

August 2008 newsletter

Welcome to the latest issue of the IWA newsletter.



The IWA has a series of interesting events lined up for the Autumn. For further details or to book for any of these events please ring the IWA office (029 2066 6606) or email wales@iwa.org.uk

- Tuesday 5 August, 12.30, The Pagoda, Eisteddfod Showground, Cardiff, **Treftadaeth Yfory (Heritage Tomorrow)**, Alun Ffred Jones AM, Minister for Heritage. Lecture in Welsh, translation facilities available. Free entry.
- Friday and Saturday 19-20 September, **Transformation Nation: Responding to Climate Change** in Machynlleth. We have an exceptional line-up of speakers, including **Patrick Holden**, Chief Executive of the Soil Association and the Guardian's **George Monbiot**, who will give a keynote address on the Friday evening. Speakers on the following day include **Sir John Houghton**, former Chair of the Inter-governmental panel on Climate Change; **Mark Lynas**, author of *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*, and Morgan Parry, Chair of Cynnal Cymru: Sustain Wales. We will also be examining the Dyfi Valley UNESCO Biosphere designation. The aim of the conference is to explore in practical terms the complex interactions between climate change and rural culture: from the global to the truly local.
- Monday 20 October, Holiday Inn, Cardiff, **Wales in the World** Conference. What opportunities will we be presented with in the coming decade for developing a more strategic approach to putting Wales on the world map? As the Assembly Government's *One Wales* coalition agreement states, "In a globalizing economy, those places which will prosper in the future will be those which offer the clearest sense of stability, sustainability and identity." Keynote speakers include First Minister Rhodri Morgan; Professor Dylan Jones Evans, Director of Research and Innovation, University of Wales; Roger Lewis, Chief Executive, Welsh Rugby Union; and Carl Clowes, president of Dolen Cymru, the Wales-Lesotho link.
- Monday 10 November, Parc (Thistle) Hotel, Cardiff, Second IWA Academy Health Wales annual conference on the theme of **Innovation in Health and Social Care**. Keynote speakers include **Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council, and **Dr Tony Jewell**, Chief Medical Officer for Wales.

Forthcoming IWA Branch events include:

- Friday 24 October, 7.30 for 8.00 pm, Gwent Branch Dinner, Newport University, Caerleon. Guest Speaker; **Rt Hon Paul Murphy**, Secretary of State for Wales.
- Wednesday 5 November, 5.30-8.00 pm, North Wales Branch Seminar and Buffet, **The Future Health of the People of Wales**. With John Wyn Owen, Academy Health Wales, Dr Carl Clowes, Wales Centre for Health, and Dr Dyfed Huws, public health consultant.

- Friday 14 November, 8.00 – 9.30 am, Gwent Branch Breakfast Meeting, Waterloo Hotel, Pilgwenlly, Newport, **Newport Unleashed III**. John Burrows, Chief Executive, Newport Unlimited will reveal the latest developments in the city's exciting regeneration plans.

IWA at the National Eisteddfod

As July approaches its end, the Institute is yet again preparing to man its usual stand at the Eisteddfod in Cardiff's Pontcanna Fields and members and non-members alike are welcome to visit and exchange news and views with members of staff. You will also be able obtain details of the latest IWA publications, and see a selection on display.

The highlight of our week will be the IWA's annual Eisteddfod lecture, being given this year by the newly appointed Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones AM, on the theme *Heritage Tomorrow*. This is being held on Tuesday 5 August in the Pagoda on the Maes at 12.30pm. Attendance is free, although copies of the lecture will be on sale following the event. Do email us on wales@iwa.org.uk if you will be attending.

From Latent to Talent

A special event being held in association with the IWA during Eisteddfod week will be the launch of the Coalfield Talent Nurture Fund at the Angel Hotel at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 6 August.

The Coalfield Talent Nurture Fund provides an opportunity for creative Welsh individuals and groups to showcase their talent. The £100,000 fund seeks to help people living in the former coalfield areas overcome barriers in the search for a career in the creative industries by giving awards from £500 to £3,000 to make possible the purchase of equipment or to pay for training and other essentials. Larger awards of up to £10,000 or in exceptional cases more, can be made for match-funded projects. Applications can be made online at www.latent2talent.org, with the organisers promising a quick response to proposals they receive.

The bond, known as a Social Investment Bond, brings to Wales an idea developed by Cambridge-based Citylife. It already operates successfully in England and Scotland where a total of £10 million has been raised from investors, leading to a further £25m in EU and other funding being made available for a variety of regeneration projects. In Wales Citylife has worked with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to develop the idea of a Talent Nurture Fund, raising funding from a wide range of investors, individual and corporate. Investors are issued with Welsh Coalfield Bonds, technically a zero coupon bond on which no interest is paid. At the end of five years investors are repaid the capital sum they lent in full but the interest on loaning out the funds for social housing projects will be used in the meantime to make awards to talented individuals.

A selection panel chaired by Welsh businessman, Sir Roger Jones, will select the individuals and organisations which will receive the awards and a number of the contenders will be demonstrating their acts at the launch event in Cardiff. Strong support for the bond and the opportunities it will give to individuals setting out on a career in the creative industries has come from a number of leading Welsh entertainers, including James Dean Bradfield of the Manic Street Preachers.

Those interested in attending the event should call Bill Fitzgerald (029 20888899 / 07886043071). Those who would like to participate in fund-raising for future bonds should call Tim Jones (01223 488403).



Media in Wales – Serving Public Values

A specially commissioned IWA audit, *Media in Wales – Serving Public Values*, was published on the IWA website in early June. The report, prepared by IWA chairman, Geraint Talfan Davies, and IWA research officer, Nick Morris, was supported with an Assembly Government grant and provides a detailed picture of the media in Wales. To help publicise its findings, the IWA and Ofcom, the UK communications regulator, held a series of public conferences across Wales on the Future of Welsh Broadcasting - in Llandudno, Aberystwyth and Cardiff.

Conference attendees had the chance to discuss with a panel and each other their views and the findings of the IWA report as well as the first phase of Ofcom's second UK-wide public service broadcasting review, which has just concluded. Attendees at the conferences were particularly concerned at ITV plc's scaling down of its regional output in Wales, reducing the competition to the BBC for Wales-specific English language broadcasting. The report and the conference also featured significantly in news coverage.

A hard copy publication of Media in Wales – Serving Public Values price £10 (£7.50 to IWA members) plus £1.50 p&p is now available.

Futures of the Heads of the Valleys

This report comes up with new policy directions for a region which one of the contributors, Professor Steve Fothergill, former Director of the Coalfields Communities Campaign, describes as having "the most intractable development problems of any older industrial area in the whole of Britain." Based on a highly successful conference held in Hirwaun in early 2008, contributors also include Professors Kevin Morgan and Gareth Williams of Cardiff University; Wales Millennium Centre architect Jonathan Adams, IWA Trustee and former Financial Times journalist Rhys David; Regeneration Minister Leighton Andrews and Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones.

This report is available at £10 (£7.50 to IWA members) plus £1.50 p&p.

Ending Sovereignty's Denial

This paper, by IWA Director John Osmond, asks why Scotland was awarded full legislative powers at the start of the devolution process while Wales has been left to struggle to make an inadequate settlement work effectively. The answer is to be found in the confining of Welsh popular sovereignty by first the Liberal Party and then Labour over much of the past 150 years. "The overwhelming domination of these parties led them to believe that they embraced the essence of Welsh representation to such a powerful extent that no other force or point of view needed to be taken into account." However, the author finds that the coming of political pluralism to 21st Century Wales is ending this denial of sovereignty and providing a new opening for constitutional change.

This report is available at £5 (£3.70 to IWA members) plus £1.50 p&p.

The Future of Welsh Broadcasting

In May 2008, together with Ofcom Wales, the IWA convened an expert seminar to examine the future of broadcasting in Wales. The context was Ofcom's second review of public service broadcasting, currently underway. The review comes at a critical time with the imminence of digital switchover in which Wales is towards the front of the queue. Most immediately affected is the future of ITV 1 Wales, but there will be significant implications, too, for the BBC, S4C and the independent sector. The structures that have delivered broadcasting plurality and competition are breaking down. How should Wales respond?

This report is available at £5 (£3.70 to IWA members) plus £1.50 p&p.

Making Business Sense of Sustainable Development

The IWA hosted a conference at the newly refurbished Parc Hotel in Cardiff (formerly the Thistle Hotel), together with the Institute of Directors and Synnwyr Busnes/Business Sense from the University of Wales, Bangor. We are used to hearing about sustainable development in terms of recycling and using efficient light bulbs but Einir Young from Synnwyr Busnes challenged the conference to also consider sustainability in wider economic, cultural and social terms. The conference also heard from various practitioners of sustainable development, including a manufacturer of organic mattresses made with Welsh materials.

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