

Chair's Report for the period 8th of November 2025 – 31st of March 2026

It has been an incredibly busy period since the confirmation of my appointment as Chair of the Friends at the AGM last November.

Almost immediately I met with Museum staff in regard to creating a formal Partnership Agreement between the Museum and the Friends. This had become necessary because of the new financial strategy that the Museum had put in place to create more flexibility in their funding to enable them to better face their future financial challenges.

The discussions were detailed, but always constructive and with goodwill on all sides. I must thank Gwen Williams and Heather Groves for their assistance and guidance throughout.

The Agreement was signed off on the 6th of July 2026 and has been in operation since then.

In short, we are now required to pay the Museum for the rent of the rooms that we use, but with generous concessions for our talks.

It is for this reason that we will not be having our Christmas Lunch in the Museum this year as they can raise more money by renting the space out to more commercial organisations.

For the same reason we will also be holding our Talks in the Augustus and Gwen John Suite rather than the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, unless demand dictates otherwise.

Members of the Board of Trustees

Rosemary Marx, our Membership Secretary has had a busy time, assisted by Elisabeth Wheeler, in updating the Friends' Membership database, Gift Aid records, answering Members' queries, and checking compliance with Data Protection legislation. If that was not enough, they are about to embark on an Archiving Project, for which they will be looking for assistance from volunteers, please watch this space.

Lyn Owen, our Treasurer, continues to ensure that our finances are in good order and to resolve any challenges that the banking throws up. As we continue to raise money through our membership attending talks, visits and other events, it is Lyn who sorts out all the figures and advises us on a prudent level of donations to the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

This year we have a minimum of £15,000 to donate to the Museum, we know that the Friday Organ Recital programme will get £2,000, but we currently await advice from Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales on other suitable projects.

Lyn's Financial Report follows this report, and I want to thank her for the time, effort, and diligence with which she carries out this work.

Lyn's first four-year term of office ends this year, and we are all delighted that Lyn has offered to stay on as Treasurer, subject to confirmation at the AGM.

Diane Davies, the Editor of *Oriel*, our renowned Friends' Magazine continues to be responsible for the whole process of producing the magazine and all that it entails with aplomb.

Fiona Peel is our Social Media Editor and manages our Facebook account and our blog. Under Fiona's watch we have made great strides in engaging with the world of social media. and getting our message out there to ensure that we, as an organisation, continue to thrive in the future.

Heather Graves and Len Metcalf have continued to organise day visits and 3 / 4 day visits in this country.

Heather continues as Events co-ordinator and schedules all our Talks, Trips ,home and overseas, the St David's Day Tea, and the Christmas Lunch.

Wendy Winney has organised a trip to North Wales next year, but, following her resignation, Fiona Peel will now lead our group on this trip.

Nigel Morgans has taken his final trip abroad this year. Jayne Pugh will be organising our foreign trips for 2027.

John Wilkins remains on the Board and is a fount of knowledge, ideas and constructive comments.

I would also like to add the thanks of the Board of Trustees to our webmaster, Meurig Williams, for his continuous assistance on our website, which is hugely appreciated by all.

Links with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

We have a new contact with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Sarah Davies.

Much like her predecessor, Sofia Lazaridi, Sarah is an excellent link and of great assistance in ensuring that everything goes according to plan and enabling great communication between ourselves and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the help and support that we have received in these difficult times from the Museum Staff.

Jane Richardson, the Chief Executive of Amgueddfa Cymru, has been extremely supportive of the Friends and this positive attitude is shown by all the staff of the Museum with whom we have come into contact. They have been more than helpful in the many requests we make of them.

Finally, a very big thank you to you, our Members, who support us in so many ways. You are all very much appreciated.

Nigel Morgans, Chair, Friends Museum Wales