



# 2017-18

## ANNUAL REPORT

**FABIAN**  
SOCIETY

# Contents

About the society	3
Chair's report	5
General secretary's report	6
Scottish Fabians	7
Welsh Fabians	8
Young Fabians	9
Local Fabian societies	10
Fabian Women's Network	11
Fabians remembered	12
Year in review	13
Local Fabian society listings	15
Treasurer's report	16
Auditor's statement	17
Accounts	19

# About the society

The Fabian Society is an independent left-leaning think tank and a democratic membership society with over 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 seek to influence political and policy debate. Our staff team in London and Edinburgh work with a wide network of leading politicians and policy experts to develop and promote new ideas and to influence the climate of political opinion.

We are also a membership society and our members are at the heart of everything we do. They set the society's direction, through member meetings, elections and committees. They shape our programme as contributors and volunteers. And 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 50 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

The society is a place for open debate where 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. We strive to create equal opportunities for political participation – in our own work and beyond - to people on the left from every background and identity.

The Fabian tradition informs how we think and what we do. No other think tank has an 'ism' of its own. Our commitment to Fabianism means we believe in 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. We are a pluralist movement and create space for open debate.

## Our priorities 2018/19 to 2020/21

We have three political objectives during 2018/19 to 2020/21. They are to:

- See Fabian proposals and perspectives adopted by politicians at every level
- Bridge divides within the left, bringing people from different traditions together
- Ensure that Fabian values and outlooks endure and are well understood

Our political and policy programme is focused on three core themes:

- The left, politics and the future of Britain

- The state, collectivism and inequality
- Good work and sustainable prosperity

We have three organisational development goals:

- Increasing our impact
- Growing our membership and activism
- Building stronger capabilities and a sustainable organisation

### Executive committee 2017-2018

**Kate Green MP** (chair), **Ivana Bartoletti** (vice chair), **Ria Bernard** (Young Fabians), **Stephen Bradley**, **Emily Brothers** (local Fabian societies representative), **David Chaplin** (treasurer), **Luke John Davies** (local Fabian societies representative), **Martin Edobor**, **Matthew Hexter** (Welsh Fabians), **Sara Hyde** (Fabian Women), **Lord Kennedy**, **Seema Malhotra MP**, **Alison McGovern MP**, **Jim McMahon MP**, **Catriona Munro** (vice chair, Scottish Fabians), **Reema Patel**, **Sarah Sackman**, **Tobias Phibbs** (former staff representative), **Howard Stoute** (local Fabian societies representative)

### Fabian Society staff 2017-2018

**Andrew Harrop** (general secretary), **Olivia Bailey** (deputy general secretary), **Kate Murray** (editorial director), **Claire Sewell** (former head of media and communications), **Rabyah Khan** (media and communications manager), **Vanesha Singh** (editorial assistant), **Alexandra Sanderson** (director of events and partnerships), **Robin Harvey** (events and communications officer), **Cameron Tait** (former senior research fellow), **Jason Brock** (senior researcher), **Tobias Phibbs** (former researcher), **Phil Mutero** (operations director), **Giles Wright** (former membership officer), **Shehana Udat** (membership officer), **Deborah Stoute** (local societies officer), and **Katherine Sangster** (Scottish Fabians manager)

### Young Fabians committee

**Ria Bernard** (national chair), **Rob Newbery** (vice-chair), **Kuba Stawiski** (secretary), **Ava Etamadzadeh** (treasurer), **Charlotte Norton** (Anticipations editor), **Kyalo Burt-Fulcher** (networks liaison officer), **Miriam Mirwitch** (welfare officer), **Ben Gartside** (Anticipations contributing editor), **Deeba Syed** (parliamentary liaison officer), **Jack Phipps** (Anticipations deputy editor), **Ludovica Orlando** (European outreach officer), **Adam Allnutt** (local government officer)

### Fabian Women's Network committee

**Ivana Bartoletti** (chair), **Sara Hyde** (vice-chair), **Jos Bell** (secretary), **Sanchia Alasia**, **Paulina Jakubec** (treasurer), **Sheila Chapman**, **Amna Abdullatif**, **Shaista Aziz**, **Reema Patel**, **Seyi Akiwowo**, **Christine Megson** (co-opted mentoring programme coordinator)

### Membership 2017-18 (as of 30 June 2018)

	2016	2017	Change
<b>Individuals</b>	7,040	7,168	128
<b>(of which Young Fabians)</b>	(1,873)	(1,923)	(50)
<b>CLPs, co-ops &amp; trade unions</b>	52	34	-18
<b>Libraries</b>	106	93	-10
<b>Corporate</b>	17	0	-17
<b>TOTAL</b>	7,215	7,295	80





## Chair's report

Kate Green MP  
Chair, Fabian Society

**T**he parliamentary agenda might be bogged down in Brexit, with little space for any other subject, but the past 12 months have seen the Fabians covering as wide a range of policy topics as ever. The crises in our politics, our public services and our post-Brexit future mean there's no time to be lost and we need to be thinking about the radical policy solutions the country will require as we face an uncertain future.

So this year, we are very pleased to have launched our Commission on Workers and Technology, chaired by Yvette Cooper MP. We're very grateful for the support of Community union for this vital, future-focussed and innovative work on the radical changes that automation will bring, and to our fabulous commissioners from Google, Sage, the University of Oxford and Nesta, among others.

We also concluded the Bach Commission on the future of legal services, a two years' programme of work, which has been warmly welcomed by both the Labour frontbench and the legal sector. We are very grateful to Lord Willy Bach for his stewardship of the project, and to the commissioners. The society was particularly sad to learn of the death of Sir Henry Brooke, the commission's vice chair, who made a hugely valued contribution to the project.

We've also published on the NHS, social care, progression in the retail sector, growing household incomes, Labour's National Education Service, pensions, and private sector trade unions. Our work on Labour's political strategy saw the publication of our important Labour Country report, looking at how the party reconnects with rural areas.

Our conferences, roundtables and discussion events are always highly popular and well attended. We were delighted to welcome Sadiq Khan as the keynote speaker at our New Year conference, and Diane Abbott, Keir Starmer and Ed Miliband to address our summer conference, while the Scottish Fabians hosted Gordon Brown as keynote speaker at their conference in June in Edinburgh. We held a special conference marking 100 years of women's suffrage, and a number

of roundtable events over the year, for example on improving support and wellbeing in later life, and were very pleased that members of Labour's frontbench teams were in attendance to share ideas and participate in the discussions.

Our local societies, Fabian Women's Network and Young Fabians have also conducted a busy programme of events, including the launch of the Young Fabians alumni network at the LSE, and Fabian Women's groundbreaking work on the future of artificial intelligence, looking particularly at its impact on women.

The support of our executive committee members, policy groups and especially our staff, is of course absolutely crucial to the success of the society. This year, we were sad to say goodbye to Giles Wright, Claire Sewell, Cameron Tait and Tobias Phibbs from our staff team, but glad to welcome Vanesha Singh, Jason Brock and Rabyah Khan who have joined us. I want to place on record my particular thanks to our general secretary Andy Harrop, and deputy general secretary, Olivia Bailey. Their dedication, expertise and enthusiasm are fundamental to the society's reputation for excellence, creativity and thought leadership. Fabian members can be assured the society is in very good hands under their leadership.

**The crises in our politics, our public services and our post-Brexit future mean we need to be thinking about radical policy**



## General secretary's report

Andrew Harrop  
General secretary, Fabian Society

**T**he surprise result of the 2017 general election means Labour now has a realistic chance of winning again and entering government. This has re-doubled the need for practical policy thinking on the left and the society's 2017/18 programme reflected that.

Fabian reports published during the year ranged widely, from environmental policy to electoral strategy. We examined the left and human rights, how to boost local environmental activism, the next stage of pensions reform, Labour's electoral prospects in the countryside and strategies for raising living standards. The Changing Work Centre, our partnership with Community union, also produced four reports on reviving unions in the private sector, international innovation in skills policy and employment progression for retail workers.

The highlight of the year was the publication in September 2017 of the final report of the Bach Commission on Access to Justice, which set out radical and workable plans to introduce a Right to Justice Act and overhaul access to legal aid. Under the superb leadership of Lord Willy Bach (chair) and Sir Henry Brooke (vice chair, who sadly passed away in 2018) the commission brought together incredible legal expertise and secured support from across the political spectrum – the latter demonstrated in a special House of Lords debate on the report in December 2017.

The year also saw the society host three major conferences with speakers including Yvette Cooper, Ed Miliband, Keir Starmer, Diane Abbott and Sadiq Khan. We also welcomed Gordon Brown to two Fabian events. And as ever, the society organised a busy and well-attended fringe

programme at Labour party conference.

From an operational perspective it was a year of transition and change for the society. At Christmas 2017 Giles Wright retired from our staff team after 30 years as the society's membership officer with a very warm send-off; and there were other staff changes as well, with Cameron Tait, Tobias Phibbs and Claire Sewell leaving the society after making excellent contributions. I would like to thank all the dedicated Fabian employees past and present.

They work incredibly hard and produce a huge amount with limited resources.

**The surprise result of the general election has re-doubled the need for practical policy thinking on the left and the society's 2017/18 programme reflected that**

During the year we also introduced a new website, database and privacy policy which entailed a vast quantity of work behind the scenes but have equipped us with modern, professional capabilities. This is no mean achievement as

our finances during the year were sometimes precarious, particularly after the 2017 election put our usual cycle of fundraising on hold.

The society's membership continues to be in good health, with our member numbers remaining steady over the year and close to an all-time high. I was delighted to see the relaunch of the Welsh Fabians in 2017 – and the Scottish Fabians, Young Fabians and Fabian Women's Network were all very active. The society's new international policy group also produced an exceptional programme of events and similar groups on other issues began to meet.

Thank you to the society's executive committee for the huge support they've offered me and for all they do to represent and lead the society – and especially to David Chaplin, our treasurer, and Kate Green MP, our chair, who has been a tireless ambassador for the society.



## Scottish Fabians

Catriona Munro  
Chair, Scottish Fabians

**S**cottish Fabians have had an exciting year. At our AGM in January, Emily Thornberry gave a wide-ranging talk about foreign policy in these unstable times.

At Scottish Labour party conference in March, Evan Williams chaired a discussion entitled 'Scotland's Future: jobs, the economy and work'. Martin Whitfield MP, Jackie Baillie MSP and Susan Harkins, Head of Business Gateway considered the challenges ahead for Scotland's economy.

We held a one day conference in June featuring a keynote speech from Gordon Brown and sessions on Brexit, equality and the future of Labour in Scotland.

Ed Miliband joined us for a drinks party during the Edinburgh Festival to raise funds to enable two Scotland-based women to participate in the Fabian Women's Network mentoring scheme. The event was a huge success. Many selfies were taken with Ed.

Over the summer months, we launched the Scottish Fabians Women's Network with the support of Kezia Dugdale MSP and we now have two Scottish mentees participating in the UK programme. Kezia Dugdale will be a mentor, passing on her experiences in

entering politics and supporting others to do the same.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Noel Foy as secretary of East Lothian Fabians. He has been a stalwart of Scottish Fabians over many years, and a driving force in East Lothian Fabians. Mark Davidson has assumed his role and East Lothian Fabians are running a series of Pints and Politics events. Local societies in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Fife are being revitalised.

### **We are aiming to align policy work more closely with the activities of the Scottish and Westminster parliaments**

We were also sorry to lose from the Scottish Fabian executive Margaret Curran, Frankie Grant and Drew Smith, whose contribution has been enormously valued. We were delighted, however,

to welcome Martin McCluskey, Francesca Sellors, Alex Sanderson, Paul Sweeney, Martin Whitfield and Cat Headley to our executive, and to welcome back Evan Williams.

We continue to work to ensure that an understanding of Scotland and its politics are factored into everything that the Fabians do at UK level. In addition, we are aiming to align policy work more closely with the activities of the Scottish and Westminster parliaments in order to maximise impact. Our highly skilled and hard-working national manager, Katherine Sangster, makes all of this possible.



## Welsh Fabians

Matthew Hexter  
Chair, Scottish Fabians

Since October 2017, the Welsh Fabians have engaged in a programme to ensure we are an active part of the Welsh polity. We have held numerous events and started an active blog, but there is still much more to do.

In March of this year, the Welsh Fabians co-hosted a panel event at the Welsh Labour Conference in Llandudno with the Learning and Work Institute, Wales. The focus of the panel event was lifelong learning. Those invited to speak were Eluned Morgan AM, minister for lifelong learning and the Welsh language, Dave Hagendyk, director of the Learning and Work Institute, Wales and Cllr Sarah Merry, deputy leader of Cardiff council and cabinet member for education. The event was well attended by delegates and other conference attendees and a good relationship with Learning and Work Wales was fostered.

The new Welsh Fabians blog has been a fantastic success with a number of Welsh assembly members, members of parliament, union officers and ordinary Welsh Fabian members contributing articles on topics such as poverty, housing and medicinal cannabis. In addition to these articles, all of the candidates in the Welsh Labour leadership election have contributed an article to the blog, with hopes that each will launch a policy on the blog during the course of the campaign.

**Since October 2017, the Welsh Fabians have engaged in a programme to ensure we are an active part of the Welsh polity**

The aim for 2019 is producing a small pamphlet for Welsh Fabian members and Welsh third sector organisations containing a selection of articles that discuss the past 20 years of devolution and the next 20 years of Wales' future. We hope our 2019 report will report back on what a wonderful success this pamphlet was.





## Young Fabians

Ria Bernard  
Chair, Young Fabians

**T**his year has seen us put policy development back at the heart of the Young Fabians; ensuring member engagement in our research and publications and formalising a new policy submission process accessible to members on our website. Consequently, we have seen five publications launched this year.

Increasing the influence of our policy ideas and publications has also been a focus for the year and we have been developing our policy impact strategy through consultation with members.

We have contributed evidence to parliamentary inquiries and select committees:

- Our Global Ready Britain report was submitted to the foreign affairs' select committee's Global Britain Inquiry
- Evidence from our Nation Divided pamphlet was submitted to the social integration APPG's intergenerational connection inquiry and the House of Lords' intergenerational fairness & provision commission
- Emma Hardy MP referenced points that I made at one of the education network's roundtable events.

We also launched the Young Fabian Alumni Network in partnership with the LSE.

### **A nationwide organisation**

- More events organised outside of London than ever before
- We increased live-streaming and recording of a greater proportion of our events.
- Exec members have spoken at local Fabian societies
- We welcomed our newest affiliate, the York Young Fabians, which officially launches on 1 November 2018

### **Empowering Members**

We have empowered our members through hosting a range of events

- Global-Ready Britain: taking stock as we go it alone fringe at Fabian Society New Year conference with economist, Vicky Pryce; former

YF Chair, James Hallwood, and David Hale.

- Are Millennials destined to be the "Lost Generation?" fringe at Fabian Society summer conference with Baroness Glenys Thornton, and representatives from the Resolution Foundation and PricedOut
- Two open days focusing on the subjects of the two Fabian Society fringe events, in which we were joined by Lord Kerslake in January and Generation Rent in July. Both open days resulted in written reports comprising contributions from our members.
- The Welfare State We're In event series, organised by Deeba Syed, has provided opportunities for members to hear from other think tanks and policymakers, including Shelter, Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the Trussell Trust.
- Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry MP, and Seb Dance MEP joined us at our annual boat party. Thanks go to vice-chair, Rob Newbery, for organising the raffle in aid of our policy development work.

We have actively encouraged members to approach us to run their own events, which has resulted in the following events:

- The future relationship of Britain, and the Labour party, with the Commonwealth during the Commonwealth Summit.
- Engaging younger generations in policy-making with Cambridge academics
- The Young Fabians affiliated to the Young European Socialists (YES), which has given a selection of members a chance to attend the YES Summer Camp in Spain and workshops in Europe; a process facilitated by secretary, Kuba Stawiski, and Europe Lead, Ludo Orlando.
- Our YF Book Club, re-launched by Deeba Syed, has seen members review a selection of books relating to our Nation Divided pamphlet. Joined by the New Statesman's political editor, George Eaton, members have focused on Robert Peston's WTF; David Goodhart's The Road to Somewhere; and Polly Toynbee & David Walker's Dismembered: How the Attack on the State Harms Us.



## Local Fabian societies

Deborah Stoate  
Local societies officer

**L**ocal Fabian societies are unique. No other think tank has a local membership, meeting regularly throughout the year, and throughout Britain – to say nothing of the thriving Australian Fabian Society. Local Fabian societies are not branches of the Fabian Society but self-governing bodies with their own officers and executive committee, which subject to the rules of the society, run their own affairs. All local Fabian societies are required to send in an annual report which gives a snapshot of their current state of health.

Local Fabian societies affiliate to the national Fabian Society which in turn affiliate on their behalf to their regional Labour parties in the socialist societies section. Local Fabian societies can also affiliate to their local CLPs and there are three local society representatives on the national Fabian executive and I should like to thank them for their work on behalf of the local Fabian societies.

There are about 40 local Fabian societies - with a few more in the pipeline - having an average membership of 40 and who meet about six times a year. Their extremely varied activities and meetings can be seen on the website and on the listings page of Fabian Review. Many local Fabian societies now have Facebook pages, their own websites and Twitter accounts, keeping members informed and attracting new members. The Fabian Society website gives details of all local Fabian society secretaries.

Apart from regular local meetings, local Fabian societies organise regional conferences. Peterborough local society held an extremely successful conference in June on the future of education in Peterborough, with speakers including Lord Adonis and Fiona Onasanya MP. Brian Keegan, secretary of Peterborough Fabians said: "Education has always been key to the Fabian Society as a means of building a fairer and

the city an expert of the calibre of Lord Adonis to stimulate our thoughts on the subject of educational aspiration."

The biggest event for local Fabian societies is the annual House of Commons meeting and House of Lords tea which was held on 10 July and attracted an audience of over 100 local Fabians to the meeting entitled *Is Britain Becoming More Divided?*, with speakers Kate Green MP, Ria Bernard, Chair of Young Fabians, Lord Roy Kennedy and Polly Toynbee. I should like to thank Baroness Dianne Hayter for sponsoring the event and welcoming everyone to the House of Lords and also Lord Kennedy who organised a tour of the Lords afterwards.

Local Fabian societies are the backbone of the national Fabian Society. As Baroness Dianne Hayter said: "Politics is about ideas – ambition for the country and practical policies to make a difference. This is where the local Fabian societies come in, providing both political education, about our history and philosophy, and debates on future priorities and policy. Whether joining to learn or contribute, local Fabian societies are the place for sectarian-free, open discussion on how Labour can make a difference".

And as Sidney Webb said: "The work of the Fabian Society consists of the work of individual Fabians." So on that basis I should like to thank the extremely hard working and dedicated chairs, secretaries and officers of all the local societies who voluntarily give their time, energy and enthusiasm to organise and run the local Fabian societies so successfully and without whose hard work the local societies wouldn't exist.

Finally I should like to mention Giles Wright who retired as membership officer last December. His work on behalf of the local Fabian societies was tireless and I should like to thank him for that.



## Fabian Women's Network

Ivana Bartoletti

Chair, Fabian Women's Network

**O**ur policy work over the year included a number of projects.

### Policy work

- Women leading in AI: The launch event took place at LSE on 22 May, and was a great success. We had fantastic media coverage in the UK and internationally.
- #FWNToolkit: We crowdsourced ideas from our network on where they had seen best practice in keeping women safe and creating spaces where women thrive, in light of #MeToo and #LabourToo. We also asked participants to comment or suggest ideas on how the Labour movement as a whole could be a welcoming and empowering space for women. We have been analysing the data gathered on this to develop a toolkit to be launched in the autumn.
- Women and homelessness: We want to help local authorities and our individual members and activists develop a gender-specific response to those experiencing homelessness. There are three main outputs: first, disseminate best practice for local councils on supporting women and girls; second, disseminate best practice/guidance for our individual FWN members on this issue to aid them in their thinking and discussions; and third, run a number of events including at Labour Party conference in September.
- To mark the anniversary of the women's vote we had an inspiring event on Monday 5 March on the Next Generation Suffragettes.

### Public speaking club

We have held sessions all throughout the year and they have all been extremely successful.

We are pleased that FWN North is also holding sessions and plans to run more in the autumn.

### Scottish FWN

Launched with Kezia Dugdale on 26 June, Kate Talbot (former FWN exec member, represented the FWN exec). We now have a few funded places on

the mentoring scheme for Scottish participants, to reimburse their travel. This year we have two Scottish mentees and hope to have three or four in next year's cohort, as word spreads.

### The mentoring scheme

The FWN mentoring programme to support women into public life goes from strength to strength. Over 2017-2018 we have seen a real network of activity with events organised and attended by mentees across the seven cohorts to date and WhatsApp discussions involving nearly 200 women.

The local elections in May 2018 gave us the opportunity to demonstrate how successful the programme has become. 43 mentees have been elected councillors to date; 10 of the elected are Asian including three Bangladeshi; four are Black and one is Afghan. One was the first British Afghan councillor & publicly elected official of Afghan origin. Another was the first Indian-born woman elected to the Court of Common Council in 950 years of the City of London Corporation's history; every mentee from Manchester bar one has become a councillor.

Surveys carried out for a forthcoming publication show how many mentees have achieved their professional, public life or political ambitions earlier than expected citing the mentoring programme as a contributory factor.

### Fabiana

Fabiana magazine continues to thrive with particular thanks to the generous support from Unison for covering our printing costs in our new glossy format.

### Fundraising dinner

A good night was had by all, with the keynote speech from Angela Rayner and speeches throughout the night from Jennie Formby, Janet Daby, Yvette Cooper, Rupa Huq and Mary Honeyball.

# Fabians remembered



## The Jenny Jeger Prize

The Jenny Jeger Prize was organised to commemorate Jenny Jeger, life-long Fabian and chair of the society in 1984.

For the first time in 2017 the prize was divided into categories. The winners were:

- \* Full-length report: Jessica Toale for Our Shared Responsibility
- \* Young writers: Ade Adeyemi and Olivia Bailey for Outsiders, a report on diversity
- \* Short-form writing: Caroline Flint and Sharon Hodgson for a chapter in This Woman Can; David Clark for an article in the Fabian Review; Sheila Chapman for an article in the Fabian Review.

## In memoriam

Robert E Barclay  
Elizabeth E. Blackburn  
Diane Brace  
Roger Broad  
Audrey M.F. Brooke  
Sir Henry Brooke  
Nilgun Canver  
Michael Chaplin  
Pauline Chivers  
Costas Christodoulou  
Maureen Colclough  
W.R.F.Cunningham  
Ryan Devlin  
Ronald F.P. Drennan  
Simon Elam  
Geoff Garrett  
Keith Giles  
Mr Gilchrist  
Isobel Green  
Margaret Grimshaw  
Dietmar Herz  
Norman Johnson  
Tessa Jowell  
Sheila Knight  
Lord McCluskey  
Kevin O'Shea  
Malcolm Perry  
Don Pincham

Raphael L. Rodriguez  
Ludek Rychetnik  
Kenneth W.A. Simmons  
Peter Spiro  
John Storer  
Stephen Tindale  
Ken Wright



# Year in review

## JULY 2017

In the wake of the unexpected general election result, the Fabian Society is at the heart of the debate on where next for Britain at our summer conference. Yvette Cooper MP tells the conference that Labour MPs will challenge the Conservatives' lack of a strong mandate and fight every bad move they make. Labour's task, she says, is to hold on to the new voters it inspired at the election, while reaching out beyond them to others it lost.



## AUGUST 2017

People want to do more to improve their local environment - but they often don't know how to get involved, according to a new report published by the society. Powerful People, Powerful Places argues that citizens who might be keen to take part in environmental action could make up nearly a third of the population. Securing the involvement of the yet to be mobilised is the first step to building a participatory culture where neighbourhood engagement is commonplace.



## SEPTEMBER 2017

The society publishes the final report of the Bach Commission on access to justice, a major two-year project which sets out how cuts to legal aid have created a two-tier justice system. It calls for a new Right to Justice Act to restore access to justice as a fundamental public entitlement. Shadow justice secretary Richard Burgon pledges that the commission's work will play an important role in informing Labour's next manifesto. At Labour party conference in Brighton, the Fabians' busy fringe programme proves a big draw, with appearances from a range of Labour politicians including Emily Thornberry MP, Shami Chakrabarti and David Lammy MP.



## OCTOBER 2017

The economic, social, technological and cultural challenges that the left will need to address in the 2020s are at the heart of a new analysis paper published by the society. Shaping the Futurescape brings together the themes discussed at a one-day summit convened by the Fabians earlier in the year. It argues that the left must stop trying to recreate the public sector of an imagined past and instead start asking how government can offer security, community, fairness and opportunity a decade from now.



## NOVEMBER 2017

Future Unions, the result of a programme of Changing Work Centre and Fabian Society research on the future of private sector trade unions, sets out key steps on the road to recovery for the union movement. Meanwhile, the society plays host to a special event with former prime minister Gordon Brown in conversation with ITV political editor Robert Peston. At the society's AGM, Tulip Siddiq MP, Kate Green MP and Julie Ward MEP are among those discussing a tumultuous 12 months.



# Year in review

## DECEMBER 2017

Labour's vision for a National Education Service was one of the standout offers in its election manifesto. The society's report, *Life Lessons*, looks at how the service might work in practice for adults, creating a truly 'cradle to grave' education system.

## JANUARY 2018

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's appearance at the Fabian New Year conference hits the headlines after disruption from far right protestors - but he receives a warm response from delegates for a powerful speech calling on progressives to continue the fight for gender equality.

## FEBRUARY 2018

The society brings together retailers, unions and other experts for an in-depth roundtable on progression in the retail sector. The project leads to a Changing Work Centre report, *Pathways to Progression*, which calls on the retail sector and the government to work together on an industrial strategy with good jobs at its heart.

## MARCH 2018

A set of proposals to make Labour the 'natural party of the countryside' are launched. Labour Country argues that the party must reconnect with the politics and culture of rural areas to be confident of winning the next general election. Better housing, transport and support for farming and small-scale enterprise and manufacturing will all need to be part of the mix.

## APRIL 2018

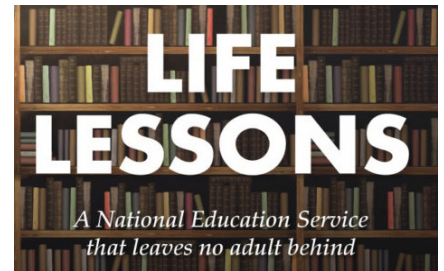
Households are feeling the pinch as stagnating wages, insecure work and spending cuts have taken their toll on family incomes. In response, the society publishes *Raising the Bar*, which looks at how we can ensure household incomes grow the way they used to before the financial crash.

## MAY 2018

Policy priorities for the next Labour government, the outcome of the May local elections and Brexit are all debated as the society holds its summer conference. Shadow home secretary Diane Abbott MP, shadow Brexit secretary Keir Starmer MP and former Labour leader Ed Miliband MP all speak at the event.

## JUNE 2018

A century after the Representation of the People Act gave some women the right to vote for the first time, the society hosts a conference looking at women's contribution to change. Shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry MP and shadow women and equalities minister Dawn Butler MP are among the speakers. In Edinburgh, Brexit, equality and the future of Scottish Labour are on the agenda at the Scottish Fabians conference, with Gordon Brown making the keynote speech.



# Local Fabian society listings

## Birmingham & West Midlands

Luke John Davies, 259 Cartland Rd, Birmingham B30 2RD, bhamfabians@gmail.com

## Bournemouth

Ian A. Taylor, 71 Shaftesbury Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8SU taylorbournemouth@gmail.com

## Brighton & Hove

Ralph Bayley ralphbayley@gmail.com

## Bristol

Gerald Rosenberg, Churchside, Church Rd, Bristol BS16 1NB grosenberg@churchside.me.uk

## Central London

Michael Weatherburn, 121 Ontario Point, 28 Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 7EF michael.weatherburn@gmail.com

## Chiswick & West London

Alison Baker, 32 Duke Road, Chiswick W4 2DD a.m.baker@blueyonder.co.uk

## Colchester

Maurice P. Austin, Tindal Lodge, 11 Valletta Close, Chelmsford CM1 2PT maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop

## County Durham

Alan Townsend, 62A Low Willington, Willington Crook DL15 0BG alan.townsend@durham.ac.uk

## Croydon and Sutton

Emily Brothers emily.brothers@btinternet.com

## Cumbria & North Lancashire

Robin Cope, 317 Sand Aire House, Kendal LA9 4UA robincope@waitrose.com

## Dartford & Gravesend

Deborah Stoaate, 36 Heathclose Rd, Dartford DA1 2PU debstoate@hotmail.com

## Derby

Lucy Rigby lcmrigby@gmail.com

## East Lothian

Mark Davidson, 52 Eskside Terrace, Musselburgh EH21 6LU m.d.davidson@me.com

## Finchley

Mike Walsh 35 Lyndhurst Gardens, Finchley N3 1TA mike.walsh44@ntlworld.com

## Glasgow

Martin Hutchison, 48 Archers Avenue, Stirling FK7 7RJ martin@liathach.net

## Grimsby

Pat Holland, 8 Lambert Road, Grimsby DN32 0HT hollandpat@hotmail.com

## Harrow

Gillian Travers, 29a Cunningham Park, Harrow HA1 4QW gillian.travers@hotmail.co.uk

## Hartlepool

Helen Howson, 23 South Road, Hartlepool, TS26 9HD secretaryhartlepoolfabians@gmail.com

## Hastings

Warren Davies, 20 Fem Rd, St Leonards on Sea TN38 0UH WarrenGDavies@hotmail.co.uk

## Havering

David Marshall, 31 Vicarage Rd, Hornchurch RM12 4AS haveringfabians@outlook.com

## Hornsey and Wood Green

Sue Davidson sue.davidson17@gmail.com

## Islington

Adeline Siewyin Au siewyin.au@gmail.com

## Leeds

Luke Hurst luke.will.h@gmail.com

## Merseyside

James Roberts, 15 Greenbank Rd, Liverpool L18 1HG jamesroberts1986@googlemail.com

## Newham

Rohit K Dasgupta, rhit\_svu@hotmail.com

## Norfolk

Stephen McNair, Swallow Cottage, 14 The Street, St James, Coltishall NR12 7AW politics@stephenmcnair.uk

## North East London

Nathan Ashley NELondonFabians@outlook.com

## Northumbria Area

Pat Hobson, The Holm, 14a Wallace Terrace, Ryton NE40 3PL pat.hobson@hotmail.com

## Oxford

Dave Addison, All Souls' College, High St, Oxford OX4 1AL admin@oxfordfabians.org.uk

## Peterborough

Brian Keegan, 8 Glamis Gardens, Peterborough PE3 9PQ brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk

## Portsmouth

Juanita Cary dewicary@yahoo.co.uk

## Reading & District

Tony Skuse, Westcroft, 16 Croft Road, Wokingham RG40 3HU tony@skuse.net

## Redcar & Cleveland

Sarah Freeney, 47 High Street, Marske-By-The-Sea TS11 6JQ sarahelizabeth30@yahoo.co.uk

## Scottish Fabians

Catriona Munro, 54 Blacket Place, Edinburgh EH9 1RJ catrionammunro@gmail.com

## Sheffield

Luke Adey-Rennard, 12 Raven Rd, Sheffield S7 1SB lukerennard@gmail.com

## Southampton Area

Eliot Horn, 6 Suttones Place, Southampton SO15 2SJ eliot.horn@btinternet.com

## Suffolk

John Cook, 27 Grange Rd, Ipswich IP4 1NP, ipswichlabour@gmail.com

## Surrey

Warren Weertman, 61 Queens Rd, Weybridge KT13 9UQ secretary@surreyfabians.org.uk

## Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells

Martin Clay, 4 Great Bounds Drive, Southborough TN4 0TP martin.clay74@gmail.com

## Tower Hamlets

Chris Weavers, Flat 34 Rutherford House, Brady Street E1 5PS towerhamletsfabiansociety@gmail.com

## Tynemouth

Brian Flood, 45 Percy Park Rd, North Shields NE30 4LW ritaorbrian@aol.com

## Tyneside South

Paul Freeman, 124 Manet Gardens, South Shields, NE34 8LT southtynesidefabians@gmail.com

## Walsall

Ian C Robertson, 87 Belvidere Rd, Walsall WS1 3AU robertsonic@hotmail.co.uk

## Warwickshire

Rupinder Singh, 8 Hermitage Rd, Coventry CV2 5GG s.rupinder.singh@googlemail.com

## Wimbledon

Matt Salts, 130 Monkleigh Road, Morden, SM4 4ER m.salts@gmail.com

## York

Mike Collier, The Old Barn, York YO41 1HF mike.collier@talktalk.net





## Treasurer's report

David Chaplin  
Treasurer, Fabian Society

The society ended its financial year with a strong performance but with clear areas for future vigilance. At the beginning of the year, our staff team thoroughly planned for a number of scenarios which would be likely to carry negative financial implications for the society. This was principally focused on the uncertainty in the external political environment that has been a continuous challenge for the society and the executive committee over the past three years.

Despite this challenge, the society has recorded a modest increase in overall income, as recorded in the figures published in this report. Our total income from our membership increased by over 10 per cent as a direct result of the decisions taken by the society to increase our subscription rates. In retrospect, this decision helped us to weather some of the financial uncertainties that the past year has presented, and I am incredibly grateful to all our members for their ongoing generosity towards the society and our goals.

We saw a range of challenges in meeting the partnership and events budget this year, with a 30 per cent drop in income year on year comparison. Our editorial team also saw income go down by 40 per cent when compared to last year, however this was due to strong overperformance in the previous financial year. Finally, our research team continued to increase its income with a 15 per cent growth compared to 2016/17.

Over the past year we have seen a number of important operational changes at the society, including the implementation of a new database to help us manage our communications with members; the launch of a new website; and the implementation of the new GDPR requirements.

In addition, we have seen a number of staff changes at the society which have required the staff and executive to continue to collaborate to ensure we continue to deliver for our members.

**Over the past year, we have seen a small but reassuring increase in our membership of 1.4 per cent overall**

For the forthcoming financial year, the executive committee remains tightly focused on making cautious and prudent financial

decisions and on building a lasting financial reserve for the society's future. Our current levels of reserves remain low, and this is a matter of concern to the executive committee and to me, as treasurer. We will continue to scrutinise and monitor this through the society's finance & general purposes sub-committee.

As always, I'd like to record the executive committee's gratitude to all the staff who work at the Fabian Society. Now more than ever, our society is a place where politics and ideas can be debated in a welcoming, informed, and safe environment. Long may this continue.



# Auditor's statement

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Fabian Society (the 'society') for the year ended 30 June 2018 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 2018 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) (ISAs (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.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the executive committees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the executive committees' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the society's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the executive committees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The executive committee are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the society and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the executive committees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the executive committees' report is inconsistent in any material aspect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit;

### **Responsibilities of executive committee**

The executive committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the executive committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the executive committee are responsible for assessing the society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the executive committee either intend to liquidate the society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

### **Use of the audit report**

This report is made solely to the Society's members. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Society's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society and the Society's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper  
Chartered Accountants  
8/9 Well Court  
London EC4M 9DN  
25th July 2018

THE FABIAN SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
INCOME		
Individual Members	261,766	232,276
Institutional Affiliations and Subscriptions	6,220	5,325
Donations and Legacies	40,451	12,934
Publications Sales	1,965	2,472
Conference and Events	109,037	154,786
Publication Sponsorship and Advertisements	47,610	93,569
Research Projects	267,000	232,565
Rents	21,303	17,913
Bank Interest, Royalties and Miscellaneous	633	568
Total Income	£755,985	£752,408
EXPENDITURE		
Research Projects	44,596	59,155
Staff Costs	421,487	420,346
Printing and Distribution	81,675	94,456
Conference and Events	62,672	54,817
Promotion	7,255	5,627
Affiliation Fees	6,158	5,086
Postage, Phone and Fax	8,752	10,758
Depreciation	21,540	17,881
Travel	332	1,470
Other	6,145	6,910
Stationery and Copying	7,614	9,179
Legal and Professional	9,263	4,946
Irrecoverable VAT	-	1,223
Premises Costs	59,058	52,038
Bad debts	3,804	1,882
Information Systems	13,909	7,190
Total Expenditure	£754,260	£752,964
Surplus/(Deficit) Before Tax and Transfers	1,725	(556)
Transfers from Reserves	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before Taxation	1,725	(556)
Corporation Tax	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£1,725	£(556)

THE FABIAN SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2018

	£	2018	£	2017	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		1,265,020		1,226,090	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stock	5,798		6,448		
Debtors and Prepayments	175,824		160,234		
Bank and Cash	-		-		
	<u>181,622</u>		<u>166,682</u>		
<b>CREDITORS-AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>					
Creditors and Accruals	(166,129)		(113,984)		
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>15,493</u>		<u>52,698</u>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>1,280,513</u>		<u>1,278,788</u>	
General Fund		1,274,238		1,272,513	
Restricted Fund		6,275		6,275	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>1,280,513</u>		<u>1,278,788</u>	

These financial standards have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A “Small Entities” of Financial Reporting Standard 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

## Donors

We are extremely grateful to over 100 members of the society who have made donations to the Fabians during the year. During the year the society launched a 'Membership and Donation' scheme and all members are encouraged to join.

## Funding partners

Many of our partners support individual projects (eg events, research projects) where they consider that the activity advances the interests of their organisation. Financial support for the society does not imply an endorsement of our political goals.

Age UK, City of London, University and College Union, Community, CWU, Dartmouth Street Trust, Disability Labour, FBU, Foundation for European Progressive Studies, FES-London, Giles Wright, GMB, Hannover, ICAEW, Independent Age, John Mills, Lankelly Chase, Lloyds Banking Group, Manufacturing Technology Association, NCS Trust, Power to Change, Sanofi, Scope, TheCityUK, Trust for London, TSSA, TUC, Unison, Usdaw, Vodafone and Woodland Trust.



**FABIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

61 PETTY FRANCE  
LONDON  
SW1H 9EU

ISBN 978-0-7163-4064-5