

BULLETIN
of WHS in WALES
WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 3 - 2013

To promote and facilitate the study of all aspects of Methodism in Wales from the preaching of John and Charles Wesley, through its evolution to the Methodist Church of 1932 and subsequent developments to the present day.

Edited by
Graham Tennant

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to John Rowlands for permission to reprint his article on the unveiling of a bust of John Wesley on Devauden Green.

We are honoured to have an introduction by Dr John A Vickers to the details of the Bicentenary celebrations of the death of Thomas Coke.

The portrait of Dr Thomas Coke comes from the frontispiece of John Vickers' book "*Thomas Coke: Apostle of Methodism*" (Epworth Press, 1969).

Rev Richard Butterworth's article 'Ramblings of a Pilgrim - part 2' was reprinted from a copy of the Roath Road Record in the possession of Graham Bennett

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PREFACE

As the new Chairman of WHS in Wales my first task must be to say thank you to the Rev. David Easton for his work as the inaugural chair. Much has been achieved under his leadership. We wish him well as the Chair of the Scotland Synod.

Our pattern continues with twice yearly meetings in different parts of Wales. Our meetings this past year have been in Llandudno and Newtown. Details of these can be found in the Bulletin. It was encouraging to see goodly numbers at these meetings.

We are grateful to Graham Tennant for the tremendous amount of work he has done in preparing this Bulletin.

Colin Merrick continues his search for local church stories. Please contact him with yours – so much has already ‘been lost’ because it was not written down. Is there someone in your church who would give time to approaching members for their memories and then put pen to paper and let Colin know something of your Church’s history.

I am also sure that a wealth of material is languishing in plastic bags, cardboard boxes or biscuit tins in people’s attics or other ‘safe places’. They have probably not seen the light of day for years and my worry is that future family members will deem the material to be unimportant and put on a bonfire and lost forever. The correct place for this material; is not someone’s attic however much they may treasure them but in the archives.

My appeal would be for some brave soul in your Church to undertake this task. But before sending to the archives let Colin have any interesting snippets you may find.

Some churches may well have material languishing in a cupboard somewhere on their premises. Now is the time to have a spring clean – you never know what you may find! Good hunting.

Plans are now well advanced for the Thomas Coke Commemorative Weekend – May 3rd.and 4th. Full details of the programme can be found elsewhere in the Bulletin. We do hope you will be able to be present for at least some of the events.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Bill Jones

Chairman

Crickhowell

January 2014

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY in WALESFinancial Statements for the three Years - 2011, 2012 and 2013

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Donations & Sundry Sales	100	167.5	158.92
Surplus - Llanishen Meeting	20		30
Surplus - Llandudno Meeting	156	192	260
Subscriptions - Individuals	26 (No)	32 (No)	26 (No)
- Couples	7 (No)	10 (No)	15 (No)
	<u>£328.50</u>	<u>£434.50</u>	<u>£628.92</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
2011 Bulletin	287		
2012 Bulletin		273.4	
2013 Bulletin			275 (Assumed)
Meeting expenses		55	
	<u>£287</u>	<u>£328.40</u>	<u>£275</u>
<u>Surplus for each Year</u>	<u>£41.50</u>	<u>£106.10</u>	<u>£353.92</u>
Bank Surplus		<u>£501.52</u>	
Accrued Surplus	£41.50		
	£106.10		
	£353.92		
	<u>£501.52</u>		
	Natwest Bank Queen Street Cardiff		
	Account 29786010 Sort Code 56 - 00 41		

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE SOCIETY TREASURER

This is first report placed in the public domain now that the monetary features of the Society have settle down.

The Society started in mid year i.e. 2010 following a wish at a meeting of interested people and the initial seminar was held at Llanishen, Cardiff in 2011. During this event officers were agreed and the year end saw the publication of Bulletin Number 1. The newly appointed officers had met and suggested that a subscription be charged for individuals and couples to cover costs. Many people showed an interest but whilst some became members others purchased a copy of the first Bulletin alone. The year end therefore saw a mix of contributions which led to a tidying up of the pattern in the Financial Statement. The income proved to be the straight forward subscription together with some Bulletin sales as well as some marginal gifts where some members paid a sum over and above the sum being asked.

There is a lovely Latin phrase which in English, runs – “ The highest skill of the Exchequer does not lie in calculations but in judgement of all kinds”. The Latin script is lengthy. It dates from the year 1170 uttered by the then Treasurer of England. Whilst I have seen many Statements of varying quality, my aim has been to publish what is necessary to be published. As a result the financial throughputs I have sought to put in the same order, which is replicated in the year of 2012 and then again in 2013.

I suggest that whilst members and others will be interested in the worth of the Society, they are also interested in the level of interest shown by supporters.

As a result each of the three years is capable of providing year by year comparison and the contributing membership is revealed, but the Society needs to grow by attracting further numbers. As a result all interested have to engage in publicity.

Colin S Merrick
January 2014

EDITORIAL

The bulk of the material contained in the "Bulletin" is derived from the presentations made to the spring and autumn meetings of the Wesley Historical Society in Wales. Other articles record events of local, or Welsh, significance which friends have set out for us all to share.

Taken together, these pages reflect the interests and experience of members in different areas of Wales. The interests are varied and the experiences diverse. Some of the writers have an academic background and their contributions are peppered with a multitude of references to substantiate their statements. Their interest may be in people or places, well known or obscure. Others draw on published research to fill out the background to their own localities. There are also those who want to catalogue the dynamic witness of Methodism, in its various forms, to specific geographic or social areas - over long time periods or short ones. For others it is just a case of putting on record events of which they have personal knowledge.

In short, every contribution is different; and is included here as a reflection of someone's interest in the Wesleys and their legacy in this part of the world.

I must stress that we have no pretensions of being subject to academic rigour or aimed at some elite intellectual group. On the other hand contributions from those who are happy to share their scholarship with a wider public are always very welcome. Equally welcome are contributions from those who direct themselves to the non-specialist; and those who have been excited by something they have successfully sought out; or those who have come across something unexpectedly. Some may stimulate a reader to ask a question which had not occurred to them before; or to go looking for additional information from a source they did not previously know existed.

The Bulletin will work successfully when it is both accessible, and of interest, to all the Society's members.

I am again grateful to my wife, Barbara, for identifying many typographical errors and inconsistencies. Those that are left are my fault!

Graham Tennant

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