

INSTITUTE OF WELSH AFFAIRS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST 2008

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Social Policy

One of the IWA's most important initiatives during the course of his year has been the creation of Academi Health Wales, a freestanding new forum within the IWA aimed at bringing together health professionals for dialogue and discussion on health policy. An inaugural conference in July, attended by senior representatives from across the health sector, agreed unanimously on the merits of such a development and this was followed by a dinner early in January addressed by Jonathan Morgan, chair of the National Assembly Health Committee, at which a new publication bringing together contributions from the conference, *The Welsh Health battleground: Policy Approaches to the Third Term* was launched.

The IWA jointly hosted a series of seminars – entitled the *Progressive Consensus* – with the Welsh Governance Centre at Cardiff University between February and April 2008 that will be the basis of a forthcoming publication. The distinguished speakers, Professor John Kay, Will Hutton, Professor David Marquand and Peter Stead reflected on the 'progressive consensus' mentioned in Labour and Plaid Cymru's *One Wales* coalition government agreement and discussed their views with an invited audience.

Education

Education also featured strongly in the IWA's work programme during 2007-8. Two Swansea branch debates on *Welsh Science: Unsung Past, Uncertain Future* and on *Science and the Public: Engagement or Divorce*, initiated by branch chairman Professor John Tucker, followed on from a wider conference on *A Science Policy for Wales* held in October 2006, (papers for this available on the IWA website). The Swansea branch returned to the topic in March with a further conference on *Science and Government: Options for Wales*, which was addressed by among others Prof. Christopher Pollock, research director at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research and Sir John Cadogan, former director, UK Research Councils.

Other aspects of education covered during the year included bilingual provision and small schools. Delegates to *Creating a Bilingual Wales: The Role of Welsh in Education* heard papers on models likely to achieve language gains and on Welsh teaching in English language schools and other relevant topics, and a second conference on *The Future of Small Schools* was held to coincide with the launch of a report, *Small School Closure in Wales: New Evidence*, by Professor David Reynolds and Meriel Jones, which used interviews with pupils, teachers and parents to study the experience of closure, amalgamation and re-organisation of primary schools in two contrasting Welsh counties. The findings, which to some extent went against conventional wisdom on the subject, generated substantial coverage of, and interest in, the report.

Culture

The IWA Mold 2007 Eisteddfod lecture- an established feature at Wales's most important Welsh language cultural event - was given by *History of Wales* author, Dr. John Davies, who assessed the contribution of a sometimes overlooked part of Wales in *Y Gogledd Ddwyrain yn Hanes Cymru (The North East in Welsh History)*. The previous month under the auspices of the Gwent branch, writer and broadcaster Lionel Fanthorpe chaired *Arthur Machen – Master of Holy Terrors* celebrating the 60th anniversary of the death of Caerleon horror writer, and in Swansea another in the successful ... in *Conversation with Peter Stead* series saw theatre director Michael Bogdanov discuss the future of theatre in Wales. On a broader theme, also during the year the IWA published a thought-provoking analysis of culture in the development of European identity and citizenship, *Europe: United or Divided by Culture?*, reflections by cultural consultant, Anthony Everitt, on a series of seminars under that title.

The Economy

The economy predictably loomed large within the IWA's work during the year with a number of events and publications focusing on different challenges facing Wales. In June, Michael Leahy, the Welsh-born general secretary of Community, one of Britain's big unions, with strong representation in the steel sector, spoke about *The Manufacturing Economy* and its importance to Wales at a lunch in Cardiff, and later in the same month the West Wales branch hosted a debate on *Agriculture and Energy* at which Paul Temple, vice president of the NFU, explored the opportunities for farmers to diversify into the energy sector. Findings from a conference on

the business and other opportunities for Wales arising out of the London Olympics 2012 and other major sports events were published in *Sport and Economic Regeneration*. (Also available on the IWA website.)

Two major economic reports were also produced by the IWA during the year. In *Auditing Welsh Industry: A Clusters based Approach – Aerospace* Rhys David of the IWA, David Pickernell of the University of Glamorgan and Nick Clifton of Cardiff University examined the strengths and weaknesses of the current structure and organisation of the aerospace industry, one of Wales's most important business sectors. The report is the second to be commissioned from this team by the Welsh Assembly Government's economic research department, following on from a previous more general study of clusters. Towards the end of the year Dr. John Ball of Swansea Metropolitan University called for a fundamental re-think of policy, which would move away from the often largely unconnected policies of the past, in a specially-commissioned work *A Strategy for the Welsh Economy*.

Economic conferences during the year included *Uniting the Nation: Establishing Integrated Communications Links between north and south Wales* and *The Stern Report and the Challenge for Wales*. The first of these represented a follow-up to work carried out by the IWA in the 1990s on this issue, made topical again by the inclusion of better intra-Wales links as one of the objectives set out in the One Wales agreement underlying the Labour-Plaid Cymru coalition government that came into power in July 2007. The latter event brought to Wales some of the thinking and some of the responses needed to the challenging report on energy policy produced by Professor Nicholas Stern for the UK government.

More than 150 people attended the final conference of the year, *The Heads of the Valleys Experience*, to hear deputy first minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, and regeneration minister, Leighton Andrews, unveil new initiatives designed to revive the economy of the area. Other speakers included Jonathan Adams of architects, Capita Symonds, who outlined how new and imaginative architectural thinking could bring exciting new ways of regenerating some of the physically most dramatic areas within the Valleys.

Political and Constitutional

In a Welsh election year political and constitutional issues again were a big part of IWA activity. The IWA hosted an Assembly election question time at Trinity College, Carmarthen, in the run-up to the polls and individual members of staff were called upon by the media to offer comment during the campaign and after the results had been declared. The devolution settlement was featured in *Devolution: A Decade On* by Keith Patchett, a response by the IWA to the House of Commons Constitutional Affairs committee's call for evidence, and following the agreement by the Labour-Plaid Cymru coalition partners to establish an all-party convention to investigate the issues surrounding a referendum on new legislative powers, the IWA's director, John Osmond, produced a monograph *Assembly to Senedd: The Convention and the Move towards Legislative Powers*.

Towards the end of the year Welsh First Minister, Rhodri Morgan addressed an audience of more than 180 at a West Wales branch diner on ways in which the One Wales programme agreed by the coalition partners could contribute to the development of a sustainable Wales.

Another major IWA development has been the launch of *Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad*, a regular newsletter produced jointly with Grayling, the public affairs consultancy. The publication replaces the previous Assembly monitoring reports that ran during the first two Assembly terms from 1999-2007, reporting in a more informal manner on latest developments from the Assembly and across the political scene in Wales.

Other

IWA director, John Osmond, returned to the institute in May 2007 after taking to stand in the Assembly elections of 2007. During the year Rhys David, who has served as associate director since February 2002 stood down from this post and was appointed a trustee of the institute. Other new appointments were Sue Essex, Robert Humphreys, and Chris O'Malley. The following members of the board tendered their resignations, Lyn Arnold, James Driscoll, Keith James, Gareth Jones.

Membership at the end of the year stood at 1,063 individuals, including 165 fellows and 133 corporate members.

Work began during the year on improvements and modifications to the IWA website to make it easier to use and to provide new ways of accessing IWA services. The work, arranged through Professor John Tucker's good offices and undertaken by Swansea University M.Sc. student, Helen Dodd, has resulted in a cleaner front page and better navigation. In addition, search capability has been improved through the incorporation of a Google

search facility, a weblog has been added and members can now purchase goods and services through a new payment facility (using Paypal). Further improvements are planned over the coming months.

For further information on any of the above activities, please visit the IWA website where you will also be able to download or purchase copies of IWA publications.

IWA Events

- April 2007
Carmarthen **Assembly Election Question Time** at Trinity College, Carmarthen
Chaired by Denis Balsom, political commentator, Christine Gwyther, AM, Labour, John Gossage, Liberal Democrat, John Dixon, Plaid Cymru, and Henrietta Hensher, Conservative.
- June 2007
Swansea **Welsh Science: Unsung Past, Uncertain Future** Swansea Bay Branch debate at the Royal Institution of South Wales, Swansea Museum
With Professor J V Tucker, Chair, IWA Swansea Bay Branch, Dr Louise Miskell, History Department, University of Wales Swansea, Dr Neville Evans, British Association for the Advancement of Science and Anthony Campbell, professor of biochemistry, Cardiff University
- June 2007
Cardiff **The Manufacturing Economy** Lunch at the Parkhouse Club, Cardiff
Michael Leahy, general secretary of Community, the union representing steel and other manufacturing and service sector employees spoke about the prospects for the steel industry and reflected on the 21st century role of the trade union movement.
- June 2007
Llanberis **Slate, North Wales and Cultural Tourism** North Wales Branch summer event at the National Museum, Llanberis.
Visit to the Lake Railway, with talks by Dafydd Roberts, museum keeper and Dewi Davies, North Wales Cultural Tourism Partnership
- June 2007
Cilgerran **Agriculture and Energy** West Wales Branch debate at Rhosygilwen, Cilgerran
This event explored the opportunities for farmers to diversify into the energy sector and will focus on ways to access funding at the European level. With Paul Temple, Vice-President, NFU and Sian Hughes, Brussels-based European energy communications expert
- July 2007
Cardiff **Academy Health Wales: Health and Social Care Policy in the Third Term**
Conference at UWIC Cyncoed.
The Academy Health Wales inaugural conference bringing together health professionals to discuss the establishment of a health academy that aims to provide a regular forum for dialogue and discussion on health policy. With Mike Ponton, Director, Welsh NHS Confederation, John Wyn Owen, Chair, UWIC Board of Governors, Tony Beddow, Welsh Institute of health and Social Care, University of Glamorgan, Rick Greville, Director, ABPI Cymru, Professor Ceri Philips, School of Health Science, Swansea University, Cerilan Rogers, Director, National Public Health Service for Wales, Malcolm Prowle, HLSP Consulting and Open University, Professor David Cohen, health economics, University of Glamorgan, Dr Helen Herbert, Chair, Welsh Council, Royal College of General Practitioners, Tina Donnelly, Director, Royal College of Nursing, Dr Stephen Monaghan, Public Health Director for Cardiff, and Tessa Shellens, Morgan Cole
- July 2007
Caerleon **Arthur Machen – Master of Holy Terrors** Gwent Branch with Academi at the University of Wales, Newport, Caerleon.
An evening celebrating the 60th anniversary of Caerleon horror author and chaired by Lionel Fanthorpe, with award-winning fantasy writers and experts, Simon Clark, Tim Lebbon, Catherine Fisher and Gwilym Games,
- August 2007
Mold **Y Gogledd Ddwyrain yn Hanes Cymru** (The North East in Welsh History)
Annual Lecture, National Eisteddfod, Mold. With Dr John Davies, historian and author of *A History of Wales*
- September 2007
Swansea **Science and the Public: Engagement or Divorce** Swansea Bay Branch evening debate, Royal Institution of South Wales, Swansea Museum
With Sir Roland Jackson, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, First Minister, National Assembly for Wales
As science and technology are transforming contemporary life, both materially and ethically, is society prepared to engage with change or risk alienation?

- October 2007
Cardiff **Creating a Bilingual Wales: The Role of Welsh in Education** Conference with the Welsh Language Board at Cardiff University Conference Centre exploring the complex relationship between bilingual provision and bilingual speakers, good practice in Welsh-medium immersion, models likely to achieve language gains, Welsh teaching in English schools, and raising of standards in Welsh teaching
- October 2007
Swansea **Michael Bogdanov in Conversation with Peter Stead** Swansea Bay Branch Lunch in association with the Dylan Thomas Festival, Dylan Thomas Centre, on the future of theatre in Wales
- November 2007
Cardiff **The Future of Small Schools in Wales** Conference and publication launch, Norwegian Church, Cardiff with Professor David Reynolds, University of Plymouth, Elizabeth Taylor, Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Welsh Assembly Government, Gerson Davies, Director of Education, Pembrokeshire County Council, Chris Llewellyn, Welsh Local Government Association
- January 2008
Llandudno **Uniting the Nation: Establishing integrated communication links between north and south Wales** North Wales Branch Conference at St George's Hotel, Llandudno with Professor Dylan Jones Evans; economic consultant, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister, Bob Diamond, former Director of Highways, Gwynedd Council, Professor Denis Hawkes, Hydrogen Research Unit, University of Glamorgan, Mike Gallop, Route Enhancement Manager, Network Rail, Dafydd Wigley, Chair, Bangor University Business School
- January 2008
Carmarthen **Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister, National Assembly.** West Wales Branch dinner, Carmarthen, exploring ways in which the One Wales programme for Government can contribute to the development of a sustainable region.
- January 2008
Cardiff **Academy Health Wales Dinner** at UWIC Cardiff
With Jonathan Morgan AM, Chair, National Assembly Health Committee. Launch of *The Welsh Health Battleground: Policy Approaches to the Third Term*, papers from inaugural Academi Health Wales conference
- February 2008
Cardiff** **The Progressive Consensus Seminar Series** at Cardiff University. First of four seminars examining the ideas underpinning the July 2007 One Wales coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru
Seminar 1 with Professor John Kay, academic and Financial Times columnist and an invited audience.
- February 2008
Hirwaun **The Heads of the Valleys Experience** Gwent Branch Conference at Ty Newydd Hotel, Hirwaun.
With Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister, Professor Kevin Morgan, European Regional Development, Cardiff University, Leighton Andrews AM, Deputy Minister for Regeneration, Nick Bennett, Welsh Federation of Housing Associations, Bob Brierly, South East Wales Transport Alliance, Jonathan Adams, Capita Symonds. Howard Burton, Coleg Gwent, Jonathan Deacon, Newport Business School, Patrick Lewis, Assembly Heads of the Valleys Programme
- February 2008
Cardiff **The Stern Report and the Challenge for Wales** Conference at Holiday Inn, Cardiff with Morgan Parry, WWF Cymru, Dr Calvin Jones, Cardiff University, Professor Peter Midmore, Aberystwyth University, Margaret Matthews, Managing Director, Dow Corning and Chair, CBI Wales, Matthew Quinn, Welsh Assembly Government, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economic Development and Transport, Welsh Assembly Government, Chris Mills, Director, Environment Agency Wales, Tim Williams, Head of Strategy, Welsh Water, Peter Davies, Sustainable Development Commission for Wales
- February 2008
Cardiff **The Progressive Consensus Seminar Series** at Cardiff University, examining the ideas underpinning the July 2007 **One Wales** coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru

Seminar 2 with Will Hutton, chief executive, Work Foundation, former editor of BBC Newsnight, and weekly columnist in the Guardian and Observer, and an invited audience

March 2008
Swansea **Science and Government: Options for Wales** Swansea Bay Branch Seminar at Swansea University
With Professor Christopher Pollock CBE, Research Director, Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, Aberystwyth, Sir John Cadogan FRS, Professor Julian Hopkin, Head of Swansea School of Medicine, and Professor John Tucker, Head of Computer Science, Swansea University.

March 2008
Cardiff **The Progressive Consensus Seminar Series** at Cardiff University, examining the ideas underpinning the July 2007 **One Wales** coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru
Seminar 3 with Professor David Marquand, former Labour MP chief adviser to the European Commission and an invited audience.

IWA Publications

April 2007 **Sport and Economic Regeneration**
Edited by Rhys David
Transcript of presentations from the IWA's October 2006 Sport and Economic Regeneration conference, held at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff.

July 2007 **Agenda**

September 2007 **Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad Newsletter** - the ABC of Welsh politics
New regular publication from Grayling and the Institute of Welsh Affairs focusing on contemporary Welsh political developments.

October 2007 **Auditing Welsh Industry: A Clusters-Based Approach - Aerospace**
By Nick Clifton, Rhys David, Oliver Ehret, David Pickernell
Research for the Welsh Assembly Government, carried out by the Institute of Welsh Affairs, University of Glamorgan and Cardiff University.

November 2007 **Small School Closure in Wales: New Evidence**
By David Reynolds and Meriel Jones
A new study on the experience of closure, amalgamation and reorganisation of primary schools in two contrasting Welsh counties. Interviews with pupils, teachers and parents, together with data on levels of achievement, provide surprising new evidence on the impact of school closures.

November 2007 **Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad Newsletter** - the ABC of Welsh politics

November 2007 **Devolution a Decade On**
By Keith Patchett
IWA Response to the House of Commons Constitutional Affairs Committee Call for Evidence

December 2007 **Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad Newsletter** - the ABC of Welsh politics

January 2008 **The Welsh Health Battleground: Policy Approaches to the Third Term**
Edited by John Osmond. Contributions made to the inaugural conference of Academy Health Wales in July 2007.

January 2008 **Assembly to Senedd: the Convention and the Move Towards Legislative Powers**
By John Osmond
"The new Government of Wales Act 2006 shakes the historic relationship between England and Wales to its roots ...The new legal situation in Wales means that we can now talk of the Welsh Statute Book, Welsh Law, and of redeveloping a body of laws which link us historically with the laws of the princes - the Law of Hywel - one of Welsh culture's most splendid creations, a powerful symbol of our unity and identity, as powerful indeed as the

Welsh language itself."

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer, National Assembly

January 2008

Agenda

January 2008

Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad Newsletter - the ABC of Welsh politics

February 2008

A Strategy for the Welsh Economy

By John Ball

The aim of this 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. It suggests an overarching, innovative and radical strategy based on developing business excellence and regional competitiveness.

March 2008

Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad Newsletter - the ABC of Welsh politics

April 2008

Europe: United or Divided by Culture?

By Anthony Everitt

Cultural consultant Anthony Everitt reflects on a series of seminars that explored the place of culture in the development of European identity and citizenship.

March 2008

Assembly Bwletin Cynulliad Newsletter - the ABC of Welsh politics

April 2008

The Progressive Consensus Seminar Series at Cardiff University, examining the ideas underpinning the July 2007 **One Wales** coalition agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru

Seminar 4 with Peter Stead, historian, writer and broadcaster, and an invited audience.