

## **IWA Newsletter May 2005**

### **Election Results**

For the first time in an election we are including on our website a full list of all the results in Wales. If you want to check how many votes the candidate you voted for (or indeed any other candidate) received just go to [www.iwa.org.uk](http://www.iwa.org.uk) and click on the link. We are very grateful to Grayling Wales for this service and in particular to Helen Northmore Thomas (who worked through election night to compile the information). Many of you will also have been using the very helpful guide to candidates and predictions of results, which Grayling also provided to us for use on the IWA website ahead of the election.

### **Focus on IWA Research projects**

We are currently in the midst of developing a range of new research projects on issues of crucial importance to Wales, which we hope to publish over the course of the next year. **We are always interested to hear from members who feel they might have relevant expertise or indeed observations to make on any of these ideas or indeed any other suggestions on topics we might pursue.** Each piece of research of course also needs to be funded so if you have any thoughts on possible backers for the work we do we would also be delighted to hear from you. The main projects are these.

#### ***Small Schools***

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century demographic and societal changes have produced on-going debates over the future of small schools across the UK. The Institute proposes to conduct a study mapping out the extent of the problem in Wales, analysing the need and impact of re-organising schools with 90 or less pupils and assessing the policy options available. We intend to explore how other rural areas in the UK and elsewhere have dealt with the issue.

#### ***Social Housing***

Joint backing has been received from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Principality Building Society for a study intended to open up a debate in Wales on the future of social housing, looking ahead 10 to 20 years. Studying these issues and trends should inform local authorities and the wider policy community in Wales about the kind of housing that will be needed in the future. Among the questions being raised are whether it is inevitable that social housing will become the tenure of last resort, occupied overwhelmingly by the vulnerable and economically inactive, and whether there policy options that can combat these trends.

#### ***Cardiff and the Valleys***

This project will seek to address the issues behind the disconnection that many perceive to exist between the Welsh capital and its hinterland. The city's own prosperity contrasts sharply with acute deprivation in some communities only 30-45 minutes away, and skill shortages in parts of the city's economy co-exist with some of the highest levels of inactivity in Britain in former mining towns. The study will try to understand how a more dynamic region benefiting all the one million plus population in Cardiff's travel-to-work area can be created.

#### ***Green Economy***

With only five years remaining to achieve the Assembly Government's target of 10% of all energy coming from renewable sources by 2010 and with increasing global concern over the impact of global warming, the IWA wishes to research the progress made and to produce a

fresh analysis of the economic and environmental potential a *Green Economy* can offer Wales.

### ***Waste Management***

The IWAs February 2000 report on *Waste in Wales* examined the challenges Wales faces in meeting targets for the reduction of landfill waste. We would like to revisit this work and to concentrate on the interface between the waste management practices of local authorities and the behaviour of households, to see if a more productive match can be achieved.

### ***Approaches to Ageing***

The number of older people as a proportion of the population as a whole is projected to increase markedly in the coming decades with profound impacts on the domestic policy agenda. This research proposal will analyse the demographic messages concerning older people emanating from the 2001 census and other data sources in Wales. The objective will be to draw out long term implications for individual and family lifestyles and service delivery over the next ten to twenty years.

### ***GP Referral Rates***

One of the more striking revelations in the recent Wanless report was that Welsh GPs refer more than 40 per cent more admissions per head than occurs in England. This proposed study will examine the referral behaviour of GPs in Wales.

### ***Upland Wales***

Forthcoming changes to the EUs Common Agriculture Policy together with the evolution of the Assembly Government's agri environmental initiatives portend major changes to the socio economic framework of upland Wales and especially the future for hill farmers. This study will look ahead to describe the conditions that are likely to apply in ten to 20 years and suggest optimum policy options.

### ***Welsh Public Service***

To ensure that the public sector continues to attract and retain high calibre personnel and maximise their contribution, Wales needs to explore how it should expand its leadership, training and management development capacity in the public sector. This proposal, therefore, details the research that would be required to evaluate both routes and to understand the practical issues that would be involved in establishing a Welsh Public Service College.

### **Responsible Entrepreneurship**

If you are interested in your business becoming more successful in generating and developing new business, while improving relationships with the community, then this seminar to be held at Y Galeri, Caernarfon on May 17th, 2005 from 10 am to 3pm will be invaluable for you. Many small or medium sized businesses that want to develop and grow their business are increasingly aware of the environmental and social demands now being applied to all businesses.

The event which is being organised by FPB on behalf of UEAPME / Eurochambre will include practical examples and group work to help SMEs drive their business forward to greater success. BBC Wales and Bangor University are partners for this event, which is open to anyone to attend without charge.

**Places are limited, so please call 0845 225 0314 or email our conference organisers, on [delyth@delythlloyd.co.uk](mailto:delyth@delythlloyd.co.uk) to reserve a place for you and a colleague.**

### **Previous Occupants of St Andrews House**

It is six months since the IWA moved into its new headquarters in St. Andrews Crescent and thanks to Helen, our Finance and I.T. Officer, who recently spent time researching the areas history in Cardiff Library, we now know more about the Victorian semi detached town house we occupy at No. 24.

Firstly, the buildings in St Andrews Crescent seem to have been in existence since at least 1873 but by 1889, as Cardiffs suburbs developed, it had evidently ceased to be a family home and was functioning as medical consulting rooms. Surgeons who practised there are named as G W Grote, H E Skyrme, C W Shepherd and K Shepperd. Neighbouring Park Place was also widely used by the medical profession as the Cardiff equivalent of Harley Street until around the 1930s, when our building was also registered as a Christadelphian Meeting Hall.

From 1949 to 1952 the Cambria Bridge Club was registered at the address but by 1958 No 24 St Andrews Crescent had been converted to office premises. Various firms of Consulting Engineers and Life Assurance Companies are registered at the address from 1958 onwards. Nowadays the whole building has been refurbished and extended, housing firms of solicitors and stockbrokers as well as the Institute of Welsh Affairs. If you know any more about the building or St. Andrews Crescent (where many may also remember the headquarters in the 1960s and 1970s of the South Wales branch of the National Union of Mineworkers was located at the now demolished number 2), we would be pleased to hear from you.

**Members are also welcome to call into our offices when in Cardiff (we have a range of back issues of IWA titles on a variety of topics which are available for sale) or you may just want to let us know about some interesting developments in your area or some ideas we should follow up.**

*May 2005*