

Second Quarter Report by R Owain

The following is a report on the Project so far for the period ending 30 November 2013.

WMUK: much time went to helping organising EduWiki and a meeting of 10 students followed; they've requested another meeting with the possibility of forming a wiki group. Three monthly reports to Wici Cymru and WMUK were submitted and 5 WMUK brochures translated into Welsh, which are in the process of being published. Wiki Loves Monuments also took a lot of my time, but ensured that Wales was well represented with 20% of the photographs uploaded from Wales. The app and main page of the website was also translated into Welsh.

Discussions were also held at the EduWiki Conference between myself and a JISC representative. I arranged for Gareth Morlais (IT and Welsh Government 'Specialist') to deliver the Main / Key Speech, 'The Importance of Wikipedia in delivering Welsh language on-line services'. His speech was translated by Sion Aled.

I would like to state that the advice, help and support given to me by WMUK staff has been positive and thorough at all times.

Swansea University: following my meeting with Prof. Iwan Davies, Deputy Vice Chancellor, in August, I have now met Dr Tom Cheesman and Dr Rhys Jones as well as students representatives. I have also visited Swansea Library who are keen to hold an editathon.

Releasing content into the public domain: Aled Powell and myself have worked hard on the database of 12,000 Welsh books published since 1996, by the Welsh Book Council and have now started botting these into articles on cy. We are also trying to acquire Llen Natur's database of 10,000+ species which is now in the hands of Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor. I have also met a representative of HWB (main educational resource body in Wales); Government project.

Training: The most important work done this month, in my view, was consolidating our partnership with Software Alliance Wales (SAW; based at Swansea University), who have agreed to train their own trainers in wiki-skills. They will then train others in all parts of Wales. This has now been done; they have been fully trained with wiki-skills and each course member created a village article on Wikipedia, in en or cy. No commercial aspects will be taught in any way other than instructing them how these location based articles could be used in their own websites, should they want to do that. It's possible that this may be the first time for an independent body to teach wiki-skills in the UK.

In December I will be presenting to 27 IT lecturers at Coleg Menai Llandrillo.

Community 2 have also been approached with meetings also arranged.

Wiki towns: discussions with Ruthin Forward Group) are well under way. Two training sessions have been arranged (3 and 17th December) with the aim of creating wiki-towns. I have also started discussions with the town of Denbigh through Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych.

The financial situation: Wici Cymru - Employers Liability, Public and Products Liability a Commercial Legal Protection insurance is now in place. We have also commissioned Hill and Roberts Chartered Accountants. The first quarter grant has been received from GeoVation and the application for Digital Business Tourism Fund's First Quarter grant is now in. I met Will Lins (DTBF fund) and he agrees that we are on the right track, but 4 weeks after schedule; this affects our cashflow. See Mike Peel's recommendations

(https://wiki.wikimedia.org.uk/wiki/User:Mike_Peel/Living_Paths/12Nov13_Report). We will also need to borrow around £7,000 in January, if we're not to go into the red. If this 'buffer' was available now it would certainly ease our situation, as we are strangled by the DTBF's payments on receipts. I now ask for this loan with immediate effect.

My 'Three month review' (October 2013) with Jon also gives further information on the progress of the Project.

Wici Cymru's financial system is in place, with H W (Treasurer), Lloffwr (user name; Honorary Treasurer and qualified accountant), myself, T J (Admin) as well as Jon Davies, Mike Peel and Richard Symmonds (WMUK) with full access to all our documents (through Google docs). We have also been through our financial protocols and papertrails with Mike Peel, who we met in Crewe.

Project Coordinator: Wici Cymru still hasn't been recognised as a charity, therefore will not employ a Coordinator. The Charity Commission will not decide until late December. This is very frustrating as we need to hit the target of having trained over a hundred group representatives. Mike Peel's recommendation is that WMUK takes on this role asap. I also believe that this is our only option, other than ask one of our partners (National Library of Wales, Location Wales on Line, the Welsh Book Council etc) to do so; this would be embarrassing. See Mike Peel's recommendations.

One of the outcomes of the DTBF fund is employing a Coordinator (half time post); otherwise we will lose £12,000. Payments will be returned to WMUK monthly.

In brief: we're on the right track, but are behind schedule for two reasons: firstly my post as Manager took five weeks longer than outlined in the DTBF grant, secondly Wici Cymru is still not a Charity. I now ask WMUK Board to move quickly with these two recommendations.

Robin Owain

27 November 2013

Redacted 20 January 2013