



Cymdeithas
Cyfieithwyr
Cymru

Report on activities 2017-18

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Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru

Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru – the association of Welsh translators and interpreters (hereafter the Association) – is the national association which leads, develops and promotes professional English/Welsh translation and interpreting. As the only professional association for English/Welsh translators and interpreters, it has played a key role in creating a community of professional translators and interpreters throughout Wales.

The Association has three levels of membership: Full and Basic membership for translators and, for interpreters, Interpreting membership both into English and into Welsh.

The Association represents all aspects of English/Welsh translation and interpreting: its members work in the public and third sectors, the private sector, and as freelancers.

Since its inception in 1976 the Association has:

- maintained, developed and promoted the highest professional standards in English/Welsh translation and interpreting by setting those professional standards and improved, increased and broadened the knowledge and skills base of translators and interpreters.
- ensured that the translation and interpreting profession/industry develops effectively as part of the promotion of the use of the Welsh language and is able to respond proactively to the needs of a bilingual Wales.

To achieve these goals, the Association aims to represent the majority of English/Welsh translators and interpreters, reduce the number of instances where individuals feel able to claim erroneously to be translators or interpreters, and both to improve the understanding and knowledge of those seeking to obtain translation and interpreting services and to provide them with an assurance that they can expect to receive work of a high professional standard.

By providing the Association with grant funding since 1997, both directly since 2016 and, in previous years, via the Welsh Language Commissioner (2012-16) and the Welsh Language Board, the Welsh Government has invested a total of over £1.7m in the Association's work of developing, promoting and strengthening the English/Welsh translation and interpreting profession/industry. This constitutes the 'consistent ... support' recognised in the Welsh Government's strategy document 'Cymraeg 2050'.



Foreword

In 2017-18 Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru has continued to lead, develop and promote professional translation and interpreting with particular effectiveness. In addition to the routine work of administering membership processes and arranging examinations and professional development opportunities, the new activities introduced during the year comprised the setting up of a new Fund to boost the careers of young translators and interpreters together with an Interpreting Test from English into Welsh, arranging our first Translation Slam and, for the first time, presenting the Berwyn Prize to the most promising candidate in our examinations for Basic Membership for translation into English.

The Board of Directors, the members and I are very grateful to our staff, Geraint Wyn Parry and Nia Wyn Jones, for their thorough and painstaking work throughout the year.

Membership remains at a satisfactorily high level, and to find that so many practising translators and interpreters are convinced of the value of belonging to a professional association is indeed encouraging.

At a time of great change, especially in the public sector, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru plays a very important role in offering an assurance of high standards and professionalism in English/Welsh translation and interpreting.

We are very grateful to the Welsh Government for grant-aiding the Association in 2017-18. As well as providing us with an element of certainty, this has enabled us to continue with the important work of developing and promoting professional translation and interpreting.

I have great pleasure in presenting the report on the activities of Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru in 2017-18 for your attention. In so doing, I would like to thank all those who have played a part in the important work done by the Association as described below.

*Claire Richards,
Chair*



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1. 'Cymraeg 2050'

Following the publication of the Welsh Government's new Welsh language strategy, 'Cymraeg 2050', in July 2017, the decision was taken to revise the Association's 2016-19 Strategic Plan to align it with the strategy's first programme of work for 2017-21.

The resulting 2018-21 Strategic Plan was approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors on 7 December 2017. In future, the Association will aim to publish its strategic plans to coincide with the various stages of the Welsh Government's programmes of work for the 'Cymraeg 2050' strategy

'Cymraeg 2050' acknowledges the strategic importance of the translation and interpreting profession and the need for a ready supply of able and qualified translators and interpreters. It also acknowledges the 'significant development in the profession over the last few years' and the Government's desire 'to see the profession evolve and adapt for the future' which will 'involve continuing to ensure a ready supply of professional translators, graduate linguists with modern skills, supported by a robust accreditation and regulation regime which supports professional standards and conduct'.

Given that the strategy specifically refers to the need to increase the use of interpreting and to technological developments, this report demonstrates that the Association has been proactive in those areas by supporting plans by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David to assist developments in interpreting and by working with the National Assembly for Wales to show leadership in machine translation.

With translation and interpreting having an important part to play in the ambitious aim set out in 'Cymraeg 2050', the Association is keen to continue to be at the cutting edge in the future development of the profession/industry and to work with the Welsh Government and others to achieve the aims of the strategy.



2. Introduction to the report

This Report on the activities of Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru in 2017-18 has been prepared in the light of the strategy-focused objectives of the Strategic Plan. The chapters which follow report on progress in achieving the Association's four strategic objectives of maintaining and increasing membership, promoting professional development, maintaining and developing key contacts, raising our profile and promoting professional values; and in the Association's governance and management.

The Strategic Plan promotes the Association's aims and objectives by building on the solid foundations laid down during recent years, thus allowing the Association to continue with its mission of further developing the English/Welsh translation and interpreting profession/industry.

This basic principle was central to the Association's achievements in 2017-18 as it continued to maintain and develop professional translation and interpreting standards and improve, increase and develop the skills and knowledge of translators and interpreters.

This was done in a variety of ways, including:

- increasing the number of translators and interpreters it represents;
- holding membership examinations for translators and interpreters;
- promoting the professional development of translators and interpreters through a varied programme of workshops, and encouraging and promoting CPD;
- maintaining relationships with Higher Education institutions, especially the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, and the relevant academic courses;
- maintaining and developing our links with other organisations both within the industry and beyond;
- promoting the Association's professional values, raising the profile of professional translation and interpreting and marketing the services provided by its members.

This report provides an overview of activities in 2017-18 and includes information about the governance and funding of the Association.

Readers of this report are strongly recommended to visit the Association's website - <https://www.cyfieithwyr.cymru/en> - or further information about the Association and the activities described in this report.

Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru was part-funded by the Welsh Government in 2017-18.



3. Strategic objective 1: Maintaining and increasing membership: membership of the Association

This strategic objective aims to ensure that the Association represents an increasing number of translators and interpreters and widens its influence and impact by maintaining and developing professional standards in translation and interpreting.

This strategic aim relates to membership of the Association and its examination system. These elements are covered in two chapters: the present chapter concerns matters related to managing and administering membership while the next describes the examination system.

Membership of the Association can only be achieved by passing its Text Membership Examinations or its Interpreting Test. The two levels of membership for translators are Full and Basic. There is only one level of membership for interpreters, one into English and one into Welsh. Membership of the Association is on an individual basis only.

3.1 Membership of the Association

On 31 March 2018, the Association had a record 365 members, an increase of six on the corresponding figure for 31 March 2017. The categories to which they belong are as follows:

Full Members: 197

Basic Members: 150

Interpreting Members: 70*

* Of the 70 Interpreting Members, 18 are Interpreting Members only. The remainder are either Full Members (42) or Basic Members (10).

All are Interpreting Members into English while 17 are Interpreting Members into Welsh.

The Association represents all aspects of the English/Welsh translation and interpreting profession. Thirty-five per cent of members work in the public and third sectors. Of the members working in the private sector, 40% are sole traders while 21% work in translation/interpreting companies. Four per cent of members perform no translation/interpreting duties in their daily work.

The Association's membership year runs from 1 April. We operate a fair and robust procedure for issuing reminders in April and May when membership fees are due. Only members who have paid their annual membership fee for the year have their names listed on the the Association's website.



Members enjoy a number of benefits and services, including a regular news bulletin, relevant information, reductions in charges for the Association's workshops and events, space – if desired – on the Association's website, together with an annual Members' Day and other opportunities for members to meet.

Membership of the Association is a requirement for several translation and interpreting contracts. Full or Interpreting Membership is listed as a key criterion for admission to the Welsh Government National Procurement Service's Translation and Interpreting Framework.

3.2 Interpreting membership into Welsh

In response to the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards, the Association decided to establish a second category, that of Interpreting membership – interpreting into Welsh. As a result, the Association has separate Interpreting membership into English and into Welsh. In future the Association will hold an Interpreting Test into Welsh similar to the existing Interpreting Test into English.

In establishing this new category of Interpreting membership, the decision was taken that Interpreting members who had passed the Interpreting Test into Welsh for the courts in 2009 would, on that basis, be automatically recognised in the new category of Interpreting membership.

3.3 Professional conduct

When paying their annual membership fee, all members are made aware of the expectation that they will act in accordance with the Association's Professional Code of Conduct, which includes a complaints procedure. We are pleased to report that no complaints were received against members of the Association during the year. The Association also offers a fee-based Translation Quality Assessment Service.

3.4 Recognising Members' Areas of Professional Expertise

The procedure for recognising Areas of Professional Expertise is restricted to Full Members and to Interpreting Members. The Association has three Areas of Professional Expertise:

Court and Tribunal Interpreting (developed in consultation with officers from HM Courts and Tribunals Service). Eleven Interpreting Members had been so recognised by the end of the year.

Legislative Translation (developed in consultation with officers from the Welsh Government Translation Service). Nineteen Full Members had been so recognised by the end of the year.

Communications Translation. Fifteen Full Members had been so recognised by the end of the year.

Under this procedure, recognition is also given to the members who passed the European Union's Interpreting Test in 2009.



3.5 Recognition of others

The Association recognises translation and interpreting companies via the **Recognised Company** system. During the year this recognition was extended to Nico, Cardiff. A total of nine companies are now recognised as having achieved Recognised Company status.

Public and third sector organisations who meet the necessary criteria are recognised as **Recognised or Associate Organisations** Ten organisations have Recognised Organisation status while another five are Associate Organisations.

Recognition as a **Student Associate** is available to students intending to pursue a career in translation/interpreting and serves to encourage and support students in realising their ambitions. Eight new Student Associates were registered during the year, making a total of 14 by year end. Two Student Associates passed the Text Membership Examinations in April 2017 to gain Basic Membership.

None of the above categories of recognition equates to membership of the Association.

3.6 Retired Members

The decision was taken to establish the 'Retired Members' category for former members who wish to maintain their links with the Association when their formal membership ceases on retirement. This serves as recognition of their status rather than a category of actual membership.

By the end of the financial year, 14 former members had expressed a wish to maintain their links with the Association in this way.



4. Strategic objective 1: Maintaining and increasing membership: the examination system

This strategic objective aims to ensure that the Association represents an increasing number of translators and interpreters and widens its influence and impact by maintaining and developing professional standards in translation and interpreting.

This chapter deals with the Association's examination system: the Text Membership Examinations and the Interpreting Test.

4.1 Text Membership Examinations

Text Membership Examinations were held in April 2017 and October 2017 at both Basic and Full levels. The examination statistics are as follows:

	April 2017		October 2017	
Total number of candidates [1]	58		42	
	Candidates	Passes [2]	Candidates	Passes [3]
Full	22	6	13	5
Paper 1: into Welsh	21	4	11	4
Paper 2: into English	3	3	2	1
Basic	36	12	29	18
Paper 1: into Welsh	32	7	25	9
Paper 2: into English	13	6	15	9

Notes

[1] Some candidates sat both papers.

[2] Eight of the successful candidates in the April 2017 examinations were already members. Membership was approved for the other 10 candidates, eight of whom joined the Association.

[3] Six of the successful candidates in the October 2017 examinations were already members. Membership was approved for the other 17 candidates, 13 of whom joined the Association.

The examinations were held at Coleg Ceredigion in Aberystwyth, at Cardiff University and at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Glynllifon. We are very grateful to the staff at these institutions for their willing support and co-operation. We would also like to thank the examiners, markers and invigilators.



4.2 Examinations for Full Membership

It was heartening that so many sat the Full Membership examinations. This reflects a growing desire among translators to reach a truly professional standard in their work.

Although most of the unsuccessful candidates were definitely capable of success, many of them fell at the last hurdle in the examinations into Welsh. It is good, nevertheless, to see that most of the candidates at this level are gaining an understanding of the standard of professional translation.

It is a pity to have to note, once again, that the result could have been different for certain candidates if they had read their work more thoroughly before submitting it. In fact, several candidates succeeded with the first passage, but didn't fare as well with the second. At this level the standard must be maintained across both test pieces. This is often seen to some extent in the examination, which gives the impression that candidates have failed to manage their time effectively. It would certainly be good practice for every candidate to share their time equally between the two texts, and then share that time equally between translating and reading each text to ensure the cleanest possible copy.

Unfortunately some careless errors were found, which meant that it was not possible to have full confidence in those candidates' readiness to be independent translators. Even though there were relatively few errors in the work of almost all the candidates, at this level it is necessary to proofread carefully and thoroughly to ensure that the work presented does not contain this type of error.

With regard to the translation into English, it is pleasing to note that, although only a small number normally sit this examination, the candidates' work on the whole included plenty of examples of successful translation and good turns of phrase. Nevertheless, there were some examples of clumsy or incorrect translation that fell below the required standard.

I would urge everyone who intends to sit the Full Membership examination, whether into Welsh or into English, to continue to hone their skills and aim for continual improvement in their work in order to ensure a professional standard in every translation they produce. It is also expected that candidates at this level should be able to cope with passages outside the scope of their normal experience, since a solid grasp of target language patterns is one of the most important criteria.

4.3 Examinations for Basic Membership

As in the case of the Full Membership examination, a number of promising candidates in the Basic examinations failed the second test piece, apparently owing to ineffective time management.

Having said that, the standard of successful translation into Welsh varied significantly, and although no one was completely overwhelmed by the demands of the test pieces, very few candidates presented work that could be described as hitting the mark throughout as regards natural and direct Welsh. However, as in a number of rounds now, candidates showed a better understanding of the requirements of the examination.



The main reason that some promising candidates failed to reach the required standard was on account of basic errors of understanding or accuracy – errors that would not be expected from anyone claiming to be a translator. Anyone who wants to be a translator should be alert to the types of careless errors that were seen, especially failure to mutate, and train themselves to notice them when proofreading their work. Remember also that candidates are allowed to use a spellchecker in the exam.

A higher standard of work was presented in the two examinations into English. We had some truly excellent papers that deserved high marks across the board. The examiners were particularly pleased by the standard of work in the Autumn 2017 examination.

As has been the case so many times before, the main weakness of the unsuccessful candidates was their inability to convey the meaning of the original in English that flowed naturally. It seemed that some had not had sufficient experience of translating into English. The choice of wording was weak in some cases as there wasn't sufficient feel for English registers, and there was a clear lack of knowledge of natural English patterns.

The message to all candidates, successful and unsuccessful alike, whether into Welsh or into English, is to focus on analysing their translation work and penetrating below the surface to find the basic/core meaning. All candidates should also take advantage of every opportunity to strengthen their skills further and read high-quality Welsh and English in order to familiarise themselves further with the patterns of both languages.

4.4 Annual prizes

Since 2007 the Association has awarded the Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize – in memory of a former Secretary of the Association who was a pioneer in the field of translation in Wales – to the most promising candidate for Basic membership, translation into Welsh, if a worthy recipient is identified.

A decade later we are pleased to say that a second, the Berwyn Prize, will be awarded in the Basic membership examinations. This will be awarded to the most promising candidate for Basic membership for translation into English, if a worthy recipient is identified. The prize is named after Berwyn Prys Jones who served as chair of the Association for the greater part of the 41 years of its existence to date. The Directors were extremely pleased to name this prize in honour of one who has made an enormous contribution to English-Welsh translation and provided Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru with strong leadership during his long and successful career as a much respected translator.

The **Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize** for 2017 was awarded to Aled Meredydd Davies (on the basis of his April 2017 examination paper). Aled, a freelance translator, lives in Bancffosfelen near Llanelli.

The first winner of the **Berwyn Prize** was Sophie Smith (on the basis of her October 2017 examination paper). At the time Sophie was a translator for Swansea Council but subsequently became a translator at Gower College Swansea.

A ceremony was held in March 2018 at Yr Hen Lyfrgell in Cardiff to present Aled and Sophie with their prizes. Our congratulations to both.



4.5 The Interpreting Test

Two Interpreting Tests were held during the year, one into English as usual in December 2017, and the other into Welsh, for the first time, on 14 March 2018.

The Interpreting Test into Welsh resulted from the decision to establish a second category of Interpreting membership, i.e. interpreting into Welsh. This was limited to those who already held Interpreting membership. The intention is to offer the test to others from 2018-19. The new Interpreting Test into Welsh will follow a similar pattern to that into English, i.e. interpreting two contrasting pieces each some 10 minutes in length. The assessment system to be used will be identical .

Both Interpreting Tests were held in professional sound studios: at Stiwdio Aran, Groeslon, near Caernarfon and at CTV, Cardiff respectively. We are very grateful to the staff in both studios for their ready support and co-operation. We would also like to thank the examiners, assessors and invigilators.

4.6 The Interpreting Test into English

Four candidates, three in Groeslon and one in Cardiff and all from the public sector, took the Interpreting Test into English. Only one passed.

The standard can be described with fairness as being lower than in previous tests. The main weakness lay in the handling of syntax and the forming of coherent sentences, as was demonstrated by numerous examples of clumsy and unidiomatic interpreting. To hear so many examples of elementary words being mis-interpreted was disappointing.

Some candidates were felt to have sat the Interpreting Test at too early a stage and would have benefited from increasing their experience, shadowing more experienced interpreters and generally continuing to develop their knowledge of the craft of interpreting before taking the Interpreting Test.

They would also benefit from listening to English-language current affairs programmes to improve their grasp of syntax, interpret more idiomatically, expand their vocabulary and increase the range of their knowledge.

4.7 The Interpreting Test into Welsh

Eight candidates took the first Interpreting Test into Welsh, three in Groeslon and five in Cardiff. Four passed.

The standard of the candidates varied considerably. The best delivered strong and reliable interpretations which successfully conveyed all the meaning and nuances of the original, giving the listener a complete picture. Others experienced difficulty in conveying the important elements, and some were felt to have lacked sufficient opportunity to gain adequate experience of interpreting into Welsh. While each of the unsuccessful candidates demonstrated some promise, they failed to meet all the demands of the test on the day.



5. Strategic objective 2: Promoting professional development

This strategic objective aims to ensure opportunities for translators and interpreters to help them to improve, increase and develop their skills and knowledge, thus promoting the professional skills and employability of members.

A varied programme of activities, including workshops, the translation e-workshop, the annual lecture, a Translation Slam and the Members' Day, was undertaken with a view to promoting professional development. The decision was also taken to establish a 'Cronfa Sbarduno' (a motivation or stimulus fund).

As in previous years, this aspect of the Association's work elicited a very positive response and provided a clear indication of the demand both for workshops and for more training activities. Despite being less extensive than in previous years, the Association's provision still manages to fill a significant gap in this field. Those who took up the opportunities were employed in the public sector, in private translation/interpreting companies or working freelance – a clear sign that translators and interpreters across the whole profession/industry see value in investing in their professional development. Those who participated in the training activities included several who were considering careers as translators.

5.1 Training activities

Three **face-to-face workshops** were held during the year. In line with the pattern adopted several years ago, they were held in more than one location to ensure as much accessibility as possible for translators and interpreters in all parts of Wales. The workshop topics were as follows:

- a machine translation workshop. The tutor was Gruffydd Jones, and the workshop was presented in conjunction with the Translation and Reporting Service of the National Assembly for Wales. Sessions were held at Coleg Glynllifon (16 attendees), Cardiff University (18) and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen (17).
- 'Wyneb yn Wyneb', a workshop held at the Assembly in Cardiff and aimed solely at the Association's Interpreting members. The tutor was Zora Jackman and fourteen members attended.
- '2 ... 5 ... 250', a workshop held over a six-week period to prepare potential candidates for the Basic examination, translation into Welsh. Comprising a combination of assignments and two workshops, the tutors were Menna Wyn and Eirlys Williams. Thirteen individuals participated.



In conjunction with HMCTS, a seminar for Interpreting members interested in gaining recognition in the Court and Tribunal Interpreting Area of Professional Expertise, was held at the Caernarfon Justice Centre. Five members attended. The seminar was chaired by Regional Judge Hywel James, the Deputy Welsh Language Liaison Judge. The programme featured an introduction to the procedures and working arrangements of the different courts, a Q&A session with Ann Llwyd about her experiences as a court interpreter, and an opportunity for each individual member to interpret in a mock trial.

A training day was held for members of the **Association's Register of Examination Markers**. Emphasis was given to introducing new members of the Register to the examination and marking system and to providing an opportunity for them to benefit from the advice of experienced markers. Thirteen individuals attended, including four new markers.

The **translation e-workshop** has remained a popular and effective distance-learning approach and offers structured training to those able to complete work in their own time. In the separate translation e-workshops offered at the Full and Basic level, participants translate two test pieces of the same length and standard as those in the relevant examination and receive comments on their translations from tutors who are experienced translators and members of the Association's Register of Markers. Four translation e-workshops were held during the year, two at the Full and two at the Basic level. At the Full level 19 individuals participated (17 into Welsh and 3 into English). At the Basic level, 50 individuals participated (44 into Welsh and 18 into English).

One **Interpreting Practice Session** was held. The Interpreting Practice Session provides an opportunity for candidates to interpret two pieces of the same length and standard as in the Association's Interpreting Test and to receive comments on their interpretations by a tutor who is an experienced interpreter and one of the Association's Interpreting Test assessors. An opportunity is also provided for them to familiarise themselves with the location and logistics of the Interpreting Test. Four individuals participated (three at Stiwdio Aran and one at CTV).

Bespoke training was arranged for organisations that had approached the Association for such training, including the translators of the Food Standards Agency (3), North Wales Police (2) and the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (6).

Four **Translation Exercises at the Basic level** were added to the Association's website following the examinations in April 2017 and October 2017, two into Welsh and two into English. These were the first exercises to be added to the original ones, and in future new exercises will be added after every examination.

March 2018 saw the first **Translation Slam** in Welsh held at Yr Hen Lyfrgell, Cardiff. Lowri Roberts chaired the discussion of translations prepared by David Bullock and Ben Screen. Eighteen individuals attended.



5.2 CPD: 'Balchder Crefft: Datblygu Proffesiynol Parhaus, ei fanteision'

The Association's CPD plan, 'Balchder Crefft: Datblygu Proffesiynol Parhaus, ei fanteision', was revised. This is the third version of the plan and replaces its two previous incarnations, 'Balchder Crefft' (September 2014) and 'Datblygu Proffesiynol Parhaus, ei fanteision' (March 2016).

The CPD plan aims to offer a handy guide to encourage members considering the importance of CPD to draw up their own CPD plan. It also provides guidance to members on the type and level of CPD activities best suited and most relevant to them. Since the launch of the Association's new website, members can log their CPD activity in their Membership Record – a record only accessible to the individual members themselves and Association staff.

5.3 Members' Day 2017

Members' Day 2017 was held in October at Bangor University. Elinor Gwynn discussed the linguistic development of the National Trust in Wales vis-à-vis the Welsh language; Ifan Prys covered translation and interpreting and the Welsh Language Standards; and Myrddin ap Dafydd considered 'Geiriadur y Bragwr a'r Bardd', the dictionary of the brewer and poet. The 2017 AGM was also held. Twenty-two members attended.

5.4 The Hedley Gibbard Memorial Lecture

The annual lecture was held at the Ynys Môn National Eisteddfod on Anglesey. Lecturer Bedwyr Rees discussed 'Trwyn y Balog: enwau o'r Moelfre i'r Leinws', an analysis of place-names along a specific section of the Anglesey coastline.

5.5 'Cronfa Sbarduno'

The decision was taken to establish the 'Cronfa Sbarduno' as a new fund to support the development of translators and interpreters. The aim is to use the money to fund the following:

- the prizes awarded to the most promising candidates for Basic membership, translation into Welsh (the Wil Petherbridge Memorial Prize), and translation into English (the Berwyn Prize) subject to a candidate of the highest quality being identified. The prizewinner will also be entitled to follow an e-translation workshop free of charge.
- opportunities for Basic Members who are considered for the prizes to be mentored by experienced members of the Association.
- an annual prize for each one of the most promising students on the Professional Translation Studies scheme at Aberystwyth University and on the Postgraduate Certificate in Interpreting at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David respectively.

The 'Cronfa Sbarduno' is funded from gifts made to the Association and from unclaimed fees. A percentage of membership fees will be added to the fund each year.

The 'Cronfa Sbarduno' was launched during the Members' Day on 13 October 2017.



6. Strategic objective 3: Maintaining and developing key links

This strategic objective aims to ensure that the Association maintains and promotes its relationships with different organisations and institutions, and develops key partnerships. Such organisations and institutions will be operating inside and outside translation and interpreting in Wales and elsewhere. This will enable us to advocate on behalf of the Association and the English/Welsh translation and interpreting profession/industry in places of influence, as well as heighten awareness among institutions and organisations of the value and advantages of using the Welsh language.

6.1 Translation and interpreting associations and organisations

The Chief Executive held meetings with the heads of translation companies and translation units within public bodies to exchange information and discuss and explain the Association's work and its services, and the advantages to the company/organisations involved, their translators and interpreters. He attended a meeting of NHS Welsh Language Officers in Newtown in June 2017.

As a member of HMCTS Standardising Terminology Working Group, the Chief Executive attended both the meetings held during the year.

The Association continued to develop its relationships and links with other translation and interpreting associations and organisations, including the Institute of Translators and Interpreters (ITI), the ITI Cymru/Wales group, the Chartered Institute of Linguists and the National Register of Public Service Interpreters.

The Association is a member of Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J), an umbrella group whose members are drawn from professional associations, the voluntary independent regulator of interpreters, and trades unions. The group aims to represent the interests of public service interpreters, including the justice sector, and to promote a positive relationship between those it represents and service users. The Chief Executive attended most of the meetings of the PI4J Steering Group held during the year.

The Chief Executive was a panellist at the launch of the UK Translator Survey 2016 at the offices of the European Commission in London.

The Chief Executive served as a member of the committee revising the National Occupational Standards for Interpreting. These were published in December 2017.

The Association is a member of FIT (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs / International Federation of Translators), the international federation that represents the interests of professional translation associations.



6.2 Higher Education Institutions

The Chief Executive is a member of the Translation Studies Consortium of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol which aims to maintain a strategic overview of the academic provision of the Professional Translation Studies scheme (funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol) at Aberystwyth University and the Postgraduate Certificate in Interpreting at University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The Consortium offers guidance and advice to ensure that the academic provision reflects the training needs of the translation and interpreting profession/industry, as well as the expected standard and range of skills required by and of professional translators or interpreters at the start of their career. The Chief Executive attended both the meetings held during the year.

The Chief Executive was a panellist at the 'Heriau Cyfieithu Heddiw' (Today's Translation Challenges) conference held at Aberystwyth University on 27 October 2017.

The Association was fully supportive of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's successful application to the Welsh Government for funding to establish a platform for interpreting resources.

The Association will offer prizes from the new 'Cronfa Sbarduno' to the year's most promising students on both these courses. The prizes were awarded for the first time in 2018.

6.3 Organisations and institutions in Wales

The Association is a member of Grŵp Hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Promotion Group) which consists of organisations working to promote the Welsh language. The Group is co-ordinated and administered by the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Unit. The Chief Executive attended both the meetings held during the year.

The Association remained a partner of the **Her Gyfieithu**, (Translation Challenge), a competition organised by the Wales Literature Exchange in conjunction with Wales PEN Cymru. The Association again sponsored the Bardic Staff created by Elis Gwyn of Llanystumdwy and awarded to the winner of the competition for translation into Welsh. The winner of Her Gyfieithu 2017 into Welsh was Sian Cleaver.

The year saw the third successive **translation competition for 19-25 year olds at the Urdd Eisteddfod**, as a collaboration between the Association and the Urdd. The prize awarded to the winner, Lora Angharad Lewis, was to spend a day at the National Assembly Translation and Recording Service, whose willing co-operation as our joint partner in the competition is appreciated.

The Association is a member of: Dathlu'r Gymraeg, Dyfodol i'r Iaith, the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, and Mantell Gwynedd.



7. Strategic objective 4: Raising our profile and promoting professional values

This strategic objective aims to raise the profile of the Association, promote our professional values and the professional services provided by our members and market the Association's activities and services.

In promoting the Association's aim and objectives, our marketing and communication activities sought to create positive relationships with the various groups the Association wishes to liaise with, i.e. our members, prospective members, other translators and interpreters, various organisations and institutions, commissioners of translation and interpreting, and other contacts beyond translation (such as politicians and institutions). Such activities will also draw attention to the Association's role as the professional body for English/Welsh translators and interpreters and ensure that all aspects of the Association's work enjoy a high profile.

As the only source in the world of information about the Welsh translation and interpreting profession, the Association's website - <https://www.cyfieithwyr.cymru/en> - is central to our marketing and communication activity.

For those seeking a translator or interpreter, it provides a free, convenient and user-friendly search facility and, in addition, includes the Membership Records of all members who have allowed such information to appear therein.

Moreover, the website features essential information and resources for translators, interpreters and those wishing to join the Association, including information about workshops, past examination papers, Chief Examiner reports, Translation Exercises and a wide variety of useful resources such as dictionaries and glossaries. It also features a News page and a Jobs page (for translator and interpreter posts only).

Extensive use is made of the Association's Twitter account – @cyfieithwyr – and of press advertisements to publicise the Association's activities.

The Chief Executive appeared on 'Wales at Work' on BBC Radio Wales (18 May 2017), on Newyddion 9 on S4C (19 May 2017) – both interviews in the context of the ITI conference in Cardiff – as well as Rhaglen John Walter on BBC Radio Cymru to discuss translation (25 October 2017).

In partnership with Hunaniaith, Gwynedd Council, a bilingual A5 leaflet was produced highlighting the Association's services. This formed part of an information pack produced for businesses and organisations in Gwynedd. As part of the same scheme, Hunaniaith also offered an interpreting service, provided by the Association's Interpreting members, to local businesses and groups.



The Association submitted written evidence to two consultations during the year. The response to the Welsh Government's White Paper on Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People centred on the pivotal role of translation and interpreting, both in developing and strengthening the use of Welsh in Local Government administration and in implementing the Welsh Language Standards. In its comments on the HM Courts and Tribunals Service's Welsh Language Scheme 2018-21, the Association was pleased to see the Scheme recognising the strong relationship that exists between the Association and HMCTS and, in particular, drawing specific attention to the arrangements in place for English/Welsh interpreting in courts and tribunals in Wales.



8. Governance and management

8.1 Management of the Association

Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru Cyf. (the Association's official name) is a company limited by guarantee. Incorporated in 2003 under this name alone, its registration number is 4741023. The registered address is Bryn Menai, Ffordd Caergybi, Bangor, LL57 2JA. The Association's Chief Executive, Geraint Wyn Parry, is the Company Secretary.

The Association is managed by a Board of Directors elected by and from the members of the Association. On 31 March 2018, the following served as members of the Board of Directors: David Bullock, Mari Lisa Davies, Bethan Mair Evans, Fiona Gannon, Hywel Gwynn Hughes, Catherine Jones, Mary Jones, Hywel Pennar, Ifan Prys, Claire Richards (Chair), Huw Tegid Roberts.

The Board of Directors met on 6 April 2017, 19 July 2017, 7 December 2017 and 15 March 2018 respectively.

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on 13 October 2017 at Neuadd Reichel, Bangor University.

The Association has three other Boards/Committees: the Text Examination Board (which has as its three core members the Chief Examiner and the two deputies as well as markers chosen from the Register of Markers for that particular round of examinations); the Interpreting Board (which has as its two core members the Chief Examiner and the deputy as well as those chosen from the Register of Interpreting Assessors to assess that particular Interpreting Test); and the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (which meets as and when required).

As the Association's Chief Examiner, Fiona Gannon is responsible for the Text Membership Examinations and the Interpreting Tests.

8.2 Financial situation

The Association received a grant of £50,000 from the Welsh Government towards funding certain of the Association's activities, as agreed upon in a set of targets.

Membership fees totalling £52,594 provided the Association with its other main source of income.

The income received enabled the Association to continue to employ two full-time members of staff and to carry out the work described in this report.

The accounts show that the Association had funds of £140,166 at year end.

The (unaudited) Financial Report was prepared by Owain Bebb a'i Gwmni Cyf. of Caernarfon. The financial statements were prepared in accordance with FRS 102, Section 1A.



Closing remarks by the Chief Executive, Geraint Wyn Parry

I would once again like to express my thanks and appreciation to Nia Wyn Jones for her diligence and commitment to the Association.

I would also like to acknowledge the continuing support I have received from Claire Richards as Chair of the Association. My thanks to her and to all members of the Board of Directors for the sound judgement they exercise in carrying out their duties and for their regular attendance at Board meetings.

Fiona Gannon, our Chief Examiner, plays a key part in the Association's work, and to her I would like to express my gratitude for her strong leadership in guiding the Association's single most important activity.

A number of members, and others, serve the Association in other ways and I am grateful to those who contribute to its work as examiners, markers, workshop tutors and examination invigilators, and to those so willing to help when I ask for their help in completing particular tasks. The friendly co-operation between staff and members is one of the Association's primary strengths, and long may it continue to be so.

As the Association is part-funded by the Welsh Government, I would like to place on record my thanks for this support. It has provided the Association with a strong element of stability and allowed us to continue our important mission of maintaining professional standards in English/Welsh translation and interpreting.

