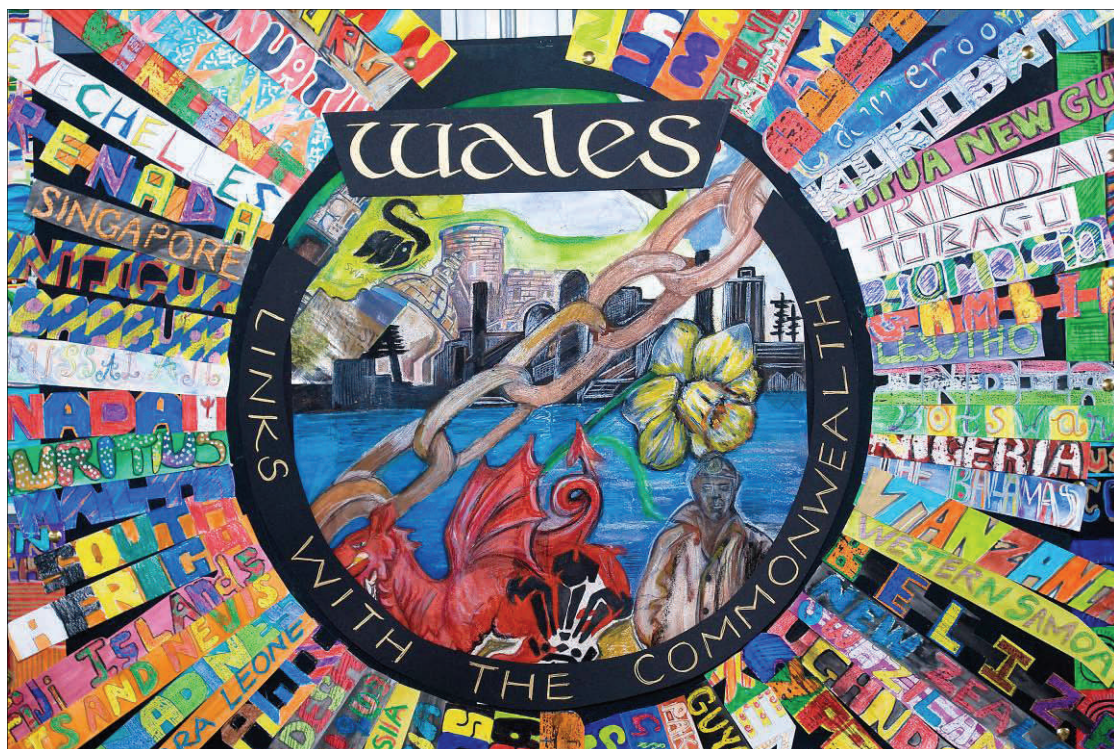


# Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Wales Branch)

## Commonwealth Day 2008



Commonwealth Day display centrepiece by Sandfields Comprehensive.

## Commonwealth Day Observance, Monday 10 March

Two young people from Wales attended the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#) Commonwealth Day programme in London on Monday 10 March. Craig Lambourne from Bridgend and Stephen Marshall from Newport were selected on behalf of the CPA Wales Branch by [Funky Dragon](#), Wales' Assembly for Children and Young People.

Craig and Stephen and 30 other delegates from across the Commonwealth assembled for a programme in and around the Palace of Westminster. They engaged in discussion with MPs from the UK and the Commonwealth. They attended the [Commonwealth Day Observance](#) at Westminster Abbey and in the evening, a reception at Marlborough House in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen.



CPA delegates attended the Commonwealth reception at Marlborough House. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth HE The Rt Hon Don Mackinnon presented delegates including Stephen Marshall (black tie) of Funky Dragon to Her Majesty The Queen.

## Commonwealth Day at the Senedd, Tuesday 11 March

Nine schools selected from across Wales provided table top displays at the Senedd over the course of Tuesday 11 March, expressing their interpretations of the Commonwealth Day theme for 2008 'The Environment—Our Future' to Assembly Members and the visiting public.

Schools staged displays in the Senedd.



Jacqueline Wilson, Director of the [Governance and Institutional Affairs](#) Division of the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#) spent the day at the Senedd engaging with the young people and providing an address to a lunchtime reception. Primary school children from Ysgol Pencae performed music from Lesotho and Wales.



Jaqueline Wilson addressed a lunchtime reception and Ysgol Pencae performed an action song from Lesotho.

This was watched by a visiting delegation from the [Lesotho Parliament's](#) HIV/AIDS Committee who were spending the week at the Assembly working with Members and parliamentary staff as part of an ongoing programme of exchange to develop the strengthen parliamentary capacity.

Senators from the Lesotho Parliament's HIV/AIDS Committee.



**Participating schools:**

**South Wales Central:**

St Brides Major C/W Primary

Whitchurch High School

**South Wales East:**

Monmouth Comprehensive School

**South Wales West:**

Cornelly Primary School

Sandfields Comprehensive

**Mid and West Wales:**

Ysgol Llangadog

Ysgol y Bannau

Greenhill School

**North Wales:**

Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School



Whitchurch High School with Jonathan Morgan AM



Kirsty Williams AM meets Ysgol y Bannau



The Assembly's Green Team and Greenhill School



Blessed Edward Jones Roman Catholic High School with Janet Ryder AM

St Brides Church in Wales School



The Ysgol Llangadog group.



The Cornelly Primary School show their display to Ysgol Greenhill School.

## Commonwealth Day Debate

Assembly Members debated Commonwealth matters over the final hour of the day's plenary meeting. Members from all party groups spoke in support of the the motion. The debate was observed by some 80 guests from a range of organisations linking Wales and the Commonwealth. The motion for the debate was that the Assembly:

- recognises the valuable role of the Commonwealth in strengthening relationships between nations across the world;
- welcomes the continued contribution of Wales and its people to those relationships;
- reaffirms its support for the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;
- welcomes 'The Environment, Our Future' as the Commonwealth Secretariat's chosen theme for Commonwealth Day 2008 and urges continued co-operation between Commonwealth Members towards environmental sustainability as specified in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Members unanimously approved the motion at the conclusion of the debate. To view the debate in full: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=78741&ds=3/2008#rhif5>

## Commonwealth Day Reception

Assembly Members and those who observed the debate joined together immediately afterwards for a Commonwealth Day reception in the Cwrt.

The President of the CPA Wales Branch The Rt Hon the Lord Elis-Thomas AM and the Hon Senator Ms Mofumahali 'Mantoetse L. Peete of the Lesotho Parliament HIV/AIDS committee both provided brief reflections on Commonwealth Day emphasising the importance of strong links and the value of regular communication between Commonwealth members.



The Llywydd with Members of the CPA Wales Branch Executive Committee and of Funky Dragon. Stephen Marshall and Craig Lambourne (centre) both attended the Commonwealth Day observance in London the day before.



Members of the Welsh Assembly Government's Staff Volunteering Scheme presented a cheque to Wayne Crocker Chairman of Dolen Cymru.