

INSTITUTE OF WELSH AFFAIRS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31st 2007

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE – THE IWA AT WORK

Political and Constitutional

The centrepiece of the IWA's activities over the past year has been its work on policy options for the Third Term of the National Assembly. Looking ahead to the May 2007 elections, it was decided the most appropriate contribution the IWA could make to the debate would be to offer its own analysis of where Wales stands in the most important policy fields and which new policies or policy directions would offer the best chances of improving the economic, social, cultural and environmental life of the nation.

Drawing on the wide range of expertise among its members and supporters, the IWA established in the summer of 2006 a series of eight expert groups which then met at regular intervals to consider the issues. The outcome was the publication in October of a 300-page book, *Time to Deliver: The Third Term and Beyond – Policy Options for Wales*, which examined the likely contents of ministers' in-trays on assuming office and looked forward to the longer-term horizon issues they would need to bear in mind in framing policies.

The publication was launched at a special conference in Cardiff in November and received wide publicity across the media, quickly establishing itself as the most important guide to the problems and opportunities facing Wales's elected politicians. All AMs received complimentary copies. Funding for this project was kindly provided by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Also during the year the IWA published a highly topical scrutiny of the then Prime Minister-in-waiting, Gordon Brown, under the title *Gordon Brown: Bard of Britishness*. As the title implies, the work focused on the then Chancellor's attempts in a number of speeches to breathe new life into the concept of Britishness and was based around a polemic by author Tom Nairn, exploring ideas he has been developing since the 1970s, and responses to these from a number of UK political commentators.

IWA director, John Osmond, was the author of another work of political analysis, *Building the Nation: Creating Internal Political Solidarity, the 1979 1997 and 2011 Referendums in Wales*. This personal interpretation of the two referendums already held and the one proposed argued that the process of holding referendums had acted as a driver for devolution and the emergence of Wales as a political nation.

Political speakers who addressed IWA members during the year included former Conservative leader, Michael Howard, who reflected on his own personal journey from Llanelli to Westminster, and Conservative shadow Welsh secretary, Cheryl Gillan. Lord Carlile of Berriew also spoke during the year on terrorism legislation, drawing on his experience as the government independent reviewer of security issues.

Our quarterly monitoring reports on the work of the National Assembly, that were instigated at the launch of the Assembly in 1999, continued through the year until the final edition, published in June 2007, that examined the last session before the May elections. The series has provided valuable insights into the workings of the Assembly during its formative stages and over the past two years the

IWA has been very ably assisted in its production by team members from the political consultancy, Grayling Wales. It was decided, however, that a new format was now needed, and this was due to be launched later in 2007.

The Economy

The Institute also maintained its close watch during the year on developments within the Welsh economy and in December published *Roaring Dragons: Entrepreneurial Tales from Wales*, a series of case studies drawing on the experiences of mainly medium-sized Welsh companies. The book, which was supported by funding from the Jane Hodge Foundation, focused on how the companies had developed to their present positions in a wide variety of sectors, from animal feeds to structural steelwork, what difficulties they had faced, and what support they had been given from various outside agencies.

Gareth Hall, the newly appointed director of the Department of Enterprise, Innovation and Networks spoke to members in Cardiff on economic development in Wales following the merger of the Welsh Development Agency into the Welsh Assembly Government in May 2006. IWA branches were also active during the year in organising events aimed at highlighting economic issues in their areas. These included Gwent branch events on Newport's redevelopment plans and on regeneration opportunities relating to south Wales's canals, in particular the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal; a Swansea branch seminar on the opportunities for funding developments in Swansea Bay from the latest round of EU convergence funding; and north Wales branch conferences examining new economic opportunities for North West Wales and celebrating entrepreneurial Welsh women.

The first of two economic policy conferences held during the year was on *Sport and Regeneration in Wales*. Held at the Millennium Stadium in early October, the conference was attended by nearly 100 delegates who heard presentations on how Wales could benefit from the London Olympics 2012 and Ryder Cup Wales 2010, as well as from academics specialising in sports economics. The papers presented at the conference were subsequently published.

Later in the same month there was an equally good attendance at a conference on *A Science Policy for Wales*, which arose out of a widely expressed concern that Wales might be falling behind other countries through a lack of focus at the political level on the importance of science. The conference was addressed by the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan and by some of the most eminent UK and Welsh scientists, including Sir John Cadogan, former head of UK Science Research Councils. Over lunch delegates had the opportunity of hearing the views of Baroness Susan Greenfield, director of the Royal Institution.

Social Policy

The main publication in the social field this past year has been *Between the Generations: Raising the Profile of Intergenerational Practice*. Working with co-authors from the Cymru Centre for Intergenerational Practice at the University of Glamorgan, IWA researchers looked at examples across Wales of intergenerational practice where young people and their older neighbours were brought together to learn more about each other and their respective viewpoints.

Culture and Education

Throughout the year a series of lectures organised by the IWA jointly with the National Museum and National Library sought to celebrate the centenary of these two institutions and to throw light on their past and future roles. The lecture series, held alternately in Aberystwyth and Cardiff, involved contributions from a range of distinguished practitioners in these fields and their lectures were brought together in a book, *Myths, Memories and Futures: The National Library and National Museum in the Story of Wales*.

Speakers within the education field during the year included Steve Marshall, the head of education at the Welsh Assembly Government who spoke on the topic of *Education Lessons from South Australia*,

the part of the world from which he came to take up his job in Wales during 2006. Former Glamorgan and England cricket captain, Tony Lewis, addressed a Gwent branch dinner, on the theme of *Sport and Music: Armed for Life*.

Welsh language policies also came under review during the year. Delivering the annual IWA Eisteddfod lecture, Ron Jones, chief executive of media independent, Tinopolis, argued in the controversially titled *Planning the Death of Communities and their Language*, that concentration of activities in Cardiff was proving damagingly dangerous for other parts of Wales. Ken Hopkins, a former director of education in Mid Glamorgan argued in another bilingual publication *Saving Our Language*, that urgent steps needed to be taken to improve the quality and provision of Welsh language teaching in English language schools and that greater efforts were needed to establish a bilingual education system in Wales.

Other

During the course of the year IWA chairman, Geraint Talfan Davies, director, John Osmond and associate director, Rhys David, spoke at a number of academic and other conferences and seminars, as well as providing interviews on Welsh questions for press and broadcast media. Unpaid leave of absence for a period of six weeks was extended to the director in March 2006 to enable him to stand as a candidate for the National Assembly.

The Institute was also successfully re-examined for ISO 9001 quality assurance accreditation, an important guarantee it can offer its members and others using its services that the highest standards are being obtained. The Institute's processes and procedures were praised by the assessor as a model for an organisation of its size.

During the year the IWA also completed its move the short distance from its previous headquarters at St. Andrew's Crescent to 1 Museum Place, close to the National Museum, where all members are welcome to pay us a visit.

New appointments to the board during 2006 included Peter Davies, Chair of the West Wales Branch and Professor John Tucker, Chair of the Swansea Bay Branch, while Robin Lewis and Geoff Edge stepped down. Two board committees were also set up during the year to examine the IWA's governance arrangements and to recommend changes to the company's articles of association, and to look at how the Institute should continue its development over the medium term. The recommendations of the two committees were discussed at board meetings during the year and are being implemented.

Individual membership at the end of the year stood at 1,220, including 112 IWA Fellows. There are also 130 corporate organisations in membership. During the course of the year more than half of our Fellows attended a special Fellows Dinner kindly hosted by the law firm, Eversheds, in Cardiff at which the guest speaker was Professor David Marquand, a former MP and a distinguished political writer and academic with a special interest in European integration.

IWA Publications

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| May 2006 | <i>Restructuring Devolution: Monitoring the National Assembly January – April 2006</i> in association with Grayling |
| June 2006 | <i>Saving our Language</i> (bilingual), Ken Hopkins. In this bilingual publication the author calls for the Welsh Assembly Government to take urgent action to save the Welsh language from accelerating towards inevitable extinction. |
| July 2006 | <i>New Powers - New Beginning? Monitoring the National Assembly May - July 2006</i> in association with Grayling. |

- August 2006 *Planning the destruction of communities and their language/Cynlluniod distryw cymunedau a'u hiaith*, Ron Jones. He argued that centralisation in Cardiff is harming communities elsewhere in Wales.
- October 2006 *Gordon Brown: Bard of Britishness*, Tom Nairn and others. Tom Nairn's highly polemical lead essay takes forward arguments that he has developed since the 1970s. With responses from a range of writers across the political spectrum - Leighton Andrews, David Melding, Vernon Bogdanor, Peter Stead, Charlotte Williams, David Gow, Neal Ascherson and Kevin Morgan.
- October 2006 *Time to Deliver: The Third Term and Beyond – Policy Options for Wales* This book examines policy options for Wales during the third term of the National Assembly. What will be the in-tray for the new Assembly Government Ministers following the May 2007 election? What longer-term, horizon issues should be borne in mind when framing policies for the third term? These questions were addressed by eight groups of experts brought together by the IWA during 2006.
- December 2006 *Roaring Dragons: Entrepreneurial Tales from Wales*, Rhys David. This publication highlights examples of entrepreneurial practice among mainly medium-sized Welsh-owned companies while at the same time discussing the various issues that confront companies seeking to grow and develop their businesses in Wales.
- January 2007 *Parties Prepare for Battle: Monitoring the National Assembly August - December 2006* in association with Grayling
- March 2007 *Between the Generations: Raising the Profile of Intergenerational Practice*
This new publication reports on the efforts being made to bring old people and the younger generation together to the benefit of both.
- March 2007 *Myths, Memories and Futures: The National Library and National Museum in the Story of Wales*. This book, arising from a series of lectures organised by the IWA, examines the way myths, memories and futures intermingle in developing ideas about national identity in 21st century Wales.
- March 2007 *Building the Nation: Creating 'Internal Political Solidarity' The 1979, 1997 and 2011 Referendums in Wales*, John Osmond. This essay examines the effects on the Welsh people of living through the 1979 and 1997 referendums, and looks ahead to the referendum anticipated for 2011. He argues that in the decade following 1979, political and economic forces came together to underpin the emergence of a Welsh political nation.

IWA Events

- March 2006 Cardiff *Representing the Nation*, Dr Rhiannon Mason, University of Newcastle. Second lecture in the IWA/National Library and Museum centenary series.
- May 2006 Aberystwyth *New Negotiations: A Role for Art and Institutions within Society*, Professor Declan McGonagle, University of Ulster. Third lecture in the IWA/National Library and Museum centenary series.

- June 2006
Newport *Newport Unleashed* Breakfast meeting with Chris Freegard, Managing Director, Newport City Council and John Burrows, Chief Executive, Newport Unlimited, reporting on Newport's regeneration plans.
- June 2006
Cardiff *Economic Development after the Merger*, lunch talk by Gareth Hall, Director, Welsh Assembly Government Department of Environment, Innovation and Networks.
- July 2006
Llanarthne *A Summer's Evening at the National Botanic Garden* with Robin Lewis, Chair, National Botanic Garden of Wales.
- July 2006
Cardiff *Museums in a Broken World*, Dr Gaynor Kavanagh, Head of the School of Art and Design, UWIC. Fourth lecture in the IWA/National Library and Museum centenary series.
- July 2006
Chirk *History Matters – Pass It On*, in association with the National Trust. Tour of Chirk Castle and lecture by the historian, Dr John Davies.
- July 2006
Cardiff *Terrorism Legislation*, lunch talk with Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, Deputy High Court Judge, and the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation.
- August 2006
Swansea *Planning the Death of Communities and their Language* (bilingual), Ron Jones. Eisteddfod lecture, by the Chief Executive, of the media independent Tinopolis. He argues that the Welsh capital is drawing to itself too much of the development taking place in Wales, with destructive consequences for the language.
- September
2006
Aberystwyth *Whose Memory do We Keep?* Dr John Davies, writer and historian. Fifth lecture in the IWA/National Library and Museum centenary series.
- September
2006
Llanelli *From Llanelli to Westminster*, address by Rt Hon Michael Howard MP, QC, former Leader of the Conservative Party, at the IWA West Wales branch dinner.
- October
Cardiff *Sport and Regeneration in Wales* Conference at the Wales Millennium Stadium, with Lord Davies of Oldham; Calvin Jones, Cardiff University; Huw Jones, Chief Executive, Sports Council for Wales; Paul Sergeant, Millennium Stadium; Steven Phillips, Corporate Director, Cardiff County Council; Arthur Emyr, Director Wales for 2012 Olympic Games; John Jermine, Chair, Ryder Cup Wales; John Burrows, Chief Executive, Newport Unlimited; Mark Newbold, Tenovus.
- October
Cwmbran *Waterways for People – Regenerating South Wales' Canals*. Conference with Chris Yewlett, Cardiff University; Julie Sharman, General Manager, British Waterways Wales; Richard Owen and Wyn Mitchell, Newport Council; Bob Wellington, Leader, Torfaen Council; Paul Loveluck, President, National Museum Wales; Julian Branscombe, Gwent Wildlife Trust; Peter Hewlett, Edge of Wales Walk; Jim Embrey, Welsh Assembly Government; Patrick Moss, IMA Transport Planning; Carol Travers, Forestry Commission
- October
Cardiff *A Science Policy for Wales*. Conference with Rhodri Morgan, First Minister, Welsh Assembly Government; Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director, Royal Institution; Professor Sir John Cadogan, former Head of UK Science Research Councils; Professor Peter Blood, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research, Cardiff University; Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland; Dr Grahame Guilford, GE Healthcare; Professor Anthony Campbell, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Cardiff University.
- November
Cardiff *IWA Fellows Dinner* with political writer and academic, David Marquand
- November
Cardiff *Education Lessons Learnt from South Australia*, lunch talk by Steve Marshall, Head of Education and Lifelong Learning, Welsh Assembly Government

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Cardiff ***Education Lessons Learnt from South Australia***, lunch talk by Steve Marshall, Head of Education and Lifelong Learning, Welsh Assembly Government
- November
Cardiff ***Time to Deliver: The Third Term of the National Assembly for Wales***. Conference exploring policy options for health, education, economic development transport, housing, agriculture, the environment, and culture.
- December
Cardiff ***Myths and Memories in National Pasts and Futures***, Dr Tom Nairn, University of Melbourne. Sixth lecture in the IWA/National Library and Museum centenary series.
- January
Carmarthen ***Time to Deliver - The Third Term and Beyond – Policy Options for Wales*** Seminar with Geraint Talfan Davies, Chair, IWA.
- January
Cardiff ***National Libraries and Archives of the Future***, Dr Andrew Green, Librarian, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. Seventh lecture in the IWA/National Library and Museum centenary series.
- February
Caerleon ***Sport and Music: Armed for life?*** Recollections and reminiscences from Tony Lewis at IWA Gwent Branch Dinner.
- February
Swansea ***Capitalising on Convergence: Funding the Future of Swansea Bay*** with Professor Richard Davies, Vice Chancellor, Swansea University; Gordon Andrews, Head of Economic Development, Neath Port Talbot CBC; Professor Marc Clement, Senior Executive, Swansea University; Phil Holmes, Economic and Strategic Development, City & County of Swansea; Mike Jones, Federation of Small Businesses.
- March
Deganwy ***Celebrating Entrepreneurial Welsh Women***. Seminar with Tina Stephens, Director, SandS management consultancy and Chair, Management Development Network; Rachel Clacher, director, Moneypenny; Dr Olwen Williams, consultant in genito-urinary medicine and former Welsh woman of the year.
- March
Cardiff ***Wales and the Conservatives***, lunch talk by Cheryl Gillan MP, Shadow Welsh Secretary.
- March
Caernarfon ***New Economic Opportunities for North West Wales***. Conference with Vanessa Griffiths, North Wales Head of Enterprise, Welsh Assembly Government; Iwan Jones, Chair, NW Wales Economic Development Officers Group; Dafydd Iwan, Gwynedd Council; Sian Hope, University of Wales Bangor; Dave Rimmer, Technium Optic; Dafydd Hughes, Welsh Assembly Government; Sasha Davies, Anglesey County Council; Sheila Potter, Conwy Borough Council; Gerallt