



Sefydliad Materion Cymreig  
Institute of Welsh Affairs

February 2008

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#### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

*The Welsh Health Battleground* Academy Health Wales, the first publication from Academy Health Wales, was launched at a special dinner in Cardiff in January. A partnership between the IWA, UWIC and pharmaceuticals company, Pfizer, the Academy has set itself the target of improving communication between health and social care policy makers and practitioners. It draws its membership from within the health care sector, the government and political parties, health care suppliers and wider civic society. Guest speaker at the dinner was Jonathan Morgan, Conservative spokesman on health matters in the Assembly, who stressed the importance of developing a strong debate in Wales on health care issues.

*The Welsh Health Battleground* is available priced £10 from the IWA offices (£7.50 for members) and brings together the edited contributions made to the inaugural conference of the Academy in 2007. Speakers at this event, including leading academics and health care professionals, had been set the task of examining on as wide a front as possible what would be in the health minister's in-tray at the start of the Assembly's third term. If you would like to be kept up-to-date with developments in the Academy or would like further information, please let us know.

*A Strategy for the Welsh Economy* The Welsh economy is facing unprecedented challenges under the impact of globalisation and must engage in a process of constant renewal, if it is to prosper and survive. A new publication by IWA member Dr. John Ball from Swansea Metropolitan University, to be launched at the university on Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, offers a critique of current policies and suggests an alternative approach based on the "diamond" model of economic development put forward by the business expert, Michael Porter.

The aim of the publication is to promote a fundamental policy re-think that will replace what are seen as the often unconnected, piecemeal and mutually exclusive schemes attempted over the years with higher order strategic themes. For further details of the publication or the launch event, which will co-incide with the university's annual St. David's Day lecture, please contact the IWA offices.

*At Arm's Length*, a new publication from IWA chairman, Geraint Talfan Davies, will be launched at the Wales Millennium Centre on Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The book gives a graphic account of the battle to maintain the arm's length principle in arts funding and also describes the long devolution road and the struggle to sustain a local and national voice in the face of globalisation, the increasing centralisation of British government and media and an 'unbalanced and lazy union'. Those wishing to attend should contact Seren, 57 Nolton Street, Bridgend, CF31 3AE. Tel: 01656 663018. E-Mail: [events@seren-books.com](mailto:events@seren-books.com) If you are unable to attend the launch but would like to buy a signed copy of the book, please email [events@seren-books.com](mailto:events@seren-books.com)

#### **EVENTS**

##### **Valleys**

Evidence of a strong will to find lasting solutions to the problems that have confronted the south Wales valleys for generations was clear at a conference organised by the IWA in Hirwaun earlier

this month. Around 150 people attended the event to hear contributions from Kevin Morgan who presented a picture of how the Valleys might look in 2034 and from Leighton Andrews, deputy minister for regeneration in the Welsh Government, who spoke about how the transition might be made. Other speakers included Ieuan Wyn Jones, deputy first minister and architect Jonathan Adams, who presented a new vision for the heads of the valleys.

### **Global Warming**

The impact of climate change has become an increasing source of concern over recent years and, as we experience yet another comparatively mild winter, more and more obvious to everyone. An IWA conference, *The Stern Report: the Challenge for Wales*, will look at the economic, social and other impacts climate change will have on Wales and at the responses emerging from Government and other parties. To be held at the newly-refurbished **Holiday Inn** overlooking **Cardiff Arms Park**, the conference on **Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup>** will be addressed by key academics and policymakers, including deputy first minister and economic development minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, and Peter Davies, sustainable development commissioner for Wales, who will look at the Severn Barrage proposal. To attend this all-day event (£85 non members £75 members), please contact the IWA. Further details are also available on the IWA website.

### **FORTHCOMING**

#### Monday 17 March 2008

5.30 for 6.00 pm, Cothi Suite, Halliwell Centre,  
Trinity College Carmarthen

#### **Sustainable Communities and a Sustainable Food Chain**

Your opportunity to discuss issues with Felix Gummer, TESCO Corporate Affairs Director for Wales.

#### Thursday 13 March 2008

6.00 for 6.30 pm Lecture Theatre, Faraday Building, Swansea University (8.00 pm buffet) –  
Supported by the BAAS and IT Wales

#### **Science and Government: Options for Wales**

**Professor Christopher Pollock CBE**, Research Director, Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, Aberystwyth, will reflect on his appointment to a one-year "pathfinder position", designed to examine the role of scientific expertise and advice in the government of Wales.

#### Friday 4 April 2008

7.00 for 8.00 pm live broadcast from Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, Colum Road,  
Cardiff (by ticket only)

BBC Radio 4: **Any Questions** with Jonathan Dimbleby.

#### 4, 11, 14 and 29 April 2008

IWA and Cymru Yfory

#### **Assembly to Senedd: The Convention and the Move to Primary Powers:**

Four half-day conferences with lunch:-

##### 1 - Friday 4 April

9.00-1.30 NEWI, Wrexham

Speakers include: Professor Laura McAllister, University of Liverpool, Ian Lucas MP, Aled Roberts, Leader, Wrexham County Borough Council.

##### 2 - Friday 11 April 2008

9.00-1.30 Y Llwyfan, Trinity College, Carmarthen

Speakers include: Adam Price MP, John Osmond, Institute of Welsh Affairs.

##### 3 - Monday 14 April 2008

9.00-1.30 Main Hall, Aberystwyth University

Speakers include: Lord Elystan Morgan, Alun Davies AM, Professor Roger Scully, Aberystwyth University.

4 - Tuesday 29 April 2008

9.00-1.30 All Nations Centre, Cardiff

Speakers include: Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Chair, One Wales Convention, John Osmond, Institute of Welsh Affairs, Professor Laura McAllister, University of Liverpool and a panel with Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales and Assembly Members from the four parties.

For further information about any of the above events please contact the IWA or visit the IWA website.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Board**

Several of the IWA's board members have been in the news recently and particular congratulations must go to Ruth Marks who will be taking up the new post of Commissioner for Older People in Wales later this year – the first such appointment in Britain. BBC Newsnight viewers may also have seen board member Gerald Holtham recently in his role among other economic luminaries as a member of Newsnight's shadow monetary Policy Committee, which seeks to interpret and forecast the Bank of England's committee thinking on interest rates.

### **ABC Bulletin**

The IWA Assembly Bwletin Cymru, produced jointly with the political consultancy, Grayling, is now well established, providing valuable insights into the latest developments and changes on the Welsh political scene. If you would like to be placed on the list to receive a regular e-mailed copy of the bulletin please let us know.

One of the key contributors to the bulletin has been Grayling's Alex Still, a former IWA intern, who has now left Grayling to work as a researcher for one of the Assembly Members. Grayling is seeking a replacement account executive who will be responsible for monitoring and gathering intelligence on the proceedings of the National Assembly for Wales, government departments, political and civic institutions and the media, and communicating with clients in their areas of interest. If you know anyone who would like to be considered, they should send a CV and covering letter to Catherine Griffith-Williams, Grayling, 2 Caspian Point, Cardiff, CF10 4DQ. ([Catherine.Griffith@wa-grayling.com](mailto:Catherine.Griffith@wa-grayling.com)) Tel: 029 2046 2531

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