



Sefydliad Materion Cymreig
Institute of Welsh Affairs

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Events

Plans are now well-advanced for a number of important conferences this autumn which promise to focus attention on several key issues of importance to Wales. On October 5th we will be looking at the impact that sporting events, such as the Ryder Cup (due to be held in Newport in 2010) and the 2012 Olympics in London, are likely to have on the Welsh economy, and also the part investment in new facilities such as Cardiff's new Sports Village and Swansea's Liberty Stadium can have in raising sports standards and participation. The event will be held at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, starting at 9.30, and will include the opportunity to visit the behind-the-scenes facilities.

Speakers who have agreed to take part include Paul Sergeant, chief executive of the Millennium Stadium, Arthur Emyr, director Wales for the 2012 Olympics, Huw Jones chief executive of the Welsh Sports Council, Huw Edwin Jones of the North Wales Events Commission, John Jermine, chairman of Ryder Cup Wales and Calvin Jones, a Cardiff University economist who has made a special study of the theme. Tredegar-born Lord Davies of Oldham, Minister for Culture, Media, and Sport in the House of Lords, will chair the event.

For further details or to make a booking please visit our website www.iwa.org.uk or call us on 029 2066 6606. We are expecting to be restricted to 100 places for this event, which will include an opportunity to visit the behind-the-scenes facilities at the stadium, so early booking is advised.

Later in the same month on October 13th we will be hosting a conference in Cardiff on science policy in a follow-up to the widely reported debate started by the IWA in the latest issue of *agenda*. Among the speakers will be Sir John Cadogan, former head of the UK Science Research Councils, whose letter criticising the Welsh Assembly Government's science policy consultation paper, *A Science Policy for Wales*, was signed by 12 other distinguished Welsh Fellows of the Royal Society, the UK's leading scientific institution. The keynote speaker on the day will be Baroness Susan Greenfield, the distinguished scientist, broadcaster, writer and best selling author of *The Human Brain: A Guided Tour* and *Brain Story* among others. She is a Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford, which she holds jointly with her position as Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. She has presented numerous TV and radio programmes, but is probably best known for *Brain Story*, a major six part series on the brain and mind, broadcast on BBC2 in July 2000. More recently she has been an adviser on science policy to the Government of South Australia.

Before that Lord Carlile, the former Welsh Liberal Democrat MP will be addressing a lunch meeting at the Thistle Hotel in Cardiff on Friday July 21st. A Deputy High Court Judge and Honorary Recorder of the City of Hereford since 1996, Lord Carlile was from 1980 to 1982 Chairman of the Welsh Liberal Party; Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats from 1992 to 1997 and President of Liberal Democrats Wales from 1997 to 1999.

In autumn 2001 he was appointed Independent Reviewer of terrorism legislation. In his address he will speak on the nature of the terrorism threat to Britain and how it should be regarded in Wales. He will also be talking about the development of terrorism in the minds of young violent jihadists and the future of terrorism legislation.

We also have a programme of events in other parts of Wales which we hope will be of interest to members. We are now part way through our series of joint lectures with the National Museum and National Library, *Myths, Memories and Futures*, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of both these institutions. The next event will be in Cardiff on Friday July 17 at 6.00 pm in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, when Dr. Gaynor Kavanagh, head of Cardiff School of Art and Design, will talk about *Museums in a Broken World*. The next in the series will be in Aberystwyth on September 15th when Welsh historian, Dr. John Davies, will ask the question, *Whose Memory do we Keep?*

Also in September – on the 28th - former conservative leader and former Home Secretary, Michael Howard, who is of course himself from Llanelli, will address the West Wales branch. He will be speaking at the Stradey Hotel in his native town on his progress from Wales to Westminster and no doubt reflecting on the current state of British politics. Earlier in the same month on July 20th the National Trust Wales will be hosting a joint event with the IWA at Chirk Castle where members will have the opportunity of a behind-the-scenes tour of conservation work in action together with tours of house and garden and a discussion on *Does History matter in today's Society?* On October 13th the Gwent branch is following up last year's very successful Regeneration conference at the Newbridge Memo with another event on the regeneration of the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. It will be held at the newly refurbished Parkway Hotel in Cwmbran.

For details of how to book for any of these events please visit the website or call us on the number above.

Research

The summer has seen further progress on the IWA's current main research project, The Third Term Agenda. Academics and other experts across a wide range of topic areas have been gathering together regularly at the IWA's Cardiff headquarters to discuss policy approaches that could be recommended to whichever administration forms the new Welsh government after next May's Assembly elections. The panels, which will be reporting back over the next few months, were asked to look not just at some of the immediate issues in areas such as education, health, the environment, planning and the economy, but to cast their minds forward several years to imagine the Wales we wish to create in the future and what sort of policies will be needed to achieve their vision.

After they have been reviewed, the deliberations of the expert panels will be brought together in a book to be published by the Institute to accompany a conference at the Thistle Hotel in Cardiff on November 17th. We hope our members will then urge their Assembly candidates to consider what we have proposed and adopt our proposals in the manifestos they will be preparing for the elections.

Elsewhere on the research front the IWA has been successful in a recent bid to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for funding for a study into the impact of small school closures entitled *A stakeholder analysis of small school re-organisation in Wales*. This project, which will involve on-the-ground research in two areas affected by closure plans, Powys and Pembrokeshire, will commence this autumn and is due to last for a year. The study will analyse the experience of closure, amalgamation and reorganisation of primary schools in six areas. Interviews with key stakeholders will establish the extent to which views about the reorganisation and its effects have altered as a result of the actual experience of change.

Membership matters

Members and supporters of the IWA are very welcome to visit us at the IWA stand at the National Eisteddfod in Swansea, which starts on August 5th. We would also be very pleased to hear from any members who would be interested in helping to man the stand for short periods during the week. As regular visitors will know we use the Eisteddfod as an opportunity to market our publications, enlist new members and generally spread the word about the work the IWA does. Once again the IWA has organised a lecture on the Maes, to be delivered this year by Welsh media entrepreneur, Ron Jones, whose Llanelli-based independent television production company, Tinopolis, has caused considerable waves by acquiring the much bigger Sunset + Vine, the UK's leading independent television sports production company.

From September we will also be informing members when they renew about a modest increase in our fees from the current £30 to £35. It is four years since the last increase and during this period costs have, of course, increased. It is worth pointing out that the Institute does not receive any subsidy from any public sources and is entirely dependent on the income it gets from its individual and corporate members, from research it carries out and from events. Not being subsidised from the public purse is of course one of our strengths, enabling the IWA to comment on policies and advance ideas completely impartially.