, Fiona Gannon, Heini Gruffudd, Wyn Hobson, Dewi Morris Jones, Mary Jones, Sylvia Prys Jones, Meinir McDonald, Glenys Roberts, Megan Hughes Tomos, Heledd Williams, and Tegwen Williams.

The Examination Board met on 10 June 2011 and 18 November 2011.

### **The Interpreting Board**

The following were members of the Interpreting Board during the year:

Wyn Hobson (Chairman), Delyth Davies, Rhian Huws, Aled M. Jones, Siân Eleri Jones, Ann Llwyd, Siôn Aled Owen, Mair Parry-Jones, Helen Phillips, Richard Glyn Roberts, Elin Tudur, and Angharad Watson.

The Interpreting Board met on 23 May 2011.

### **The Membership and Professional Standards Committee**

The following were members of the Membership and Professional Standards Committee during the year:

David Bullock (Chairman), Delyth Davies, Fiona Gannon, Berwyn Prys Jones, Claire Richards and Lowri Roberts.

The Committee met on 20 October 2011, 14 December 2011, and 28 March 2012.



## **Appendix 2 - 2011-12 Workshops**

NB The figure in parentheses denotes the number of attendees at each individual workshop

### **Long and Short: a workshop on complex constructions**

*Tutor - Berwyn Prys Jones*

27 June 2011 – Galeri, Caernarfon (20)

28 June 2011 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (11)

### **Translation into English**

*Tutors - Fiona Gannon and Wyn Hobson*

5 July 2011 – Galeri, Caernarfon (cancelled)

7 July 2011 – Age Cymru, Cardiff (18)

### **Grammatical issues**

*Tutor - Robat Trefor*

13 July 2011 – Chapter, Cardiff (14)

18 July 2011 – Bangor University (Welsh Department) (8)

20 July 2011 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (7)

### **Translation into Welsh**

*Tutor - Megan Tomos*

6 September 2011 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (14)

### **Interpretation and communicating meaning**

*Tutor - Heini Gruffudd*

3 October 2011 – Age Concern Gwynedd and Anglesey, Caernarfon (10)

4 October 2011 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (8)

11 October 2011 – Waterfront Museum, Swansea (17)

### **The translator's resources**

*Tutor – Claire Richards*

9 November 2011 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (9)

15 November 2011 – Galeri, Caernarfon (8)

21 November 2011 – University of Wales Trinity St David, Carmarthen (9)

### **Translating the verb**

*Tutor – Dafydd Glyn Jones*

17 November 2011 – Aberystwyth University (30)

29 March 2012 – Bangor University (19)

### **The administrative register**

*Tutor – Mary Jones*

2 December 2011 – Age Concern Gwynedd and Anglesey, Caernarfon (14)

6 December 2011 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (6)

9 December 2011 – Waterfront Museum, Swansea (11)



### **A variety of registers**

*Tutor – Meg Elis*

7 February 2012 – Galeri, Caernarfon (cancelled)

9 February 2012 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (6)

16 February 2012 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (14)

### **Translating idioms**

*Tutor – Huw Tegid*

February 2012. Late in the day we had to postpone the workshop for reasons beyond our control. We asked Megan Tomos to offer the workshop on 'The basics of translation' once again, but there were insufficient registrations to justify going ahead.

### **Creative translation: translating children's literature**

A joint course with Translators' House Wales, who were responsible for the programme.

*Tutors – Sampurna Chattarji, Mererid Hopwood, Jyrki Kiiskinen, Gerdur Kristny, Mairwen Prys Jones*

10-11 March 2012 - Tŷ Newydd, Llanystumdwy (10)

### **The language register of children and young people**

*Tutors - Elin Meek and Mari Watkin*

15 March 2012 - Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (16)

23 March 2012 - Galeri, Caernarfon (15)

