



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

**FABIAN  
SOCIETY**

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# CONTENTS

<b>The Fabian Society</b>	<b>4</b>
What we stand for	6
Our priorities 2021 to 2024	7
People	9
Membership	12
Local Fabian societies	13
<b>Report on activities</b>	<b>14</b>
Chair's report	15
General secretary's report	17
Young Fabians	19
Fabian Women's Network	21
Scottish Fabians	23
Welsh Fabians / Fabians Cymru	24
Local Fabian societies	25
Fabian policy groups	26
<b>A year in review 2022-23</b>	<b>27</b>
Publications	28
Jenny Jeger Prize	31
Events	32
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>34</b>
Treasurer's report	35
Auditor's statement	36
Balance sheet	37
Income and expenditure	38
Financial transparency	39
Membership income	41

# THE FABIAN SOCIETY

What we stand for

Our priorities 2021 to 2024

People

Membership

Local Fabian societies

# THE FABIAN SOCIETY

The Fabian Society is an independent left-leaning think tank and a democratic membership society with almost 7,000 members. We influence political and public thinking and provide a space for broad and open-minded debate.

We publish insight, analysis and opinion in print and online; conduct research and undertake major policy inquiries; convene conferences, speaker meetings and roundtables; and facilitate member debate and activism right across the UK.

As a think tank we have a reputation for high-quality, politically salient outputs that have a real impact on political and policy debate. Our staff team in London, Manchester and Edinburgh works with leading politicians and policy experts to develop and promote new ideas and to influence the climate of political opinion. We are affiliated to the Labour party and work very closely with Labour politicians, as well as influencing debate across the political spectrum. Hundreds of senior Labour politicians are members of the society, including Labour leader Keir Starmer MP and more than half of his shadow cabinet.

We are a membership society and our members are at the heart of everything we do. People become Fabians because they agree with our political values and want to support our work, and to access our content and participate in our events and activities. Our members set the society's direction through our democratic structures and they shape our programme as contributors and volunteers. Each year hundreds of activities are organised by and for our members by autonomous sections of the society – the Young Fabians, the Fabian Women's Network, the Scottish Fabians, the Welsh Fabians – and by Fabian networks and affiliated local Fabian societies.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

### **The Fabian Society is a socialist organisation which aims to promote:**

- Greater equality of power, wealth and opportunity
- The value of collective action and public service
- An accountable, tolerant and active democracy
- Citizenship, liberty and human rights
- Sustainable development
- Multilateral international cooperation

### **Fabianism**

The Fabian tradition informs how we think and what we do. Our commitment to Fabianism means we support the fight against inequality, the power of collective action and an internationalist outlook. We believe in social progress, evidence, expertise, rationality and long-termism. We advocate gradualist, reformist and democratic means in a journey towards radical ends. As a society, we celebrate our historic achievements and champion the collectivist institutions built by Fabians. We promote Fabian arguments within politics today and support the political development of people who share our values.

### **Supporting the Labour party**

As a Labour affiliate, we support the party in its efforts to win power at every level across the UK and to turn political ideas into real improvements in people's lives. Working closely with Fabian MPs and shadow ministers, we act as an independent-minded, critical friend, providing fresh thinking, addressing tough questions facing the party, and presenting viewpoints that can influence the direction it takes.

### **Pluralism and debate**

We are a pluralist movement that creates spaces and networks for open debate, to discuss political challenges and advance new thinking. We platform a diversity of opinion, and constructive disagreement is expected and respected. As an organisation we have no collective positions and we do not campaign for particular policies. Everyone who writes or speaks for the Fabians does so in their own name, without committing the society.

### **Equality and inclusion**

We strive to make the British left more diverse, equal and inclusive and to ensure that the left's ideas can create a more equal and inclusive society. We seek to create equal opportunities for political participation, in our own work and beyond, for people on the left from every background and identity. We work especially hard to platform and support people from communities which are underrepresented in the Fabian Society and public life.

# OUR PRIORITIES 2021-2024

## 1. Support the Labour party to win the next general election and return to government

by generating evidence and informing debate on political and campaign strategy; creating platforms for Labour to present and test its ideas; and seeking to influence political and public opinion in ways that boost Labour's electoral prospects

## 2. Secure the adoption of transformative Fabian policy proposals in the next UK Labour manifesto and in policy platforms at every level

by developing and packaging together evidenced, workable, transformative and popular policy ideas; deepening our strong collaborative relationships with Labour decision makers; and expanding our UK-wide influence and policy capacity

## 3. Help to build a strong, united and diverse Labour movement

by building bridges across the left and showcasing pluralist, respectful politics; improving equality, inclusion and diversity both within the society and the party; and supporting the political development and advancement of Fabians and people with Fabian perspectives

## 4. Strengthen the capabilities, activism and reach of the society

by improving our financial position, staff capabilities and use of digital and data; expanding member-led debate and policy activity; and building our profile through stronger marketing, communications and media.

**Our programme for 2021-2024 examines 4 themes:**

### POLITICS AND POWER

electoral strategy, political reform, unequal power

### STATE AND SOCIETY

social challenges, the welfare state, tax and spend

### ECONOMY AND WORK

economic reform, the future of work

### GREEN AND GLOBAL

climate change, UK in the world

### **Accountability and transparency**

The society is committed to accountability, transparency and ethical fundraising. We are led by a democratically elected executive committee consisting of members representing all parts of the society. Elections take place every two years. The executive reports to the society's annual general meeting which takes place in November. The rules and by-laws of the Fabian Society are the society's constitution. Rules are approved by general meetings, by-laws are approved by the executive committee. Autonomous sections of the society and local Fabian societies also have their own constitutions.

The Fabian Society is funded by our members and subscribers; by organisations which award us grants and sponsorships in connection with specific projects; and by sales of publications and event tickets. Our funding relationships are governed by a fundraising policy, approved by our executive committee. In particular, this stipulates that we will not accept funding from companies whose practices are deemed to be unethical; and that we do not carry out lobbying projects.

### **Independence**

The Fabian Society has editorial control over all our publications. Funding partners are invited to comment on draft outputs when they have relevant expertise but are not permitted to determine the contents of what we publish. The society is entirely independent from the Labour party. Our editorial output is not shaped or controlled by the party in any way.



## PEOPLE

### Executive committee

#### **Lord Roy Kennedy**

Chair

#### **Sanchia Alasia**

Local Fabian societies representative

#### **Emily Brothers**

Local Fabian societies representative

#### **Thom Brooks**

#### **Katie Curtis**

Staff representative

#### **Luke John Davies**

Local Fabian societies representative

#### **Anneliese Dodds MP**

Vice-chair

#### **Martin Edobor**

#### **Catherine Fookes**

Welsh Fabians

#### **Tom Gardiner**

#### **Kate Green**

#### **Zach Griffiths**

#### **Sara Hyde**

Vice-chair

#### **Lord Sonny Leong**

Acting treasurer

#### **Seema Malhotra MP**

#### **Marianna Masters**

Fabian Women's Network

#### **Martin McCluskey**

Scottish Fabians

#### **Catriona Munro**

#### **James Potts**

Young Fabians

#### **Wes Streeting MP**

### Staff

#### **Andrew Harrop**

General secretary

#### **Josh Abey**

Senior researcher

#### **Emma Burnell**

Media consultant

#### **Ben Cooper**

Senior researcher

#### **Kate Murray**

Editorial director

#### **Phil Mutero**

Finance and operations consultant

#### **Rory O'Brien**

Events and digital assistant

#### **Sasjka Otto**

Senior researcher

#### **John Rafferty**

Finance and operations manager

#### **Luke Raikes**

Research director

#### **Eloise Sacares**

Researcher

#### **Katherine Sangster**

National manager, Scottish Fabians

#### **Rebecca Scherer**

Events assistant

#### **Vanessa Singh**

Assistant Editor

#### **Shehana Udat**

Membership officer

#### **Iggy Wood**

Editorial assistant

**Scottish Fabians executive**

**Martin McCluskey**

Chair

**Catriona Munro**

Vice-chair

**Ian Murray MP**

**Daniel Johnson MSP**

**Sarah Boyack MSP**

**Baroness Meta Ramsay**

**Maggie McTernan**

**Albie Mills**

**Welsh Fabians executive**

**Mike Hedges MS**

Chair

**Catherine Fookes**

Vice-chair

**Shahinoor Alom**

Secretary & events

**Brandon Renard**

Social media & Young Fabian rep

**Mary-Ann Brocklesby**

Executive member

**Fabian Women's Network executive**

**Marianna Masters**

Chair

**Caroline Adams**

Mentoring scheme coordinator

**Victoria Akintomide-Akimwamide**

Fabiana Editor

**Emily Batchelor**

**Lucy Caldicott**

Vice-chair

**Josie Channer**

FWN councillor network

**Catherine Fookes**

FWN Nations

**Kelly Grehan**

Events coordinator

**Liz Hind**

Secretary

**Rachel Maguire**

Communications

**Christine Megson**

Mentoring scheme coordinator

**Lisa Raftery**

Vice-chair

**Anya Sizer**

FWN podcast coordinator

**Jackie Taylor**

## Policy group convenors

### **Mark Storm**

Defence and security

### **Michael Weatherburn & Louisa Metcalfe**

Economic and finance

### **Brian Matthews**

Education

### **Charlie Winstanley**

Health and care

### **Hannah McHugh**

Law and constitution

### **Chris Worrall**

Local government and housing

## Young Fabians

### **James Potts**

Chair

### **Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin**

Safeguarding officer

### **Ellie Anderson**

Treasurer

### **Panny Antoniou**

Outreach and international officer

### **Tina Bhartwas**

Women's officer

### **Clark Beken**

Blog editor

### **Owen Bell**

Communications officer

### **Cathleen Clarke**

Networks coordinator

### **Lauren Davison**

Antics Editor

### **Amy Dwyer**

Vice-chair

### **George Fairhurst**

Regions and nations officer

### **Cecilia Jastrzemska**

Careers officer

## MEMBERSHIP

### Individual

Standard	4,027
Student	942
Retired	1,044
Unemployed	393
Membership plus donation	292
	<b>6,698</b>

### Institutional

Trade Unions	7
Libraries	29
CLPs	10
Local Societies	12
	<b>58</b>

**6,756**  
**TOTAL MEMBERS ACROSS THE UK**

## LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES

### **BIRMINGHAM AND WEST MIDLANDS**

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### **BOURNEMOUTH**

### **BRIGHTON AND HOVE**

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### **READING AND DISTRICT**

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# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Chair's report

General secretary's report

Young Fabians

Fabian Women's Network

Scottish Fabians

Welsh Fabians / Fabians Cymru

Local Fabian societies

Fabian policy groups

## CHAIR'S REPORT

BY LORD ROY KENNEDY

It has been an honour to serve as chair of the Fabian Society this year. As a member of both Keir Starmer's shadow cabinet and the Fabian executive committee I am living proof of the strong ties between the society and the Labour party. With my frontbench colleagues on the executive - Anneliese Dodds, Sonny Leong, Seema Malhotra and Wes Streeting - we see every day the value the society brings to the Labour party's policy thinking and political debate.

I am very proud of the quality and quantity of the work produced by the Fabians in the 12 months from June 2022 to July 2023. The highlights included our New Year conference which had a stellar line-up of Labour shadow ministers led by Rachel Reeves; a serious and wide-ranging pamphlet on foreign policy from David Lammy; and the society's eagerly anticipated review of adult social care, which included some proposals which have already been adopted by Labour. Beyond these there were many dozens of policy events, a series of influential research reports and some brilliant commissioned reports from politicians and policy experts. Our small staff team have achieved an amazing amount during the year, working under Andrew Harrop's leadership. I thank them for their expertise, dedication and good spirit.

During my year as chair, I temporarily relinquished my duties as the society's treasurer. They were ably discharged by acting treasurer Sonny Leong, my good friend in the House of Lords.



It was certainly the right time for him to steward the society's finances. After some challenging periods over the last decade, I am absolutely delighted to see a significant rise in income this year and a healthy surplus. My thanks to Sonny for his expert oversight of the society's money and operations.

Over the year, our membership numbers held near steady, although I want to see the society grow again as the Labour party heads closer to power. The activism of our members continued to define what we are as an organisation, with countless activities over the year organised by and for Fabians. I am grateful to everyone involved in the inspiring work of the Scottish Fabians, Welsh Fabians, Young Fabians and Fabian Women's Network. I am impressed by the growing number of policy groups and pay tribute to the brilliant local Fabian societies who have found their feet again after the pandemic.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the executive committee who have served alongside me, representing members' interests, by providing direction and oversight for the society. The diversity of the Fabian Society is well represented on the committee, and this will be even more the case in the future following changes to the makeup of the committee agreed at the 2022 AGM. For the first time we have designated places for politicians from Wales, Scotland and the English regions, plus an elected convenor for local Fabian societies and Fabian councillors. I want to end by thanking one EC member in particular – Seema Malhotra MP – who is standing down this Autumn after an extraordinary 24 years on the committee. Thank you Seema for devoting so much to the Fabians.



# GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

BY ANDREW HARROP

The Fabian Society has stood by the Labour party through good times and bad. For all of us, 2022-23 was a year of rising hope and anticipation. With Labour riding high in the polls, the prospect of a return to national power was no longer remote. The society's role in shaping Labour policy thinking has never been more important.



Looking back on a packed period from July 2022 to June 2023, the society can be proud of the influence it has had. The 18 months before a general election is the time where parties' policy commitments start to firm up. We were delighted that the programme agreed at Labour's 2023 conference included several important Fabian proposals. These covered broadband social tariffs, an office for value for money, the design of a National Care Service, fair pay agreements, development on the green belt, bus franchise reform and the taxation of private schools.

A particular highlight was our work for Unison and the Labour party on the roadmap to a National Care Service. The society has produced a plan for adult social care reform which stands a genuine chance of becoming the blueprint for a comprehensive care service for England. The report containing these proposals was just one of seven research outputs published during a fruitful period for our expanded research team.

Other papers published during the year covered music education, pension reform, English devolution and employment insurance. We also continued our electoral strategy research, with work on how to win in Scotland, rural areas and coastal communities. The research team was also kept busy with major projects on regional inequality and pre-retirement poverty that were still underway as the year ended.

Our commissioned editorial output included three essay collections that examined community power, rural social policy and enduring centre-left values. On top of that we published five full-length pamphlets. Stewart Lansley wrote on the case for equality and Will Somerville and Sarah Mulley wrote on migration reform. Three MPs published pamphlets – Liam Byrne on the case for freedom, Kim Leadbeater on health and wellbeing, and David Lammy on foreign policy. The shadow foreign secretary's excellent report was another sign of the strength of the relationship between the society and the Labour frontbench.

The four quarterly editions of the Fabian Review covered Labour's future electoral coalition, the cost of living crisis, long-term challenges facing the UK and the reshaping of public opinion. The Fabian website continued to provide a lively stream of articles, including from emerging writers. We also launched a new podcast, Fabian Thinking, which interviews Fabian authors to delve deeper into the ideas behind our publications.

After the upheaval of the pandemic years, 2022-23 saw the return of a full 12-month cycle of in-person events. In July we hosted a Westminster lecture by Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar MP. Our packed Labour party conference programme of 27 events included panel sessions, roundtables and receptions. In January Rachel Reeves, shadow chancellor and lifelong Fabian, delivered the keynote address at our New Year conference. Over the rest of the year there was a regular drumbeat of speaker events, seminars and report launches, including a lecture by David Lammy and a speech from Wes Streeting responding to our National Care Service report. Our events also featured Mark Drakeford, Bridget Phillipson, Ed Miliband, Jonathan Reynolds, Anneliese Dodds and many other Labour figures.

Such a broad and impactful programme was only possible thanks to the outstanding contribution of the society's dedicated staff team under the leadership of Katie Curtis (events and membership), Kate Murray (editorial) and Luke Raikes (research). Wherever I go people are surprised by how much quality work we produce with such a small team of employees.

During the year we thanked and bid farewell to Josh Abey, John Rafferty and Vanesha Singh and welcomed Rory O'Brien, Sasjka Otto and Iggy Wood, plus Phil Mutero, our former finance and operations director, as a consultant.

It was a strong year for the society's finances thanks to the return of in-person events and their related funding partnerships. Our income increased by 20 per cent to £975,000, and we secured a welcome surplus to help strengthen our reserves. Membership was down slightly, falling 2 per cent to 6,756 individuals and institutions, which was better than we might have expected during a cost of living crisis.

The society's volunteer-led activity continued to flourish. The Fabian Women's Network delivered another cycle of our pioneering mentoring scheme for women in politics and public life. The Young Fabians and Welsh Fabians both organised successful and stimulating events, as did our much-loved local Fabian societies and our expanding network of policy groups. The Scottish Fabians, under the leadership of Martin McCluskey and Katherine Sangster, had a particularly successful year. They embedded their position at the heart of the Labour family in Scotland, with events, electoral analysis and in-depth policy research.

As ever my thanks to all Fabian members and volunteers, who are the heart of the society; to everyone who contributed to our programme by writing and speaking; to the leadership provided by the executive committee under Roy Kennedy; and to my brilliant staff team. The Fabian Society is helping build the foundations for Labour's return to power.

# YOUNG FABIANS

BY JAMES POTTS, YOUNG FABIANS CHAIR

It was another productive year for the Young Fabians and I am proud of what we accomplished. As we approach the general election, we are in good health to shape the future of the left.

## Impact and outputs

We returned our magazine, *Anticipations*, to quarterly production. This was our top priority, giving members the chance to write and for every member in the country to receive a magazine by young people, for young people. I'm proud of Jimmy Sergi and Lauren Davison for leading this work.

We also launched two pamphlets: *An Economic Lens to Recovering The Heartlands* and *Gendered Impact of the Pandemic*. Our blog continued to produce content, giving members the chance to publish their ideas. Our podcast also produced monthly episodes.

In March, we held the inaugural Dick Leonard Memorial Lecture, in honour of our founder. We heard from former Greek prime minister George Papandreou, introduced by Mark Leonard. My thanks to Panny Antoniou and Cecilia Jastremska.

At the Fabian New Year Conference, we hosted a "kitchen table" debate with a revolving door of speakers who debated the housing crisis. My thanks to Hollie Wickens.



We adopted a transphobia policy which covers all of our work, led by safeguarding officer Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without Owen Bell, who every Sunday evening produced our weekly newsletter.

## Developing the policymakers of the future

Our vice-chair, Amy Dwyer, did stellar work in creating our mentoring scheme. This saw over 130 Young Fabians take part in 1:1 sessions, with over 70 per cent based outside of London.

We conducted a survey of members to understand what they wanted from the Young Fabians, giving legitimacy to our agenda. Plus, we held an open day for new members to get more involved.

Our YF Academy continued to host events with a focus on training our membership in skills such as speechwriting. Additionally, we launched our Women's Advocacy Group.

The decentralisation agenda continued under the stewardship of George Fairhurst. Every region and nation of Great Britain now has a Young Fabian group after the launch of our group in Wales.

We have continued our full membership of the Young European Socialists, with members going on trips abroad, including Belgium and France.

### **Fundraising for the future of the Left**

2023 was the 25th anniversary of our annual Boat Party. We raised thousands of pounds, helped by sponsorship from SEC Newgate, and hundreds of pounds for Shelter through our raffle auction. I want to thank Ellie Anderson for pulling off a spectacular evening.

Furthermore, our Friends of the Young Fabians scheme continues to raise funds which helps us to cover our costs.

### **Legacy**

It has been another amazing year and I want to thank our brilliant membership, the executive committee and our officers from our networks and groups for their hard work. The Young Fabians is a special place and you have an important role to protect and enhance our legacy.

# FABIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK

BY MARIANNA MASTERS, FABIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK CHAIR

## Mentoring

The FWN mentoring program continues to be a great success. 26 members of Cohort 12 have just returned from their Barnsley weekend. The energy and enthusiasm were matched by the level of skills training.

This year was enhanced by the help of Roberta Blackman-Woods and Natasa Pantelic. There was also an inspiring visit from Stephanie Peacock MP. And there wasn't a dry eye in the house after Dan Jarvis MP told us his personal story of wanting to stand.

The cohort have been prolific in their offers of peer-to-peer skills training, which has been innovative and very well facilitated.

## Networking

The Fabian Women's Network continues to support women in public life through informal networking. WhatsApp groups allow women in the network to make connections where specific expertise is needed and to highlight the work of women in the network. Mentees report that they have been able to make significant professional links to support their work through the informal networks.



There are also WhatsApp groups dedicated to policy areas including housing, health, education, diversity, Labour party history, arts and media, government, law, and international development.

## Policy work

During the year, FWN pursued policy work linked to women in the criminal justice system. After a series of roundtables, a booklet, *Solidarity, Equality and Opportunity: Creating Strong Social Justice Systems for Women* was launched at Labour Party Conference 2022 with an event which included women with lived experience of the justice system, MPs and others.

The response was so great that a follow-up event was held in parliament, where women from across the justice sector joined parliamentarians to talk about the issues that cause female offending and the impact of female imprisonment.

A third event in the impact of maternal imprisonment took place at the 2023 conference.

At the Fabian New Year Conference, we organised a panel event on Black women's health.

### **Support**

Members of the women's network continue to report how supportive and welcoming the network is in their work. We have been described as a "haven" and a "safe space". As well as providing moral support the network also offers an opportunity for networking and professional support.

There are now over 250 trained mentees in the network. We are exploring ways in which we can improve the ways that mentees can contact each other, including the possibility of an on-line database, funds permitting.

It is also envisaged that this database of women experts in the Fabian Society could be used to improve the diversity of speakers and writers for the Fabian Society.

### **Equalities**

We are actively monitoring the selection of women candidates for the election. With the suspension of all women shortlists there is a concern that the number of Labour MPs who are women would drop. Several members of the Fabian Women's Network have put themselves forward for selection and have reported problems with the procedure. We have had reports of women feeling that they are on a shortlist to improve diversity with no chance of selection. The network will continue to support women who put themselves forward.

## SCOTTISH FABIANS

BY MARTIN MCCLUSKEY, SCOTTISH FABIANS CHAIR

The influence of the Scottish Fabians continues to grow. Our Winning Back the First Red Wall report received widespread media coverage both in Scotland and in the rest of the UK.

Just as UK Labour must recapture seats in the north lost to the Tories, the challenge for Scottish Labour is to appeal to key voters who make up the “heartlands” of Scotland. In September 2022, the Scottish Fabians ran an event at UK Labour party conference featuring this research and subsequent focus groups that we had conducted these key target voters in Scotland.

In this report the Scottish Fabians analysed the granular geographical and voter preference data generated by local elections in Scotland. Our analysis quantified the size of the opportunity for Labour and demonstrated that 25 seats are within its grasp by targeting “soft” SNP voters that are open to voting Labour and represent 1 in 5 of SNP voters. Our focus groups showed that it is failing public services and the cost of living crisis that blights these voters’ lives. Therefore, the task for Scottish Labour is to speak to those voters, particularly younger and more aspirational voters, about the economy, public services, and the cost-of-living crisis.

The focus of Scottish Labour should be to demonstrate a clear difference between the SNP and Labour in terms of policy in Scotland and the Tories in the UK.



The Scottish Fabians have a huge part to play in this, and over the last year have worked closely with Scottish Labour MSPs to support policy debate and development.

We held a roundtable in the Scottish Parliament and at Scottish Labour conference on social security reform within the devolved powers of the Scottish parliament.

In this year, our national manager Katherine Sangster has also written for The Scotsman, The Guardian and the i.

## WELSH FABIANS | FABIANS CYMRU

BY MIKE HEDGES MS, FABIANS CYMRU CHAIR

In January, a new executive committee for 23-24 was elected at our AGM. The members of the committee are as follows:

- Mike Hedges MS – Chair
- Catherine Fookes – Vice-chair
- Shahinoor Alom – Secretary & events
- Brandon Renard – Social media & Young Fabian rep
- Mary-Ann Brocklesby – Executive member

The Welsh Fabians had a great presence at the Welsh Labour Conference, with an exhibition stall and fringe event panel discussion on the Future of Criminal Justice in Wales.

The panel consisted of Eluned Anderson (Young Fabians), Jane Hutt MS (Welsh Government minister for social justice) and Dr Robert Jones (Cardiff University) while being chaired by our vice-chair Cllr Catherine Fookes.

Following the event, the Welsh Fabians published some of the contributions on the Welsh Fabians blog. The blog has been extremely successful this year with 25 submissions.



Opinion pieces were contributed by members of Senedd such as Jack Sargent MS, Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Jane Hutt MS and Carolyn Thomas MS as well as our Welsh MPs such as Christina Rees MP and Carolyn Harris MP.

It has been my pleasure to regularly update our Welsh Fabians blog, as well as to manage prominent figures in politics and public affairs to contribute.



## LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES

Local Fabian Societies were hit hard by the pandemic and the country's slow return to normal life. Sadly a number have wound up since 2020 and we have fewer groups meeting today than for several years. But nevertheless, there were some wonderful activities organised by local societies in every corner of the country. The societies came together for our annual secretaries meeting in the Spring to update each other on all their work.

Congratulations to Brighton and Hove Fabians who celebrated their 80th anniversary. Their president Baroness Joyce Gould hosted a summer garden party in glorious weather, with a speech from national chair Roy Kennedy.

Central London Fabians have pioneered mobile meetings in recent years. On one memorable occasion they hosted a guided walk of Walworth in south London that took in the former Labour party headquarters and the home of Ada Salter.

County Durham Fabians continued to be among our most active groups, with five meetings over the year. Attendance increased and there were discussions on devolution, local cuts, the cost of living, further education and a lecture on the historic Spennymoor Settlement.

The Fabian outpost in Grimsby also continued to host stimulating meetings. The highlight was a presentation by Ben Cooper from the Fabian Society research team on his work on what Labour needs to do to win in towns like Grimsby.

There was also plenty of interest in opening new Fabian societies. The year saw the launch of Northampton Fabians, organised by Mike Reader, former chair of Newham Fabians and now the Labour candidate in Northampton South. The new group has already started feeding in ideas following the financial collapse of the Conservative council. Croydon and Sutton Fabians relaunched after a quiet few years, with a meeting on challenges and opportunities for local government and a brand new website.

Reading Fabians are among those societies who have struggled to relaunch face-to-face meetings after Covid. They have retained virtual events and recently held an excellent meeting on donut economics.

It was all change at Peterborough Fabians, where Brian Keegan stood down as secretary after serving in the post almost continuously since 1978. All of us at the national Fabian Society send our very best to Brian and huge thanks for an extraordinary tenure.

In sadder news, we were devastated to hear of the unexpected death of Ian Taylor. He was the beating heart of Bournemouth Fabians and secretary for over 40 years. Under Ian's tenure Bournemouth Fabians were consistently the largest Fabian society in the country and for many years organised South West regional conferences. Ian was a devoted servant of the Fabian Society who is very much missed.

## FABIAN POLICY GROUPS

### Education policy group

The Fabian Education policy group continued to be very active during this last year. Two events were held in the House of Commons in this period, as well as monthly zoom meetings with prestigious speakers for members and meetings of the executive group.

The autumn term House of Commons event was on early years, in line with Labour's policy manifesto commitments and interest in this area. The second event was on OFSTED, which was then in the furore over the sad death of headteacher Ruth Perry. We read a statement from Professor Julia Waters and held a minute's silence for Ruth.

Both meetings had our usual format of five national and international speakers and then around an hour of Q&A with policy discussions and contributions from national policymakers; system leaders; professors; trade union inputs; and professional bodies. They were both valuable events to hold and information on the events was distributed to a wide number of MPs.

### Finance and economic policy group

The Fabian Finance and Economic Policy group received strong interest from members in the 2022-23 period. We're confident there will be fertile ground when new convenors are appointed, and look forward to further information on how to elect new convenors.

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Publications

Jenny Jerger Prize

Events

## PUBLICATIONS

July 2022

### **Fabian Review: Gaining Ground**

August 2022

### **A National Music Service: How to ensure every child can access a good music education**

Ben Cooper

### **Communities in Control: Pushing power down to spread prosperity**

Edited by Vanesha Singh

### **Winning Back the First Red Wall: Scotland and the path to a Labour government**

Katherine Sangster, Lewis Wotherspoon, Jake Ballantyne and Zack Langmead-Jones

September 2022

### **Fabian Review: Crunch Time**

### **Enduring Values: How progressives across Europe can win**

Edited by Kate Murray and Ania Skrzypek

### **The Equality Question: Why Labour should re-embrace its egalitarian roots**

Stewart Lansley

October 2022

### **Good Pensions for All: The left's agenda for private pensions**

Andrew Harrop

November 2022

### **Levelling Up? Lessons from Germany**

Luke Raikes

December 2022

### **Fabian Review: Fixing the Future**

### **Breaching the Sea Wall: Polling Labour's support in coastal towns**

Ben Cooper

### **Reclaiming Freedom: The case for a 21st century bill of powers and duties**

Liam Byrne MP

### **Green and Pleasant: Rebuilding rural Britain**

Edited by Ben Cooper and Iggy Wood

March 2023

**Healthy Britain: A new approach to health and wellbeing policy**

Kim Leadbeater MP

**In Time of Need: Building employment insurance for all**

Andrew Harrop, Howard Reed and Eloise Sacares

**Britain Reconnected: A foreign policy for security and prosperity at home**

David Lammy MP

April 2023

**Fabian Review: Poll Position**

June 2023

**Support Guaranteed: The roadmap to a National Care Service**

Ben Cooper and Andrew Harrop

**Lawful and Fair: Building a better migration system**

Will Somerville and Sarah Mulley



## THE JENNY JEGER PRIZE

The Jenny Jeger prize for writing was established to commemorate Jenny Jeger, chair of the society in 1984. The winners in 2021 were:

### **Full-length report**

#### **Thom Brooks**

New Arrivals: A fair immigration plan for Labour

### **Shorter writing**

#### **Anne Longfield**

for her chapter in Prescription for Fairness: remedying health inequalities in a post-Covid era

### **Younger writer**

The Young Fabians 60th anniversary project, edited by

**Milo Barnett and Hollie Wickens**

## EVENTS

July 2022

### **Fabian Society Lecture**

with Anas Sarwar MSP

Sep 2022

### **Labour Party Conference Fabian Society Fringe Programme**

November 2022

### **Fabian Society AGM and Members day**

with Steve Reed MP

December 2022

### **Learning and Skills - for economic recovery, social cohesion, and a more equal Britain**

with Lord David Blunkett

### **Harold Wilson**

with Nick Thomas Symonds MP

January 2023

### **New Year Conference**

with Jonathan Ashworth MP, Tanmanjeet Dhesi MP, Anneliese Dodds MP, Mark Drakeford MS, Dame Diana Johnson MP, Sarah Jones MP, Ed Miliband MP, Bridget Phillipson MP, Rachel Reeves MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Catherine West MP

March 2023

### **Meet the Policy Groups**

### **In Time of Need – Building employment insurance for all: report launch**

with Alison McGovern MP

### **Britain Reconnected: A foreign policy for security and prosperity at home**

with David Lammy MP

### **Reclaiming Freedom: The case for a 21st century bill of powers and duties**

with Liam Byrne MP, Jon Cruddas MP and Baroness Helena Kennedy

April 2023

### **Healthy Britain: a new approach to health and wellbeing policy – In conversation**

with Kim Leadbeater MP

May 2023

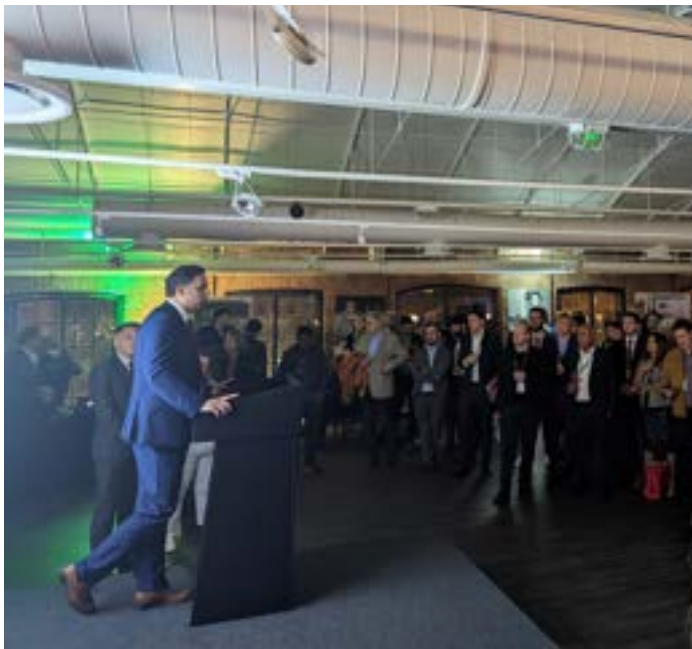
### **Fabian councillors get-together**

June 2023

### **Support Guaranteed: The roadmap to a National Care Service report launch**

with Wes Streeting MP





# FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's report

Auditor's statement

Balance sheet

Income and expenditure

Financial transparency

Membership income

# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY LORD SONNY LEONG

The last financial year has been positive with strong performances from the society's major income sources. We ended the year in a financially secure and confident position.

Membership income remained steady despite a rise in the cost of living. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Fabian members who have continued to support the organisation through membership fees, donations, and legacies. Without your support we would not be able to sustain the level of activity reflected in this report. Your generous contributions go a long way in making sure the Fabians' work progresses.

The strong financial performance gives the society an opportunity to start realising the long-term financial goal of building resilient cash reserves. Through the Finance & General Purposes sub-committee, we have set a reserve policy that regulates and monitors the society's reserves on a regular basis. We will continue to exercise rigorous controls and make prudent financial decisions regarding the society's resources.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we face the uncertainties of the general election. To mitigate against the related risks, we have built a two-year budget. The two-year budget will be updated next year at mid-point to reflect performance for the year and outlook. Later this calendar year, we will start the process of developing a long-term strategy and business model that will replace the current one coming to an end. This will be approved by the incoming executive committee.



I look forward to your continued support through membership and general donations as we build a war chest ahead of the coming general election to help the Labour party prepare for a return to office.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to all our staff, led by Andrew Harrop, for the fantastic work they do, from delivering packed conference programmes essential to our finances to managing publications and research output with limited capacity. We are all grateful for your hard work and dedication.

## AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

**By Knox Cropper LLP, chartered accountants, statutory auditors. 65/68  
Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2AD**

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Fabian Society (the 'Society') for the year ended 30 June 2023 which comprise the Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at 30 June 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# BALANCE SHEET

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		1,169,079		1,183,787
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors and Prepayments	170,036		162,723	
Bank and Cash	19,871		14,423	
	<b>189,907</b>		<b>177,146</b>	
<b>CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>				
Creditors and Accruals	(102,584)		137,564	
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>		87,323		39,582
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		1,256,402		1,223,369
<b>CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</b>		(23,247)		(34,137)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,233,155</b>		<b>1,189,232</b>
General Fund		1,199,189		1,174,228
Restricted Funds		33,966		15,004
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>1,233,155</b>		<b>1,189,232</b>

To view the full financial statements, please contact:  
The Fabian Society, 61 Petty France, London SW1H 9EU

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Individual Members	345,292	356,142
Institutional Affiliations and Subscriptions	5,000	5,225
Donations and Legacies	57,072	44,716
Publication Sales	150	3,192
Conference and Events	233,142	108,720
Publication Sponsorships and Advertisements	62,242	44,190
Research Projects	260,547	232,677
Rents	11,942	16,100
Bank Interest, Royalties and Miscellaneous	85	419
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>975,472</b>	<b>811,381</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Research Projects	47,163	33,240
Staff Costs	500,061	444,002
Printing and Distribution	113,738	105,953
Conference and Events	81,483	62,625
Promotion	2,790	1,162
Affiliation Fees	7,060	7,428
Postage, Phone and Fax	6,094	4,945
Depreciation	22,943	24,210
Office Costs	18,851	14,802
Stationery and Copying	9,435	14,287
Legal and Professional	26,220	5,216
Irrecoverable VAT	(745)	331
Premises Costs	62,360	53,916
Bad Debts	413	1,560
Information Systems	33,683	29,978
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>931,549</b>	<b>803,555</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Before Tax and Transfers</b>	<b>43,923</b>	<b>7,826</b>
Transfers from Reserves	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before taxation	43,923	7,826
Corporation Tax	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>43,923</b>	<b>7,826</b>

## FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Income associated with specific research, editorial and events projects totalled £555,931 in 2022-23 and came from a wide range of companies, trade unions, non-profit organisations and trusts. Funders providing £7,500 or more are declared alongside the specific events and publications they supported and a list for 2022-23 is provided below.

FUNDER	AMOUNT £	CONFIRMED FUNDING
ABI	9,250	Labour Party Conference
ABI	20,500	Climate resilience research
ABPI	7,500	Labour Party Conference
Age UK	7,500	Labour Party Conference
British Red Cross	8,500	Labour Party Conference
BT	7,500	Labour Party Conference
Charities Aid Foundation	7,500	Labour Party Conference
City of London	8,500	Labour Party Conference
Dartmouth Street Trust	27,500	Practical power research
Experian	7,500	Labour Party Conference
FEPS	32,988	New Year Conference and policy pamphlet
FES	10,300	Working hours research
FES	10,500	Labour Party Conference
G15 housing association	7,500	Labour Party Conference
ICAEW	15,000	Fiscal devolution research
JRRT	65,000	Hung parliament research
Lloyds Banking Group	19,500	Labour Party Conference
LV	7,500	Labour Party Conference
LV	10,000	Environment research
Mark Pears	15,000	Policy Pamphlet
Newcleo	8,500	Labour Party Conference
Phoenix Foundation	74,160	Pre retirement poverty research
Post Office	7,500	Labour Party Conference

## 40 FABIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Power to Change	7,500	Labour Party Conference
Royal College of Surgeons	7,500	Labour Party Conference
Shelter	7,500	Labour Party Conference
Unbound Philanthropy	22,500	Policy pamphlets
Unison	29,150	National Care Service research
Which?	7,500	Labour Party Conference
WWF	8,333	Labour Party Conference
WWF	23,000	Rural social policy research



## **MEMBERSHIP INCOME**

Our membership income comes from subscriptions and supplementary donations from members, associate members, affiliates and institutional subscribers. In 2022-23 this amounted to £350,292. As of 30 June 2023, we had 6,756 members, affiliates and subscribers. No individual donated more than £5,000 to our general funds.

The Fabian Society would like to thank all of its donors without whom we would not be able to do what we do. The names below are of those donors who agreed to be named. There are many more who wish to stay anonymous but to whom we are equally grateful.

Zaynab Abdullahi, Mark Addison, Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Naomi Borley Alabi, Varlene Alexander, Amina Ali, Jahangir Alom, Callum Anderson, Grahame Anderson, Charlotte Angwin, Alex Astley, Graeme Atherton, Lianne Babbs-Reilly, Dan Barrow, Jennifer Beever, Mason Bell, Leila Ben-Hassel, David Biddle, Frances Bill, David Binney, Kate Bowen-Viner, Sarah Boyack, James Boylan, Andrew Boyle, Matthew Bradberry, James Broughton, Susan Burns, Lucy Caldicott, Will Campbell-Wroe, Sonia Caprari, Sarah Carter, Kevin Cathcart, Rita Chadha, Jennifer Chan, Ken Chapman, Toby Chapman, Marius Cheek, Sherif Choudhry, Yuxuan Chua, Frazer Clarke, James Coleman-Mills, John Cooper, Joanna Copley, Nicholas Corti, William Coxon, Alister Cryan, Suzy Cuthbert, Jeannie Davidson, Daniel Davies, Charlotte Davies, Alex Dawes, Charlie Dexter, James Dinsdale, Jobe Doherty, Robert Douglas, Sarah Dove, Dee Dutta, Esosa Ekperigin, Fraser Elliott, Andrea Escott, Connor Escudero, Ben Evans, Max Everest, David Eyles, Gareth Field, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Veronica Foote, Jane Ford, Andrew Forrester, Richard Franklin, Edmund Frondigoun, Andy Furlong, Adam Fyfe, Olek Gajowniczek, Victoria Garrad, Christopher Gaskell, Alexander Georgiou, Patrick Geraghty, Emma Giddings, Richard Gidwaney, Joshua Gledhill, Gareth Gould, Lee Goulsbta-Miller, Robyn Gow, David Grant, Rob Grayston, Kate Green, Tom Green, Zach Griffiths, Jerry Hague, John Halton, Connor Hanagan Morrissey, James Joseph Hansen, Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal, Christopher Harris, Michael Harrison, David Harrold, Kashmire Hawker, William Hayles, Gerard Heffey, A.J. Heyes, Alison Holbourn, Tim Hoyle, Rajvinder Jagdev, Pete Jarrett, Mikhail Johaadien, Si Jones, David Jones, Ricky Joseph, Kevin Josling, Anne Joynes, Tom Jupp, Stephen Kamalarajan, Jenny Kech, John Kennedy, Barry Kidson, Alexander Kirk, Robert Knapp, Lee Laudat-Scott, Alice Lazzati, Alex Lee, Graham Leggatt Chidgey, Sheila Little, Oussama Louhaidia, Paul Lynch, Adam Lynn, Patrick Macauley, Liam Martin-Lane, Hugh Matheson, Bilqees Mauthoor, Joannah McBride, Patrick McGovern, Anne McGurk, Jim McMahon, Rebecca Mileham, James Millar, Sarah Miller, Liz Minns, Mignon Molyneux, Phil Moorhouse, Richard Moorsom, Stuart Murden, Tamara Murray, David Murrell, Dan Neidle, John Newham, Samantha Niblett, Thomas Nicholson, Mark Norris, Peter North, Emma O'Dwyer, Arthur O'Connor, Victoria Oguntope, Victoria Olisa, Roseann Pailor, Georgios Papadopoulos, William Parker, Helen Parry, Laura Pascal, Trevor Perrin, Aimi Persand, Eloise Peters, Harry Peto, Victoria Phillips, David Pinney, Leo Plass, Joshua Potter Hall, Mark Poulson, Andrew Powell, Leslie Alan Pumm, Max Quarterman, Oliur Rahman, Shantanu Rajawat, Uzma Rasool, Christian Rauch, Margherita Rendel, George Richford, Jennifer Riddell Carpenter, Lucy Rigby, Michael Riordan, Clare Roberts-Molloy, Elisabeth Robertson, Alison Robinson, Avril Rogers, Ludovico Roi, Rani Rooke, Shane Rooney, Jonny Ross-Tatam, Andy Rothery, Matthew Rowe, James Sandbach, Isabel Saunders, Kyran Schmidt, Skarlett Schubert, Jane Sedgwick, Jeremiah Shangotola, James Sheward, Joe Shuttleworth, Luke Silcock, Elizabeth Simpson, David Simpson, Richard Slack, Rosemary Slater-Carr, Robert Smith, Jed Smith, Peter Smith, Niall Sookoo, Bogdan Stanescu, Neil Stewart, Carol Storer, Paul Sullivan, Mikey Sykes, Mariya Talib, Helen Taylor, Ben Taylor, Alex Teale, Laura Thompson, Hannah Thornley Hill, Natalie Thorpe, Trevor Toogood, Ros Townsend, Polly Toynbee, Nicholas Trickett, Owen Trotter, John Urquhart, Dennis Vaughan, Ryan Wain, Susan Walker, Darren Wallace, Claire Ward, Peter Waring, Will Watts, Thomas Peter Wilson, Freda Wolfenden, Lee Wood, Matthew Worrall, Matthew Wright, Tatiana Zaitseva.





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