



CYMDEITHAS CYFIEITHWYR CYMRU

A report on activities during 2012-13

Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru was sponsored by the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2012-13

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Introduction

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 translators' knowledge and skills.

This was achieved in several ways, including:

- increasing and developing our membership to represent evermore greater numbers of translators;
- holding membership examinations for translators and interpreters;
- providing a varied and successful training programme to promote translators' professional development;
- fostering 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;

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A word of thanks from the Chief Executive

I would like to thank Nia Wyn Edwards and Judith Kaufmann for their diligence and commitment to the Association and also our Chairman, Berwyn Prys Jones for his constant support and good humour. I am also grateful to every member of the Board of Directors, the Examination Board, the Interpreting Board and the Membership and Professional Standards Committee for their dedication to these 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 Association's strengths and long may it continue.

Geraint Wyn Parry
31 July 2013



1. Activities during 2012-13

1.1 Increasing and developing our membership to represent a greater number of translators

On 31 March 2013, membership of the Association stood at 354 individual members (compared with 352 members on 31 March 2012), as follows:

Full Members - 188
Basic Members - 154
Interpreting Members - 66 (12)*

* The figure in parentheses represents the number of members who are solely Interpreting members. The remainder are also either Full members (41) or Basic members (13).

The Association has never had so many Full Members, neither has there ever been such a big gap between the numbers of Full and Basic Members. There has been an increase of 25 members in this category during the year.

We have 8 Corporate Members. Trosol was welcomed as a Corporate Member during the year.

We have 8 Institutional Members.

The guidelines of the new category of membership for Students were confirmed during the year. This will provide a means of attracting prospective translators from the ranks of students following postgraduate translation courses to the Association. We hope to recruit the first students during 2013-14.

1.2 Holding membership examinations for translators and interpreters

Text Membership Examinations were held during April and October 2012, and the results were as follows:

	April 2012		October 2012	
Total number of Candidates *	51		61	
	Candidates	Passes	Candidates	Passes
Full *	32	10	38	21
Paper 1 – into Welsh	28	9	35	16
Paper 2 – into English	10	1	13	10
Basic *	19	9	23	6
Paper 1 – into Welsh	16	7	19	4
Paper 2 – into English	7	3	12	3

* Some candidates sat both papers



The trend first seen in October 2011, when the number of candidates who sat the Full examination exceeded those who attempted the Basic papers, continued, thus indicating an increasing desire amongst translators to achieve a truly professional standard in their work. This is also an indication that the Association's efforts in insisting that bodies and institutions use Full Members are having a positive effect, as well as being a response to the fact that only Full Members will be eligible to apply to be part of the Government's translation framework.

We continued to fine-tune the new examination system adopted in 2011, so that a team of 3 examiners, a Chief Examiner and two Deputies, one responsible for the examinations into Welsh and the other for those into English, is responsible for all aspects relating to the Examinations for Membership of the Association at the Full and Basic levels. Fiona Gannon was the Chief Examiner, and the 2 Deputies were Mary Jones (Welsh) and Meinir McDonald (English).

One aspect of the revised examination system is that the examiners' meeting is held approximately one month after the examinations, so that all those involved with the marking come together, having completed the marking in advance, to discuss face to face and allocate final marks. The general opinion is that this has been very beneficial. It has the added advantage that results can be distributed sooner than under the old system.

A further decision was made to add half an hour to the length of the Basic Examinations, which now last 2 hours and 5 minutes, the same length as those for Full Membership.

In the examinations for **Full Membership** a higher number of candidates succeeded than in the past. The general standard was very promising, with no truly weak candidates. Several of the unsuccessful candidates succeeded in one of the two pieces, and this ability to reach the required standard, even where it was not sustained throughout the paper, demonstrates that candidates are increasingly aware of the standard expected at the level of Full Membership. The main reason why a number of candidates failed was that they had not proofed and corrected their work in a sufficiently detailed manner, so the advice given for several successive years is still relevant, namely that the editing needs to be given the same detailed, careful attention as the translation work itself to succeed at this level.

In the examinations for **Basic Membership** the general standard was rather disappointing, and only a small percentage provided two translations of a sufficient standard to pass. This gave the impression that a substantial number of the candidates were not familiar enough with translation work, since too many of them provided literal translations, without ensuring that the syntax and idioms used were appropriate to the target language. The aim, after all, is to create a translation which reads as if it were originally written in Welsh/English. The two main weaknesses were a failure to convey the exact meaning, and a failure to combine register and syntax appropriately and smoothly. There were also too many basic errors, such as incorrect spellings, mutations and a lack of agreement between various parts of speech. All of these demonstrate how crucial it is to read the work extremely carefully before presenting it, so that it is as accurate and as professional as possible.

The **Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize** was won by Elgan Davies, a translator at the National Assembly. His prize was presented to him at a ceremony in the Assembly Building by Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, the Assembly Commissioner responsible for the Commission's functions and policy in relation to the Welsh language. The Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize is presented - in memory of the Association's former secretary and pioneer in the field of translation in Wales - to the most



promising candidate for Basic Membership, for translation into Welsh, during both rounds of examinations held in the autumn and spring of the same year, if a worthy recipient is identified.

The only **Interpreting Test** of the year was held in November 2012 at professional sound studios in Cardiff and Groeslon. There were 9 candidates, 4 of whom were successful.

Although the standard was not as high, generally speaking, as it has been in previous tests, the best candidates translated clearly, accurately and fully, placing intelligent emphasis and using appropriate syntax and idioms in the target language. Some candidates demonstrated a talent for clever rephrasing. The main weaknesses were uncertainties of syntax, register and idiom, since many of the unsuccessful candidates used the syntax of the Welsh sentence in their English and translated idioms literally, thereby demonstrating a need to listen to high quality English.

Some changes were introduced to the arrangements for the assessment of Interpreting, reflecting the new system already adopted for the (Text) Membership Examinations. There are now two joint Chief Examiners – Mair Parry-Jones and Rhian Huws.

1.3 Providing a varied and successful training programme

In order to promote translators' professional development, a varied and successful training programme was organised, including 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 and prospective translators.

There was a total of 236 registrations, and 163 different individuals benefited from these activities, 79 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 Association's exceptional and important provision as a means of facilitating their own staff's professional development. The next step forward will be for those translators to become members of the Association.

A total of 7 **face-to-face workshops** were organised during the year, most of which were held in more than one location across Wales. These were very well received on the whole. We were very fortunate to attract high quality tutors for these workshops. We also held a discussion session on translating the titles of documents, a session which was shorter and less formal than a workshop. A list of all the workshops can be found in Appendix 2 to this report.

Amongst the workshops there was one on translation and editing, led by Eyvor Fogarty and Kari Koonin. This gave us an opportunity to welcome translators who are members of the ITI and who work in other combinations of languages. We intend to develop this relationship further, and the Chief Executive has had a meeting with Elvana Moore, group co-ordinator for the ITI in Wales, to discuss the possibilities.

The translation e-workshop remains popular as an effective means of offering structured training to people who can work to deadlines in their own time and 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 9 translation e-workshops were held, attracting 39 participants.



During the course of the year 2 individuals benefited from the **Mentoring Scheme (Text)**.

Two new training schemes for Interpretation were introduced during the year. The **Interpreting Exercises** give people an opportunity to translate in a studio on two different occasions in order to familiarise themselves with the procedure and requirements of the Interpreting test, and receive critical and constructive feedback from a tutor, with an opportunity to discuss the translation. A total of 8 people took part in this scheme, and 2 individuals have embarked on the **Mentoring Scheme (Interpreting)**.

1.4 Fostering relationships with Higher Education institutions

The Association has continued to foster a close relationship with officers from the **Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol**, since the Coleg acknowledges that translation is an important field and one that it wishes to support. In order to find ways of investing in Translation Studies, the Coleg established a Task and Finish Group to propose a suitable national framework, under the chairmanship of Heini Gruffudd. Fiona Gannon was also a member of the Group on behalf of the Association. The Coleg's Board of Directors approved the Group's recommendations on 28 November 2012, and the Coleg will establish a network or school of Translation Studies. Since then, Lowri Williams has been seconded for a year from the Welsh Language Commissioner's office as Academic Co-ordinator. The Association is represented on the management committee.

The Association has been a key partner in the development of the **University of Wales Trinity Saint David** Postgraduate Certificate in Interpreting, the first qualification to be offered in Welsh/English interpreting, and one which offers an opportunity to gain an academic qualification which satisfies the requirements of the translation profession/industry. The Chief Executive was present at the Final Validation Panel, and at the official launch of the Certificate at the National Eisteddfod. Staff and members of the Association taught on the course. Intensive learning sessions were held at the purpose-built language laboratory on the University campus at Lampeter, and the final module contained a period of work experience. We congratulate all of the first 5 students who registered on gaining their Certificates.

Members of the Association taught on an occupational translation module for year 3 undergraduates in the **School of Welsh at Cardiff University**. This was introduced for the first time in its new format during the 2012-13 academic year, after the Association and the School had worked together on the content.

The Association was a partner from outside the academic world in the **University of Bangor's School of Modern Languages** 6-month project, 'Translation cultures: a translation research network', a project which had been funded by an AHRC grant. The aim of the project was to establish and develop a network for those researching translation in Wales, in the hope of promoting the Science of Translation in Wales and raising the profile of Wales within this discipline. The Association contributed to the project's conference at Bangor University in September 2012, and it is the Association who maintain the project's website.



1.5 Investing in academic research

The Association continued to sponsor Dawn Wooldridge's PhD research at Bangor University, 'Profiling errors: a study of how prospective English-Welsh translators translate'. She will profile and analyse the errors found in English to Welsh translations and her aim is to offer recommendations for improving current training courses. The Association will sponsor Dawn's PhD for a period of 2 years, until November 2013. During the year Judith Kaufmann has been present at the team meetings whereby Dawn's studies are supervised.

As part of her work, Dawn has created a profile of translators, based on a questionnaire sent to all members of the Association, to which she received 142 responses. She published an article in the January-February 2013 issue of the ITI Bulletin, summarising the results of her survey.

Amongst the reasons she was given for pursuing a career as a translator was the very honest answer: "Well, anything to pay the bills" and the lovely response: "I have always enjoyed translating, and I would go so far as to say that I enjoy my work, to the extent that it doesn't feel like work".

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

1.6 Maintaining and nurturing links with bodies and institutions

The Association is a member of the **Group for the Promotion of the Welsh Language** (formerly known as the major partners of the Welsh Language Board), a group which the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Unit is responsible for co-ordinating and administering. The Chief Executive has attended the Group's meetings during the year.

The relationship between the Association and **Translators' House Wales** and **Tŷ Newydd Llanystumdwy** was further strengthened. Once again, the Association sponsored the Bardic Staff awarded to the winner of the Translation Challenge 2012, Angharad Tomos, in a ceremony held at the University of Aberystwyth tent at the National Eisteddfod. The staff was presented by the Finance Minister, the local Assembly Member, Jane Hutt. Our Chairman paid tribute to the winner's achievement during the ceremony.

The Chief Executive is a member of the **Welsh Government's Sharing Translation Resources Project Board** and he attended the Project Board's meetings during the year.

The relationship between the Association and **HM Courts and Tribunals Service** was formalised, and the Chief Executive has regular meetings with staff at the Welsh Language Unit. The Chief Executive contributed to the formulation of a Standard Operating Procedure for booking Welsh interpreters in court hearings and tribunals; and he recorded an item on interpreting for the Service's DVD on using Welsh in the courts.

The Chief Executive attended **Rhwydiaith** meetings during the year.



The Association is also a member of the steering group for the North Wales Mentrau Iaith Cross-border Project, co-ordinated by Menter Iaith Conwy, and funded under the Rural Development Plan. The project includes a Community Translation Scheme.

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

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, Mudiadau Dathlu'r Gymraeg (Celebrating Our Language) and Dyfodol i'r Iaith.

1.7 Promoting and marketing the Association and its members

The **Hedley Gibbard Memorial Lecture** delivered by Gwyneth Lewis at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan was well attended. The lecture entitled, 'I mewn i'r Tempest, allan o'r Storm', discussed her experiences of translating *'The Tempest'* as requested by Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, and provided a glimpse of the creative and linguistic challenges, as well as her response to the play's staging requirements. The lecture can be found on the Association's website.

The Chief Executive was one of the speakers at the '**Professionalising your Association**' seminar, organised by the ITI and FIT Europe at Heathrow in April 2012. The aim of this event was to discuss good practice and the challenges of administering a professional body for translators. The other speakers were from translation associations in Ireland, Switzerland, Austria and Germany, and included Annette Schiller from Ireland. As a result of that connection, the Chief Executive visited Dublin in July 2012 and had interesting and useful meetings with some of the ITIA officers (the Irish Translators and Interpreters Association) and with officers from Foras na Gaeilge who are responsible for translation.

The Association continued to nurture its relationship with the ITI, and also with the translation and interpreting directorates of the European Commission.

Our **website** is our main means of marketing and providing information, and contains a list of all current members of the Association. We have a robust system for ensuring that the list of members on the website is kept up to date, since any member who has not paid his/her membership fee by 31 May every year has his/her name removed on that day (though it can be reinstated immediately once we receive payment).

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". Several people have mentioned that they have noticed these adverts in 'Golwg' and 'Y Cymro' and this raises the profile of the Association.



2. The financial situation

The Association received a grant of £97,269 from the Welsh Language Board for 2012-13, the same sum as in 2011-12. The responsibility for the grant was transferred to the Welsh Language Commissioner on 1 April 2012 in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. We were very grateful for that financial support for the work of the Association.

The Association's other main source of funding is the membership payments, which increased slightly, to £43,542, compared to £42,381 in 2011-12.

The income generated therefore provided the Association with the means to employ 2.7 members of permanent staff, as well as carrying out the work described in this report.

The accounts show a deficit of £2,977.

The financial report was prepared by Owain Bebb a'i Gwmni, Caernarfon.

3. An offer to adapt in order to act as regulator

The Association received a letter from the Welsh Language Commissioner, dated 19 December 2012, offering the Association the opportunity to develop itself as a body which would focus on regulatory matters and representing its members.

This request followed on from a review, carried out by an external consultant, which had been commissioned by the Commissioner. The purpose of the review was to consider the current structures for accreditation and regulation within the translation industry in Wales, to scrutinise the activities of Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru and, specifically, the funding allocated to the Association. The purpose of the review was to help the Commissioner to decide on the best method for supporting and developing the translation industry.

Unfortunately, the Commissioner does not intend to publish the report on the review, nor release it to anyone, including the Association.

The Board of Directors met on 11 January 2013 to consider the Commissioner's letter. A decision was made that we were prepared to adapt to act as regulator, but that we felt there were several causes for concern. The Chair, the Vice-chair, and the Chief Executive had an opportunity to discuss these issues with the Commissioner on 23 January 2013.

The next step was the formulation of a draft business plan in line with the guidelines provided in the letter of 19 December 2012. This plan was sent to the Commissioner on 12 February 2013. The Board of Directors met on 18 February 2013 to discuss the plan, and it was approved by the directors.

On 21 February 2013 the Chief Executive had a meeting with the Commissioner's officials, and at the end of the meeting a letter dated 20 February 2013 was placed in his hand. The astonishing news in the meeting – and in the letter – was that the Commissioner claimed she had told us in our meeting on 23 January 2013 that she “was uncertain whether grant funding would be available for



the Association from March 2016 onwards, and that she therefore expected the Association to prepare a business plan presuming that there would be no grant available from March 2016". We had been told no such thing during the meeting.

As a result, an urgent meeting of the Board of Directors was called on 27 February 2013 to discuss the letter dated 20 February 2013. The following day, an e-mail was sent to the Commissioner's office, stating that the Association was not prepared to present a revised business plan by 4 March 2013 as requested, and adding that there were some questions the Association felt needed to be answered.

On 6 March 2013 a paper was sent to the Commissioner listing these issues, and also noting our concern regarding the situation we are facing, the serious implications as regards the future of the Association, and the possible impact on the translation profession/industry. A copy of the paper was sent, for information, to the Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language at the time, Leighton Andrews AM, but we received nothing more than formal acknowledgment that the letter had reached his office.

In light of the uncertainty regarding how much funding the Association would have from 1 April 2013, the directors were unanimous in their decision, in their meeting on 27 February 2013, in the presence of the staff, that expert advice should be requested regarding the appropriate steps to be taken as employers and in carrying out their general and legal duties as directors of a limited company. This would include considering making some or all of the staff redundant; and deciding not to hold Association examinations until the financial situation from 1 April 2013 became far clearer.

A further meeting was held with the Commissioner on 15 March 2013 to confirm everyone's understanding of the situation. The Commissioner was told that the Association was still keen to respond to the offer to adapt to become a regulator.

Following that meeting, and with the assistance of the business consultant Cynan Jones, the business plan was rewritten, based on the 10 bullet points listed in the Commissioner's letter dated 19 December 2012. It also takes into consideration the contents of her letters, dated 20 February 2013 and 11 March 2013, which stated that she had no plans to fund the Association from 31 March 2016 onwards, and that the business plan should demonstrate how the Association will be self-sufficient by 31 March 2016.

A draft of the business plan was presented to the Commissioner in mid-June, followed by a final version on 16 July 2013. We expect a decision by the Commissioner in mid-August 2013.



Appendix 1 – The Association’s Committees and Boards

The Board of Directors

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

Berwyn Prys Jones - Chair, David Bullock, Ann Corkett, Fiona Gannon, Heini Gruffudd, Wyn Hobson, Dewi Morris Jones and Mary Jones.

Ifor Gruffydd and Lowri Roberts were co-opted members.

Elfrys Jones and Meinir McDonald resigned on 8 January 2013. In giving up their places on the Board of Directors, both of them emphasised how much they had enjoyed the friendship of the other directors and the staff, having a chance to contribute to the work and development of the Association, and what a valuable experience it had been. We are very grateful to Meinir and Elfrys for their commendable service and commitment to the Association over many years, and for their regular attendance at committee meetings. We will miss their wise and valuable contributions, their friendship and their good company.

The Board of Directors met on 30 July 2012, 5 December 2012, 11 January 2013, 18 February 2013 and 27 February 2013.

Text Examiners and Markers / The Text Examination Board

The following served as examiners and markers for the (Text) Membership Examinations during the year, and acted as members of the Text Examination Board in turn when they were marking: Fiona Gannon (Chief Examiner), Mary Jones (Deputy Examiner), Meinir McDonald (Deputy Examiner).

Ann Corkett, Meg Elis, Heini Gruffudd, Wyn Hobson, Berwyn Prys Jones, Dewi Morris Jones, Sylvia Prys Jones, Glenys Roberts, Megan Hughes Tomos, Heledd Williams and Tegwen Williams. Catrin Beard, Catrin Small and Gareth Wood also joined the team as new members.

The Interpretation Board

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

Wyn Hobson (Chair), 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. Lynwen Davies, Siôn Edwards, Rhys George, Catrin Howells and Hywel G.Hughes joined the team as new members.

The Interpretation Board met on 11 May 2012 and 1 February 2013.

The Membership and Professional Standards Committee

The following were members of the Membership and Professional Standards Committee during the year: David Bullock (Chair), Delyth Davies, Fiona Gannon, Berwyn Prys Jones, Claire Richards and Lowri Roberts.

The Committee met on 30 July 2012.



Appendix 2 – Workshops held during 2012-13

(The number attending each individual workshop has been noted in parentheses)

Idioms and idiomatic phrases

Tutor – Huw Tegid

25 June 2012 – Menter Môn, Llangefni (8)

29 June 2012 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (cancelled)

2 July 2012 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (16)

Technology and Translation Memory (in association with the Language Technologies Unit at Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University)

Tutor – Delyth Prys and David Chan

12 July 2012 – Swansea University (8)

13 July 2012 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (10)

Interpreting equipment

Tutor – Phil Nicholes of Sound Induction, Newtown

17 September 2012 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (6)

18 September 2012 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (3)

27 September 2012 – Galeri, Caernarfon (8)

Correct writing

Tutor – Rhiannon Ifans

5 October 2012 – Galeri, Caernarfon (8)

8 October 2012 – Mudiad Meithrin, Aberystwyth (2)

11 October 2012 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (6)

Osgoi'r maglau – avoiding the pitfalls

Tutor – Mary Jones

8 November 2012 – Aberporth (5)

14 November 2012 – Galeri, Caernarfon (7)

16 November 2012 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (18)

A session discussing document titles

4 December 2012 – Caernarfon Library (5)

Translating and editing in English: from the first draft to the final document

Tutors – Eyvor Fogarty and Kari Koonin

5 February 2013 – Future Inn, Cardiff (23)

Taro'r Cyweiriau – the correct register

Tutor – Robot Trefor

18 March 2013 – Gwersyll yr Urdd, Cardiff (19)

19 March 2013 – University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen (8)

21 March 2013 – Bangor University (12)

26 March 2013 – AVOW House, Wrexham (3)

