



FABIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



Contents

About the Fabian Society	3
Chair's report	6
General secretary's report	7
Fabian Women's Network	8
Young Fabians	9
Welsh Fabians	10
Scottish Fabians	11
Local Fabian societies	12
Fabian policy groups	13
Major activities	14
Publications and the Jenny Jeger prize	16
Events	17
Fabian Review	18
List of local Fabian societies	19
Treasurer's report	20
Auditor's report and accounts	21
Funding partners	22
Member donations	23

About the Fabian 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. We are one of the original founders of the Labour party and are constitutionally affiliated to the party as a socialist society.

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. 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 over 40 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 - for people on the left from every background and identity.

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

Accountability and transparency

The society is 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 who 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 of 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. We do not undertake lobbying projects.

The society is entirely independent from the Labour party. Its editorial output is not shaped or controlled by the party in any way.

Membership 2018-2019 (as of June 2019)

	2018	2019	Change
Individuals	7262	7136	-126
(of which Young Fabians)	(1974)	(1951)	(-23)
(of which are Fabian women)	(2249)	(2208)	(-41)
CLPs, co-ops & trade unions	34	34	0
Libraries	17	21	4
Corporate	0	0	0
TOTAL	7355	7247	-108

Executive committee 2018-2019

Ivana Bartoletti (chair), **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** (vice-chair), **Seema Malhotra MP**, **Charlotte Norton** (Young Fabians), **Alison McGovern MP**, **Jim McMahon MP**, **Catriona Munro** (chair, Scottish Fabians), **Reema Patel**, **Sarah Sackman**, **Vanessa Singh** (staff representative), **Howard Stoate** (local Fabian societies representative)

Vice presidents

Nick Butler, **Lord Dubs**, **Baroness Hayter**, **Dame Margaret Hodge MP**, **Lord Kinnock**, **Sadiq Khan**, **Christine Megson**, **Baroness Thornton**, **Giles Wright**

Fabian Society staff 2018-2019

Andrew Harrop (general secretary), **Olivia Bailey** (deputy general secretary), **Josh Abey** (researcher), **Jason Brock** (senior researcher), **Ben Cooper** (researcher), **Robin Harvey** (former events and communications officer), **Rabyah Khan** (media and communications manager), **Kate Murray** (editorial director), **Phil Mutero** (former operations director), **John Rafferty** (finance and operations manager), **Alexandra Sanderson** (director of external affairs and events), **Katherine Sangster** (Scottish Fabians manager), **Vanessa Singh** (assistant editor), **Deborah Stoate** (local societies officer), **Shehana Udat** (membership officer), **Natasha Wakelin** (events and stakeholder assistant)

Young Fabians committee

Charlotte Norton (chair), **Jack Phipps** (vice-chair), **Kuba Stawiski** (secretary), **Luisa Attfield** (treasurer), **Emma Bean** (Anticipations editor), **Stella Tsantekidou** (parliamentary liaison officer), **Adam Allnutt** (local government officer), **Abdi Duale** (outreach officer), **Miriam Mirwich** (regional outreach officer), **Eluned Anderson** (deputy regional outreach officer), **Deeba Syed** (policy officer), **Kyalo Burt Fulcher** (executive member)

Fabian Women's Network committee

Sara Hyde (chair), **Shaista Aziz** (vice-chair), **Megan Corton-Scott** (vice-chair), **Jos Bell** (secretary), **Sanchia Alasia**, **Amna Abdullatif**, **Seyi Akiwowo**, **Christine Megson** (mentoring programme coordinator)

Scottish Fabians

Catriona Munro (chair)

Welsh Fabians committee

Matthew Hexter (convenor)

Fabian international policy group committee

Rayhan Haque (convenor)

Fabian education policy group committee

Brian Matthews (convenor)

Fabian health network committee

Dr Martin Edobor and **Dr Tom Gardiner** (co-convenors)

Fabian futures network committee

Harry Farmer (convenor)

Chair's report



Ivana Bartoletti
Chair, Fabian Society

The work of a think tank, at this time in history, is certainly not easy. Academics and data specialists like myself would argue that we live in a post-truth era, dominated by tribalism, polarisation and misinformation, which puts the very essence of democracy at risk. This makes the work of the Fabian Society challenging – and vital. I am proud that the society continues to be a space to discuss policy and share ideas, encouraging us all to move beyond our comfort zone to re-imagine and re-shape what the left can be.

The past year has been dominated by the Brexit debate, with little room for anything else. This is at a time of widening inequality. The fourth industrial transformation is well under-way, but with all its hopes and possibilities comes its impact on labour, including the casualisation of work and the erosion of traditional safety nets. Amidst this, the Fabian Society has worked relentlessly to find solutions to today's challenges, bringing together parliamentarians, academics, activists and businesspeople to debate and formulate ideas.

The Commission on Workers and Technology, a joint project with Community trade union chaired by Yvette Cooper, is addressing one of the most crucial issues of our time: namely how automation and technological change in the workplace can support workers and bring innovation for all. This is central in a world where digital benefits have been distributed unequally, the consequences of which can be seen in the UK and globally.

It was very important to bring together the TUC's Frances O'Grady and the CBI's Carolyn Fairbairn earlier this year, to discuss how the fourth industrial revolution requires businesses to be rooted in trust and inclusion – and that means putting workers at the heart of their transformation journeys.

This past year saw the Fabians look into the issues that call for a new radicalism – including how we create and build a fair and ethical immigration system, and how we reform the tax system at a time of rising inequality. Our report, highlighting how the government is providing more financial support for the richest 20 per cent of households than the poorest 20 per cent, garnered wide media attention and interest. We also published agenda-setting reports on the future of childhood, the decline of arts education, industrial strategy and mental health at work. We were proud to publish two essay collections in partnership with senior frontbenchers, on the future

of the NHS (with Jonathan Ashworth) and Britain after Brexit (with Keir Starmer). We also brought together 11 newly elected Labour MPs to produce a report on reforming Westminster.

In addition to reports and policy insights, this year's Fabian conference schedule has been successful in mobi-

lising leaders from the Labour party, think tanks and sister organisations for passionate and open discussions. My heartfelt thanks go to FEPS for working with us, and for continuing to foster European cooperation, which remains essential to Fabian values.

My thanks go to Andrew Harrop and the Fabian team, to all our members and our networks including the Fabian Women's Network, Young Fabians, Scottish and Welsh Fabians, to my fellow executive members and to all who work very hard in the local societies for carrying the torch of the Fabian Society which has helped shape the future of the left since 1884. Together we have grown and strengthened our much-needed organisation.

**The Fabian Society has
worked relentlessly to find
solutions to today's
challenges**

General secretary's report



Andrew Harrop
General secretary,
Fabian Society

In a turbulent political year, the Fabian Society's 2018/19 programme was dedicated to long-term policy thinking and comradely debate across the left. We played an essential role in bringing together diverse voices from within the labour movement.

We were delighted to host two joint national conferences with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), with keynote speakers including Keir Starmer MP, Angela Rayner MP and Emily Thornberry MP. Other meetings during the year included two Manchester events with mayor Andy Burnham (one our first ever AGM outside London), as well as a lecture in memory of former Labour leader John Smith by Tom Watson MP.

We had three research and policy priorities during the year. Under the first, 'the left, politics and the future of Britain', the society published *Beyond Brexit*, a joint report with the FEPS setting out options for Britain post-Brexit. We also presented proposals for extradition and migration policy in a post-Brexit world. Away from Brexit, we published *New Brooms*, featuring ideas from 11 newly-elected MPs on how parliament should be reformed, and *For The Many?*, a major research study by Olivia Bailey and Lewis Baston on what the Labour party needs to do to reconnect with its diverse tribes of voters.

Our second priority topic was 'the state, collectivism and inequality'. In July 2018 we presented new thinking on support and care for older people in *Take Good Care*, followed in September by *Growing Up in the 2020s*, a collection of essays on the

changing face of childhood. We also marked the 70th anniversary of the NHS by releasing *A Picture of Health*, a pamphlet on the future of healthcare, edited by shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth MP and published *Primary Colours*, which revealed the sobering decline of arts education in primary schools under austerity. Also under this programme, in autumn 2018 we presented plans for managing the public finances following a six month programme of work. In spring 2019 we published *Inequality by Stealth*, a report on the inegalitarian impacts of tax allowances, and commenced a new project on the future of social security.

The highlight of our third priority, 'good work and sustainable prosperity', was the Commission on Workers and Technology - a joint initiative with Community trade union and chaired by Yvette Cooper MP - which began work in August 2018. Three other projects on rebuilding pensions

consensus, mental health at work, and unions and self-employed workers also fell under this priority.

As a membership movement we continue to thrive as a network of over 7,000 Fabians. The Scottish Fabians and Welsh Fabians both expanded their programmes and we established new

member policy groups. The Young Fabians, Fabian Women's Network and local Fabian Societies all embraced organisational change during the year which leaves them stronger for the future.

None of this would have been possible without the society's small and dedicated staff team in London and Edinburgh and I offer my thanks for their passion and hard work. Finally, a special thank you goes to the executive committee that served from 2017 to 2019 and in particular to treasurer David Chaplin and chairs Kate Green MP and Ivana Bartoletti.

We were delighted to host two joint national conferences with FEPS, with keynote speakers including Keir Starmer MP, Angela Rayner MP and Emily Thornberry MP

Fabian Women's Network



Sara Hyde
Chair, Fabian Women's
Network

Our year began with long-standing chair, Ivana Bartoletti, stepping down to become chair of the Fabian Society. Both she and Reema Patel stood down after years of service and we are grateful for their work.

I was elected as our new chair and Shaista Aziz and Megan Corton-Scott as co-vice chairs.

We have spent much of the year working on the internal systems and structures of FWN to enable us to better deliver on our vision of seeing more and diverse women in politics and public life. We re-wrote our mission statement, which you can read online, and are emphasising the values that underpin our work: sisterhood, solidarity and service.

Policy work

We chose key policy themes for the year as well as hosting one-off events.

At Labour party conference we launched the second edition of our hugely successful Stand Up and Be Counted: Be a Councillor booklet, produced with the LGA Labour group. We assist women nationwide in using the booklet to host events and start discussions with other women about running for local government.

We have a new workstream on an intersectional feminist approach to the climate emergency.

We hosted an all-female panel at Labour party conference on the roadmap to net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and are planning a further event in the West Midlands.

Other events included: The 'Antidote to Chope' – hope for 21st Century feminists in an age of Chope, Trump and friends 'Redesigning the workplace - equality, gender and intersectionality' and a Fabian summer conference fringe on women's involvement in pioneering intergenerational work.

The workstream we had incubated as Women Leading in AI became a separate entity and continues to strengthen. There was a pause on our Women and Homelessness work, but it has now restarted, focusing on where local authorities can make a real difference to women.

Mentoring scheme

Our mentoring scheme enables women to develop their political skills and increase the impact and influence they can have on political and public life through mentoring from one of a number of highly influential women along with bespoke training and peer group

support.

The ninth cohort has begun. Over 230 women have been mentees and as of May 2019, 45 of those women have been councillors. In April we hosted an event in parliament to celebrate the third evaluation report of the mentoring scheme: Finding Her Political Voice.

We are also looking to move our magazine, Fabiana, to mostly online and redo our website.

We wrote an open letter on protecting the integrity of all-women shortlists.

Finally, we signed an open letter about ending austerity to the prime minister, along with 33 other women's organisations, ahead of the spending review.

We re-wrote our mission statement, and are emphasising the values that underpin our work: sisterhood, solidarity and service

Young Fabians



Charlotte Norton
Chair, Young Fabians

I'm incredibly proud of everything the Young Fabians have achieved this year and would like to thank all of our members. In particular, I would like to thank our network committees for their impressive range of events held over the year. Volunteering as chair alongside working as a full-time lawyer has been an intense experience but they have all made it a pleasure.

We kicked things off with our successful Christmas party, which raised over £200 for MIND and created a sense of comradeship and fun that we've since injected in all of our events this year. Thank you also to all those who attended our annual boat party, especially to Mike Katz for his excellent speech, and all those who made doing the macarena on a boat possible.

At our AGM, we were excited to announce new Young Fabian networks: our environment and arts and culture networks have hit the ground running. Highlights include the environment network launching their 'Ways to Save the World' pamphlet at Labour party conference and the arts and culture network bringing the Young Fabian podcast to life.

Thanks go to Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin for his work in launching the BAME advocacy group, aimed at increasing BAME participation in the Fabian Society, and diversifying output. We've seen increased diversity at events and in written outputs, and look forward to the great work the group will achieve over the coming years.

Thanks also go to Abdi Duale for his project on the Future of Work, Adam Allnutt for his projects on medicinal cannabis and London Looking East, and Emma Bean for her work with Anticipations, ensuring we are a part of important conversations on the left.

Thank you to Stella Tsantekidou for our successful training series on careers in politics, covering a variety of political careers such as journalism and working for MPs. All events were held in parliament and live streamed, with high participation and engagement.

Thanks to Miriam Mirwitch and Ellie Anderson for their work engaging members around the country. We've seen an incredible number of non-London members

apply to be on our executive committee next year, as well as the creation of regional officers on many of our networks.

I'm proudest of the work I've done to put the Young Fabians on a truly international footing. After becoming observer members for the Young European

Socialists (YES) last year, we've been working closer with our comrades around Europe and building ties with Labour's sister parties. Thank you to Adam Allnutt and Rachael Ward for leading up our delegation to the YES summer camp this year. Thanks also to everyone who was involved in the MEP election observation project.

Apologies to anyone I've missed out - you have all made this an excellent year. I wish the incoming executive committee the best of luck.

At our AGM, we were excited to announce new Young Fabian networks: our environment and arts and culture networks have hit the ground running

Welsh Fabians



Matthew Hexter
Convenor, Welsh
Fabians

Since writing this report last year we have continued our programme to re-establish the Welsh Fabians as an important part of the Welsh polity and a feature of the discourse surrounding Welsh politics in general.

We held numerous events and ran a blog which has gone from strength to strength, taking contributions from members, AMs, MPs, trade unionists and Mark Drakeford, first minister of Wales.

In April, we co-hosted a panel event at the Welsh Labour conference in Llandudno examining the effect of Brexit on grassroots and international sport as well as Wales' international brand. Panellists included Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Carwyn Jones AM former first minister of Wales, Carole Green, Brexit correspondent for ITV Wales and Natascha Davies from Welsh gender equality, Chwarae Teg. Topics we looked at included the effects of Brexit on sport funding, chances for young people to play and travel abroad as well as how Brexit could be linked to an increase in sports hooliganism.

The Welsh Fabians blog has been a fantastic success with a number of Welsh assembly members, members of parliament, union officers

and Welsh Fabian members contributing articles on topics such as Brexit, council tax, local government reform, housing, devolution, Welsh independence, climate change and the M4 relief road.

Additionally, we ran a series called "The class of '99" in which the Welsh Labour assembly members elected in 1999 wrote about how the institution has changed and will continue to change in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Fabian Society staff and executive committee for their continued support and assistance in safeguarding the society in Wales. It would not be possible without them. As I step down from the role in November, I hope whoever takes over as the next convenor drives the society forward,

embedding it firmly into the consciousness of the Welsh polity and the Welsh Labour party, connecting members in Wales.

If you have not done so already, please visit the Welsh Fabians' blog:

<https://medium.com/@fabianscymru>

Like the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FabiansCymru/>

Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Fabians_Cymru

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Scottish Fabians



Catriona Munro
Chair, Scottish
Fabians

2019 began with our AGM in January, and a lively panel discussion on the deliberately provocative topic of '20 years of the Scottish parliament – has devolution failed?' Our executive includes some new faces: Glasgow councillor Maggie McTernan, Labour activist Johnny Rhodes and professor Jim Gallacher who has contributed to previous Scottish Fabian projects. We're delighted to have their participation.

National manager Katherine Sangster continues to make an enormously valued contribution to raising the Fabians' profile in Scotland.

The theme of 20 years of devolution continued with the publication of a report by professor Jim Gallagher on federalism. It will continue into a major research piece starting at the end of this year and in conjunction with FEPS looking at devolution and Scotland's place in Europe.

For the first time we ran a programme of events at Scottish Labour conference. The first was with the Electoral Reform Society on local democracy.

We also hosted a social event and a joint event with the People's Vote on Brexit.

This year's guest at our annual garden party was Stella Creasy MP; the weather was glorious and we were also joined by Martin Whitfield MP and Chris Elmore MP.

Local Fabian societies

We continue to run local political discussion groups in Glasgow, East Lothian, Fife and Edinburgh. We see this as an important means of reaching new potential members and providing a safe space for debate and discussion. We are keen to establish groups in other areas of Scotland and would be delighted to support anyone who can run these in their area.

2019 began with our AGM in January, and a lively panel discussion on the deliberately provocative topic of '20 years of the Scottish parliament – has devolution failed?'

Scottish Fabian Women's Network (FWN)

We are delighted to have enabled two further Scotland-based Fabian women to participate in the Fabian Women's Network mentoring scheme, generously sponsored by Baronesses Helen Liddell and Meta Ramsay.

Rachel Reeves MP spoke at our FWN brunch about her superb new book *Women of Westminster: The MPs Who Changed Politics*.

Local Fabian societies



Deborah Stoaite
Local Fabian societies
officer

Local Fabian societies were founded on 19 February 1885, following a suggestion by Annie Besant who was keen to 'carry Socialism to the unconverted all over the country'. Local society numbers fluctuate over the years and at present there are 44, and as we receive annual report forms we are able to say that they meet roughly six times a year and have an average membership of 40. Many groups have their own Facebook pages and Twitter accounts both to publicise and recruit.

Local Fabian societies are autonomous groups, affiliated to the national society, but with their own officers and executive committee, which, subject to the rules of the society, run their own affairs. As can be seen from the back pages of Fabian Review, they run a varied programme of meetings and events. They are affiliated to their regional Labour party in the socialist society section and can affiliate to local CLPs. There are three local society representatives on the Fabian Society executive committee and I should like to thank them for their work in representing the local societies on that committee.

This year in addition to societies' regular local meetings, Southampton Fabians ran a regional South West Conference in the summer entitled 'Taking Back Control' with speakers including Stephen Timms MP and Alan Whitehead MP.

We held a meeting for local society secretaries in Petty France in May which was attended by 21 secretaries from all over Britain. We shared ideas and good practice with reports from Peterborough, Central London and Oxford and clarified and amended rules which was an extremely useful exercise.

The annual House of Commons meeting and House of Lords tea was held on Tuesday 9 July and was entitled 'How Do we Bring the Country Together', with speakers Lisa Nandy MP, Chris Bryant MP, Stephen Morgan MP, Lesley Laird MP and Harriet Harman MP, chaired by Andrew Harrop. Tea in the Cholmondeley room followed and I should like to thank Baroness Dianne Hayter for sponsoring the event and speaking at the tea. At the tea we recognised the work of Ian Taylor, secretary of the Bournemouth and District society who is

I should like to thank all the secretaries and executive members on the local societies who keep them running so efficiently

celebrating 50 years in the post after initially agreeing to do it for three months. I would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the job and in keeping the Bournemouth Society one of our most successful groups.

Another success this year is the regeneration of the Central London Fabian Society and I thank Michael Weatherburn and all involved for their hard work.

I should like to thank all the secretaries and executive members on the local societies who keep them running so efficiently – not an easy task - and I am extremely grateful for all their hard and thankless work. As Harold Wilson, chair of the Fabian Society in 1965 said of the work of the local societies: "They bring fresh thinking, fresh ideas and frank and fearless discussion on national and international problems."

Fabian policy groups



Fabian international policy group

2019 has been another great year for the Fabian IPG. We've organised 10 debates, which have included hosting two shadow cabinet members, political leaders and editors, and impressive experts. Over 800 people have been welcomed to our discussions, ranging from how we tackle catastrophic climate change, the peace doctrine, defending UK aid and development spending, how we win any people's vote, the future of liberal social democracy, business and human rights, and tackling corruption.

The IPG also launched its own podcast series.

Fabian health network

Dr Martin Edobor and Dr Tom Gardiner have taken over from Rose Gray as co-convenors of the network. Articles covering a wide range of areas have been published, with a particular focus on mental health at a time when 'parity of esteem' remains a pipedream. Our links to Labour's parliamentary health team are stronger than ever as we continue efforts to ensure our work contributes directly to the generation of party policy. We've expanded our public profile through a strong social media presence and speaking at public events, including a Labour party conference discussion on a progressive plan for the NHS. We look forward to another exciting year and to welcoming new members to a network that puts policy discussion and generation at its heart.

Fabian education group

Members have attended education APPG meetings during the year and contributed to Labour party policy consultations on the abolition of private schools, Ofsted and others. We also set up two House of Commons meetings and are planning more. Our first meeting discussed 'Who should be in charge of education?' This session was attended by 60 people and a report was circulated to MPs including Angela Rayner MP and Layla Moran MP. Our second meeting was on the curriculum. Speakers included Mick Waters, Nansi Ellis (National Education Union), Alice Grimes (CBI) and Jay Davenport, a school principal. Over 60 people attended. We have continued to discuss how the education system could be improved in order to develop a 'blue sky' paper. We intend to publish our key recommendations. We also have an active blog.

Fabian Futures

Since its formation in the summer of 2018, Fabian Futures has held a kick-off meeting to set the aims of the group, establish outputs and agree on next steps and nominated a convener (Harry Farmer) and recruited four other committee members: Alice Grimes, John Morgan, Luke Richards and Justin Reynolds. We also set up a website fabian-futures.org, which in addition to providing information on the group, hosts a blog on futures topics. The first of these blogs, which was an articulation of the case for the group (and for a distinctively left-wing take on futures thinking, was cross-posted on the main Fabian website). In addition to this, two other blogs have been created by committee members exclusively for the site. Fabian Futures also has a twitter account.

Major activities

Launch of the Commission on Workers and Technology

In August 2018, we were delighted to launch the Commission on Workers and Technology, a two-year commission chaired by Yvette Cooper MP in partnership with Community union. The commission is examining British workers' hopes and fears for automation over the next decade.

In its first year, the commission has gathered findings through focus groups, site visits and interviews which fed into its interim findings published in June 2019. The commission also launched its Workers and Technology: the Key Issues online debate series featuring contributions from Tom Watson MP, Ivana Bartoletti, Areeq Chowdhury, Claire McCarthy and others.



FEPS-Fabian New Year Conference 2019

We welcomed in 2019 with our New Year Conference, in partnership with FEPS.

Focusing on Brexit and Britain's future, we heard keynote speeches from shadow Brexit secretary Keir Starmer MP, shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry MP, and deputy Labour leader Tom Watson MP.

Panel discussions throughout the day asked the big questions on deepening defence and security cooperation, protecting policing and defending communities, rebuilding Britain, halting the rise of European popular nationalism and more.



Fabian John Smith Memorial Lecture by Tom Watson MP

Tom Watson MP marked 25 years since the passing of John Smith MP - Labour's former leader - in a Fabian Society speech.

He said: "It is a quarter of a century since we lost John Smith, taken at the age of 55, on the brink of bringing Labour into office after nearly 20 years in the wilderness. We have come together this evening to celebrate, to commemorate and to reflect; to see old friends and recall great times.

"My plea today is that the values John Smith embodied should not be remembered simply with nostalgia, but as a lodestar for how all of us now in public life should conduct ourselves and approach the new challenges we face."

Major activities

Future Generations Wellbeing Act

Shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth MP announced the Labour party's plans to tackle child health inequalities and introduce a new Future Generations Wellbeing Act at the FEPS-Fabian Society Summer Conference 2019.

He said the act would "enshrine our commitments in legislation to ensuring life expectancy match the best of our international peers and that children enjoy the best health and wellbeing outcomes possible.

"And it will place a new duty on both local health services and national leadership to reduce health inequalities."

The society will work with Jonathan Ashworth to develop ideas for the new law.



Poverty and social security: where next?

The UK is scarred by poverty and our social security system is in crisis. At the start of the 2020s, 15 million people are on course to live in poverty. So where do we go from here?

In this project, we asked how a future government should set about mending social security and tackling poverty over the next 10 years.

The project is a partnership with Age UK, the Children's Society, Crisis, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the TUC.

Andy Burnham: a homelessness emergency

Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham set out his strategy to tackle the homelessness and rough sleeping crisis at this keynote Fabian Society speech.

He said: "Through the Greater Manchester homelessness action network, we have built a strong partnership between our ten councils, public services and the voluntary, faith and business sectors.

We have developed a clear strategy and are bringing forward new policies.

I have no doubt that it can still be improved. But this is a prime example of doing politics differently – developing policy with people rather than dropping it on them – and it is stronger for that."



Poverty and social security: where next?

Publications 2018-19

Take Good Care

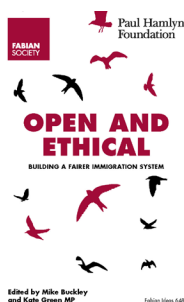
A Fresh Start, by Andrew Harrop

A Picture of Health, edited by Jonathan Ashworth MP

Consensus Continued? by Andrew Harrop and Ryan Shorthouse

New Brooms, edited by James Frith MP

For the Many? by Olivia Bailey and Lewis Baston



Beyond Brexit, edited by Olivia Bailey

Growing Up In The 2020s

The Fiscal Alternative, by Andrew Harrop

A Warranted Response, by David Clark

Primary Colours, by Ben Cooper

Minds at Work

Inequality by Stealth, by Andrew Harrop

Open and Ethical, edited by Mike Buckley and Kate Green MP

Getting Organised, by Jason Brock

Jenny Jeger Prize

The Jenny Jeger Prize was organised to commemorate Jenny Jeger, life-long Fabian and chair of the society in 1984. The winners of the 2018 prize were:

- * Full-length report: Labour Country by Tobias Phibbs
- * Young writers: the Young Fabians for A Nation Divided, edited by Ria Barnard
- * Short-form writing: Smashing the Class Ceiling by Gloria de Piero MP

Events

July 2018

Women at Work: Gendered experience and the changing world of work

September 2018

Commission on Workers and Technology launch

New Brooms pamphlet launch

Fabian Fringe at Labour party conference



November 2018

Fabian AGM and Northern conference

December 2018

Fabian Christmas reception

January 2019

FEPS-Fabian New Year conference: Brexit and Beyond



April 2019

Open and Ethical pamphlet launch

Poverty and social security summit

May 2019

Commission on Workers and Technology roundtable with Katrín Jakobsdóttir (prime minister of Iceland)

Fabian Society speech: Andy Burnham on homelessness

John Smith memorial lecture by Tom Watson MP



June 2019

Gordon Brown on combatting the far right

FEPS-Fabian summer conference



Fabian Review

The summer Fabian Review focused on the future political landscape for Labour with **Catherine West MP**, **Dave Ward** and **Thangam Debbonaire MP**, plus Kate Murray talked to **Lord Andrew Adonis**.

Also in this issue: **Tom Quinn** looked at the Corbyn dilemma, **Michael Weatherburn** on the Iron Lady generation, and **Seema Malhotra MP** on prosperity and progress.



The autumn Fabian Review asked what a radical Labour party in government could do to ensure its success with contributions from **Angela Eagle MP**, **Faiza Shaheen** and **Paul Mason** plus Emma Burnell interviewed **Jon Trickett MP**.

Also in this issue: **Claire McCarthy** on public ownership, **Matthew Taylor** on transitioning to power, and **Miatta Fahnbulleh** and **Alfie Stirling** on the economic alternative.



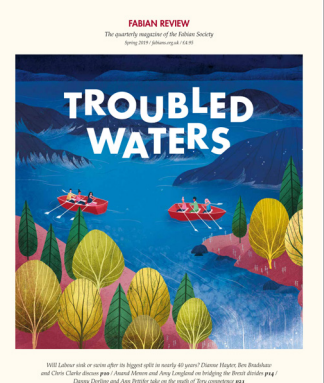
The winter Fabian Review explored new ideas to renew the centre-left with **Matthew Laza**, **Liz Kendall MP** and **Daniel Sleat** plus Kate Murray interviewed **Lisa Nandy MP**.

Also in this issue: **Emma Dent Coad MP** argued it's time for communities to take back control.



The spring Fabian Review asked if Labour will sink or swim after its biggest split in nearly 40 years with contributions by **Dianne Hayter**, **Ben Bradshaw MP** and **Ann Pettifor** plus Kate Murray talked to **Richard Corbett MEP**.

Also in this issue: **Danny Dorling** argued the crises which have engulfed this government should not blind us to what the Conservatives do best.



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Treasurer's report



David Chaplin
Treasurer

I am pleased to report that the Fabian Society has ended this financial year with the majority of our operational and financial targets on track. As in previous years, our planning for a number of potential outcomes has enabled the executive and staff teams to ensure the society remains financially viable despite the highly challenging external political environment.

Of course, our small deficit this year does not achieve the executive's objective of securing sufficient revenue to build our reserves. Nor does the external political environment hold much hope of stabilising in the short to medium term. However, the society has benefited from some outstanding staff contributions and work in recent months and following high staff turnover in the previous financial year we are now seeing the new team delivering at full-stride.

The areas for future vigilance in our financial performance remain the same as previous years: growing our membership to maintain our income; keeping our subscription costs to members fair but competitive to allow us to weather future financial pressures; and maintaining our outstanding outputs whilst keeping our own costs under strict control.

I know the executive committee feels strongly that the society must also continue to invest where possible in new infrastructure and operational capacity to ensure staff are supported and rewarded for the work that they do. To properly achieve this the society must therefore look to build its income and reserves to allow us to commit to maintaining IT infrastructure and ensuring Petty France is a modern and functional office for our staff and members to enjoy.

Finally, following 10 years on the Fabian Society executive committee and seven years as treasurer, I have decided not to stand again for election. I'd like to thank the staff team, particularly Andrew Harrop and Olivia Bailey, for their hard work and support during much of that time, as well as thank my hardworking and generous colleagues on the executive committee for their professionalism and friendship over the years.

Auditor's statement

We have audited the financial statements of The Fabian Society (the 'society') for the year ended 30 June 2019 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 2019 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;

Knox Cropper LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors
8/9 Well Court
London EC4M 9DN

5th September 2019

These financial statements 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."

Auditor's report and accounts

Income And expenditure account

for the year ended 30th June 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
INCOME		
Individual Members	276,432	261,766
Institutional Affiliations and Subscriptions	7,978	6,220
Donations and Legacies	61,063	40,451
Publications Sales	3,239	1,965
Conference and Events	193,185	109,037
Publication Sponsorship and Advertisements	89,062	47,610
Research Projects	206,500	267,000
Rents	15,563	21,303
Bank Interest, Royalties and Miscellaneous	727	633
Total Income	£853,749	£755,985
EXPENDITURE		
Research Projects	70,408	44,596
Staff Costs	464,128	421,487
Printing and Distribution	100,589	81,675
Conference and Events	32,902	62,672
Promotion	738	7,255
Affiliation Fees	6,162	6,158
Postage, Phone and Fax	6,059	8,752
Depreciation	23,345	21,540
Travel	-	332
Other	26,952	6,145
Stationery and Copying	7,546	7,614
Legal and Professional	9,875	9,263
Irrecoverable VAT	2,036	-
Premises Costs	57,475	59,058
Bad debts	1,622	3,804
Information Systems	44,562	13,909
Total Expenditure	£854,399	£754,260
Surplus/(Deficit) Before Tax and Transfers	(650)	1,725
Transfers from Reserves	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before Taxation	(650)	1,725
Corporation Tax	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	£(650)	£1,725

Balance sheet as at 30th June 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
FIXED ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock	6,383	5,798
Debtors and Prepayments	253,834	175,824
Bank and Cash	1,121	-
	261,338	181,622
CREDITORS – AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
Creditors and Accruals	(228,431)	(166,129)
Net Current Assets	32,907	15,493
Net assets	1,279,863	1,280,513
General Fund	1,262,460	1,274,238
Restricted Fund	17,403	6,275
TOTAL FUNDS	1,279,863	1,280,513

Financial statements

The accounts presented here are an extract from the financial statements and may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the society.

For further information, the full financial statements and auditors' report should be consulted.

Copies of these can be obtained from the Fabian Society, 61 Petty France, London SW1H 9EU.

Funding partners

Financial transparency 2018/19

Our membership income comes from subscriptions and supplementary donations from members, associate members, affiliates and institutional subscribers. In 2018/19 this amounted to £284,410. As of 30th of June 2019, we had 7,234 members, affiliates and subscribers. One member donated more than £7,500 to our general funds. Income associated with specific research, editorial and events projects totalled £488,747 in 2018/19 and came from a wide range of companies, trade unions, non-profit organisations and trusts. These funders are declared alongside the specific events and publications they support, and a list of all funders of £5,000 and above for 2018/19 is provided below

Fabian Society funders 2018/19

Funder	Amount (£)	Confirmed funding
Association of British Insurers	£19,000	Labour Party Conference 2018, New Economy & The Left
Age UK	£6,000	Poverty & Social Security
Anchor Hanover Group	£8,000	Labour Party Conference 2018
Barclays	£9,500	Labour Party Conference 2018
Children's Society	£5,000	Poverty & Social Security
TheCityUK	£9,000	Labour Party Conference 2018
City of London Corporation	£29,250	London in the 2020s
Corporation of London	£7,500	Labour Party Conference 2018
Community	£72,500	Automation Commission, Changing Work Centre
Crisis	£5,000	Poverty & Social Security
Foundation for European Progressive Studies	£20,802	New Year Conference 2019, Summer Conference 2019, Progressive Post
Friederich Ebert Stiftung	£13,800	Labour Party Conference 2019, Gender & Populism round-table, Innovation in UK Labour
ICAEW	£10,000	Public Finance for the Left
Independent Age	£7,500	Labour Party Conference 2018
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	£27,500	Poverty & Social Security
Lloyds Banking Group	£10,000	Labour Party Conference 2018
National Pharmaceutical Association	£7,500	Labour Party Conference 2018
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	£40,000	Immigration
Portman Group	£7,500	Labour Party Conference 2018
PWC	£7,500	Labour Party Conference 2018
Shelter	£30,000	Rent Controls
The People's Pension	£9,000	Pension Commission
TUC	£5,000	Poverty & Social Security
The Dartmouth Street Trust	£25,000	Technology and work

Member donations

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 those donors who agreed to be named - there are many more who wish to stay anonymous but to whom we are equally grateful.

Jacqueline Alty
Philippa Alway
Patrick Antipof
Richard Ayton
Hazel P. Barkham
Dan Barrow
Ralph Bayley
Jennifer Beever
Kate Bowen-Viner
Hannah Bowen-Viner
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Ros Townsend
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Dennis Vaughan
Ian Walker
Deborah Williams
Neil Wilson
Thomas Wilson
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